

# UGANDA MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

POLICY, RESEARCH & ADVOCACY



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## REVIEW OF COMPETITION REGULATION 2024

### A STEP TOWARDS SAFEGUARDING BUSINESSES AGAINST UNFAIR PRACTICES

The recent three-day consultative workshop on the draft Competition Regulation 2024 marked a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to create a fair and equitable business environment. This inaugural workshop brought together various stakeholders, including representatives from ministries, departments, agencies (MDAs), and private sector participants, all focused on critical discussions surrounding the new regulatory framework.

One of the primary goals of this workshop was to discuss and refine the procedures that will safeguard businesses from anti-competitive practices. It is essential to emphasize that the new regulation is designed not only to protect market participants but also to promote healthy competition. By addressing issues related to investigations, inquiries, and the notification processes, we can ensure that businesses can thrive in a marketplace free from unfair practices.



As we embark on this journey of regulatory improvement, it is important to recognize that this workshop will not be the last. The regulation will continue to be refined based on stakeholder feedback, ensuring that it is robust and effective. Participants expressed the necessity for clear procedures and defined formats, which will reduce ambiguity and allow businesses to navigate the regulatory landscape effectively.

## Furthermore,

- The workshop highlighted the establishment of an independent Technical Committee dedicated to supporting the Minister of Trade and Industry—as laid out in the parent Act. This committee will play a vital role in ensuring that the interests of all stakeholders are represented and that our regulatory framework is both effective and fair.
- For Regulation 7(1), there was a proposal to include a timeframe of 14 days for notice and publication, after which the 120-day period for inquiries would commence. Another proposal suggested establishing the purpose of publishing mergers, acquisitions, and joint ventures to create awareness while also addressing the legality of such publications; these would be made available in newspapers and the Gazette.
- As we collectively work towards a comprehensive competition regulatory framework, let us remember that our commitment to integrity and transparency will pave the way for a brighter future for businesses across our region. Together, we can eliminate unfair competition practices, fostering an environment where all businesses can compete on a level playing field

### By Patrick Kumakech Policy Analyst, UMA.



We urge all stakeholders to pay close attention to the details of the regulation at every stage of its development. By actively engaging in this process, businesses can bring their insights to the forefront, addressing any potential irregularities that may arise from vague regulations. Your voice matters, and it is crucial in shaping a system that not only protects but also empowers businesses to innovate and grow.