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## ELEVEN FURNITURE REMOVAL COMPANIES & MOVERS ASSOCIATION TO BE PROSECUTED FOR FIXING E-TOLL LEVY CHARGED TO CUSTOMERS

Eleven furniture removal companies and the movers' association to which they belong face prosecution in the Tribunal for price fixing, involving the e-tolls levy they charge customers who transport belongings on Gauteng highways.

The accused are: Northern Provinces Professional Movers Association of South Africa (NPPMA); Stuttaford Van Lines Gauteng Hub (Pty) Ltd; Pickfords Removals SA (Pty) Ltd; A & B Movers (Pty) Ltd; Brytons Removals (Pty) Ltd; Amazing Transport (Pty) Ltd; Key Moves CC; Bayley Worldwide CC; Selection Cartage (Pty) Ltd; Elliot Mobility (Pty) Ltd; Crown Relocations (Pty) Ltd; and Magna Thomson (Pty) Ltd.

The Commission's investigation, launched in February this year, revealed the following:

- The abovementioned furniture removal companies agreed under the auspices of the NPPMA to add a levy of R350 to the amount they charged to their customers transporting furniture on Gauteng highways that have e-tolls;
- The purpose of the agreement was to pass on to consumers the added costs incurred when transporting furniture using highways in Gauteng because of e-tolls; and
- The agreement has been in existence since 22 January 2014 and is on-going.

This agreement constitutes price fixing which contravenes section 4(1)(b)(i) of the Competition Act, No 89 of 1998, as amended.

In referring the matter to the Tribunal, the Commission is seeking an order that that companies and the NPPMA contravened the Competition Act. In addition, the Commission seeks an order that they all be held liable to pay an administrative penalty equivalent to 10% of their respective annual turnover.

[ENDS]

## For more information.

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