

Biennial Report

Competition Commission Brunei Darussalam April 2020 – March 2022

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Perpustakaan Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Brunei Pengkatalogan Data-dalam-Penerbitan

BRUNEI Darussalam. Ministry of Finance and Economy. Competition Commission Brunei Darussalam

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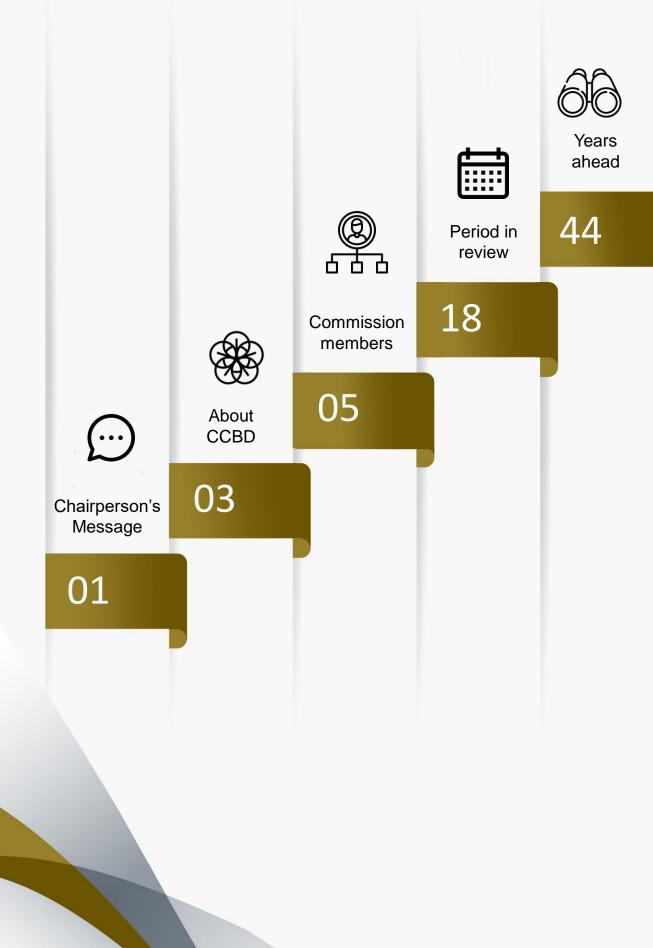
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سورو هنجاي ڤرسا^عيڤن بروني دارالسلام COMPETITION COMMISSION BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Chairperson's Message

Yang Mulia Nik Hafimi binti Abdul Haadii

Chairperson

The first prohibition on Anti-Competitive Agreements of the Competition Order, 2015 has come into force on 1 January 2020. 2 years since the enforcement, it would be fair to say that the CCBD has made a progress in its two-pronged strategic approach in implementing the Order i.e. through enforcement and advocacy.

Despite the volatile times the COVID-19 pandemic brought in, the CCBD remain with its focus in preventing anti-competitive practices from taking root, while providing relentless support in monitoring the adverse impact of the pandemic in the market.

During the period in review, the CCBD worked closely with the Consumer Affairs Division in the Department of Competition and Consumer Affairs to monitor the market in addressing public concerns regarding price hike and supplies of essential goods arising from the disruption of supply chain. The exercise has helped the CCBD to understand the causes of price and supply issues to provide input to relevant Ministry to device measures. It also served as a preventive strategy to deter unethical business practices as well as cartel / abusive conducts.

On the enforcement front, the CCBD has received more than 20 inquiries and complaints. While some were out of jurisdiction, some others merited further assessment for issuance of advisory from the CCBD or in-depth investigation. The CCBD places great emphasis in detecting and investigating bid rigging conduct. Bid rigging is one of the most harmful types of anticompetitive conduct that hurts Government expenditure. One in-depth investigation on bid rigging conduct is currently undergoing and we hope to be able to notably close the case with deterrence lesson for others.

Indeed, detecting and investigating case is not a straightforward exercise and it requires considerable economic and legal expertise. Regular capacity building programmes are critical in cultivating and producing expertise within the institution to ensure proper and effective implementation of the law, more so for young agency like CCBD. The complex and technical subject of competition law surely continuous specialised reauires trainings. Despite the travel restriction, the CCBD managed to participate in more than 30 workshops / forums held virtually over these two years.

The CCBD continues to invest heavily in our outreach and advocacy efforts covering wide spectrum of audiences such as government institutions including sector regulators and policy makers, as well as businesses including vendors registered in various ministries, professional associations, and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Outreach sessions also covered general public noting the importance of having a society who understand the benefits of competition in enhancing consumer welfare.



Engagement with the media was carried out in early 2020, considering their crucial roles in disseminating information to foster competition towards achieving a healthy market.

With bid rigging being the focus, the CCBD has rolled out Bid Rigging Awareness Campaign at the end of 2021, starting with a series of poster on Deter, Detect and Report bid rigging. As part of the campaign, the CCBD will also ramp up its dialogues and engagement sessions with procurement officials as well as working together with Tender Boards to prevent potential bid rigging conduct. Prevention is always better than cure.

In the past years, the CCBD has also stepped up its efforts to advise the public sector and policy makers to include the competition dimension in policy decisions. A total of 5 competition advisories had been issued. specifically on matters related to sole distributorship practices and pro-competition tendering process.

The CCBD is committed to working together with other Ministries to ensure that well-intended policies are in tandem with the objectives of competition - be it in the early stage of formulating new public initiatives, or when reviewing outdated rules and policies. Ensuring a competitive marketplace cannot rest with CCBD alone as it takes cooperation from all parties.

Ushering in its third year of enforcement, the CCBD looks forward to working on strengthening our resources. accumulating experiences and learning from more established effectively agencies in combating anticompetitive practices. More work lies ahead of us, not only in terms of enforcement, but also in policy advisory and advocacy work so that everyone can benefit from competitive economic landscape.

I am confident that with the commitment and ambition that we have, the CCBD will continue to strive forward and play an increasingly important role in safeguarding and promoting the value of competitive market where consumers are protected and businesses actively compete.

In closing, I want to record my sincere gratitude to fellow Commissioners and the Executive Secretariat for the immense contributions and dedication in effectively discharging the CCBD's functions. The success of any organisation rests on its workforce and I am fortunate to have a highly dedicated and capable team. May we be able to keep abreast with the challenges ahead and will remain steadfast in carrying out our mandate.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Finance and Economy for its continuous support.

We hope to keep the good working relation with our key partners especially policy makers in appreciating and upholding market competition in view of overall consumers' interest and market impact. Together we should work towards a competitive environment created for the benefit of the nation and the people.

Yang Mulia Nik Hafimi binti Abdul Haadii Chairperson of CCBD

About CCBD

The Competition Commission Brunei Darussalam (CCBD) was established on August 2017 as a quasi-judicial 1 mandated to enforce bodv the Competition Order, 2015. The Commission is committed to promote competitive economic landscape in Brunei Darussalam, for the benefit of consumers and businesses alike.



Under the Competition Order, 2015, the CCBD is tasked to carry the following functions:

- i. To curb anti-competitive conducts which have adverse effect on preventing, restricting or detecting competition in Brunei Darussalam's market;
- ii. To advocate on competition matters and create public understanding of the value of competition and how the Competition Order, 2015 promotes competition;
- iii. To advise the Government or other public authority on national needs and policies in respect to matters concerning competition in Brunei Darussalam;
- iv. To maintain and enhance efficient market conduct and promote overall productivity, innovation and competitiveness of market in Brunei Darussalam;
- v. To promote research into and the development of skills in relation to legal, economic and policy aspects; and
- vi. To represent Brunei Darussalam internationally in respect of competition matter.

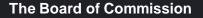


Organisational Structure

Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II as minister responsible in competition matters

Policy matters and exemption applications

Competition Commission Brunei Darussalam (CCBD)



Chairperson

Commissioners

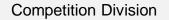
- Steer strategic direction and priority of CCBD
- Issue policy advisory
- Adjudicate anti-competitive cases
- Impose penalties on business entities found to have infringed the Competition Order, 2015

Executive Secretariat

Department of Competition and Consumer Affairs (DCCA)

Director of DCCA

Assistant Director of DCCA



Legal & Enforcement

Research & Investigation

Advocacy & Strategic Planning

Corporate Affairs

Meet the Board of Commission

Yang Mulia Nik Hafimi binti Abdul Haadii

Chairperson



Chairperson Hafimi was appointed as the Chairperson of the Competition Commission Brunei Darussalam in 2018. She is a founding member of Young Entrepreneur Association Brunei and plays an active role within the following organisations: APEC Business Advisory Council, Asia Business Leaders Advisory Council, University Brunei Darussalam ,Council; and Digital Economy Council. She is a Board Member of Brunei Economic Development Board, Darussalam Enterprise and Bank Usahawan; and a Chairperson of Yayasan Committee on Social Enterprise. She holds a Bachelor of Architecture (Honours) from Deakin University.



Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy (Fiscal), Ministry of Finance and Economy

Commissioner Pengiran Hajah Zety was appointed as a member of the Competition Commission Brunei Darussalam in 2018. She is the Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy at the Ministry of Finance and Economy. She sits in various boards including the Brunei Economic Development Board, Darussalam Enterprise and Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam. She holds an honours bachelor degree in Accounting. Yang Mulia Dr Hajah May Fa'ezah binti Haji Ahmad Ariffin

Permanent Secretary (Economy, Trade and Industry), Ministry of Finance and Economy

Commissioner Dr May holds the position of Permanent Secretary (Economy, Trade and Industry) at the Ministry of Finance and Economy. Her portfolio includes trade promotion and facilitation, Public-Private partnership (PPP) initiatives, national statistics and research at the Ministry of Finance and Economy. Dr May was appointed as a member of the Competition Commission Brunei Darussalam in 2018. She has a PhD in Economics.

Yang Mulia Awang Haji Amer Hishamuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Zakaria

Permanent Secretary (Infrastructure, Housing and Professional), Ministry of Development

Commissioner Haji Amer is the Permanent Secretary (Infrastructure, Housing and Professional) in the Ministry of Development. He is a Chartered Engineer and a corporate member of Institution of Civil Engineers, United Kingdom and also a member of the Association of Surveyors, Engineers and Architects, Brunei Darussalam. He is also currently the chairman of the Board of Architects, Professional Engineers and Quantity Surveyors (BAPEQS). He was appointed as a member of Competition Commission Brunei Darussalam in 2020.



Yang Mulia Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohd Taib

Permanent Secretary (Security and Law), Prime Minister Office

Commissioner Hajah Nor Hashimah is the Permanent Secretary (Security and Law) at the Prime Minister's Office. She is a qualified Barrister-at-Law, and started her career in law at the Attorney General's Chambers (AGC) in 1992. She has extensive experience in international law, public law, alternative dispute resolution, commercial law, intellectual property, islamic banking and finance and in negotiations of international trade agreements.



Yang Mulia Awang Mohammad Harris bin Brigadier General (B) Dato Paduka Haji Ibrahim

Deputy Permanent Secretary (Trade and Industry), Ministry of Finance and Economy

Commissioner Harris is the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Trade and Industry) at the Ministry of Finance and Economy. Prior to his appointment, he held the positions of Assistant CEO and Head of Foreign Direct Investment Action and Support Centre (FAST) at the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB). He was appointed as a member of the Competition Commission Brunei Darussalam since 2017.



Yang Mulia Dr Joyce Teo Siew Yean

Assistant Vice Chancellor & Vice President (Global Affairs), Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Commissioner Dr Joyce Teo Siew Yean is a member of Competition Commission Brunei Darussalam since 2017. She holds the position of Assistant Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Global Affairs) at Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Her professional appointments include Member of APEC HRD Working Group (Capacity Building Network), and Country Representative for projects involving ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and East Asia Free Trade Area (EAFTA), amongst others. She has a PhD in Economics majored in Labour Economics and Econometrics.

Executive Secretariat

The Department of Competition and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) in the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy acts as the Executive Secretariat to the CCBD.

The DCCA, through the Competition Division, is responsible for the overall administration and implementation of the functions, activities and day-to-day affairs of the CCBD. This includes assessing complaints, investigating anti-competitive cases, assessing and drafting policy advisories, conducting market reviews, advocacy as well as representing CCBD in regional and international fora.

In addition, the Consumer Affairs Division in the DCCA is mandated to implement, among others, the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Order towards promoting consumer confidence and interest through prohibiting misleading and deceitful business conducts.



Heidi Farah Sia binti Abdul Rahman Director



Nurulizzati binti Haji Jahari Acting Assistant Director



Anisah Syakirah binti Haji Anwari Acting Senior Economic Officer



Nur Izzawanie binti Haji Zainin Economic Officer



Norhafizah binti Haji Awang Ahmad Legal Counsel



Siti Nurezzati binti Harun Implementation Coordinator

LEGAL FRAMEWORK



Access Competition Order, 2015 here!

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BRUNEI D	
EGAKA	

TAMBAHAN KEPADA WARTA KERAJAAN

BAHAGIAN II

Disiarkan dengan Kebenaran



Published by Authority

RURANUMEDNESDNY 7th, JANUARY, 2015

CONTENT Subject Brunei Darussalam – Competition

NEGARA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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Competition Order, 2015

The CCBD is responsible in implementing and enforcing the Competition Order, 2015 with the objectives of promoting market efficiency and consumer welfare.

The Order plays an important role for businesses and consumers alike in fostering healthy competition in the Brunei economic landscape. It reinforces Brunei Darussalam's efforts towards achieving a pro-business and pro-investment climate, in line with the Government's long-term economic goal to achieve a dynamic and sustainable economy, as aspired in Wawasan Brunei 2035.

Through the prohibition of anti-competitive conducts, the Order is expected to provide incentives for businesses to be innovative, productive and responsive to consumer needs. As such, consumers may benefit from competitive prices and wider choices of goods and services in the marketplace. The Order is instrumental in addressing competition-related concerns under the scope of the law, to promote and maintain proper functioning of the markets. This will not only provide certainty and enhance investors' confidence but also provide business opportunities to micro, small and medium enterprises to enter the market.

Key Prohibitions



Section 11 Anti-Competitive Agreements

Agreements between businesses, which have the objective or effect of preventing, distorting or restricting competition

Section 21 Abuse of Dominant Position

Business with substantial market power engages in conducts that prevents or hamper others from competing in the market



Section 23 Anti-Competitive Mergers

Mergers, which have resulted, or expected to result, in a substantial lessening competition in the market

Powers of CCBD under the Competition Order, 2015



Advocacy

- Create awareness on Competition Order and its prohibitions
- Promote selfcompliance

<u>Eq</u>

Investigate

- Access information or
 documents
- Enter premises with or without warrant
- Access computerised data
- Seize record, book, account



Grant leniency

 Immunity of up to 100 percent in exchange of cartel member who come forward to disclose the cartel agreement



Market study

- Examine market characteristics and competition issues in the market
- Explore causes of insufficient competition



Impose interim measure

 Issue immediate direction to act against anti-competitive conduct to prevent serious damage or to protect public interest



Design remedy

- Direction to remedy, mitigate or eliminate any adverse effect of the conduct
- Cease order or terminate agreement



Policy advisory

Provide recommendations towards policy coherence with competition principles



Accept undertaking and commitment

 Settlement by businesses



Impose penalty

 Financial penalty not exceeding 10%
 of business turnover in Brunei for a maximum of 3 years

Application and exclusions

The Competition Order, 2015 applies to commercial arrangements and economic activities across sectors regardless of ownership of the entities. As the Order intends to regulate the conduct of market players, it does not apply to any activity, agreement or conduct undertaken by the Government, Statutory Body or any person acting on their behalf.

Third Schedule of the Competition Order, 2015 provides for a number of exclusions, as follows:

Applicable prohibition(s)	Exclusions
Anti-	Vertical agreement
Competitive Agreements	Agreement with net benefit
	Undertaking entrusted with the operation of services of general economic interest or having the character of a revenue-producing monopoly
	Agreement/conduct made in order to comply with legal requirements imposed by/under any written law
	Necessary agreement to avoid a conflict with international obligation of Brunei Darussalam
	Agreement made on the ground of public policy
	Agreement/conduct which relates to Clearing House established under the Banking Order, 2016
Anti- Competitive	Agreement/conduct that is directly related and necessary to the implementation of merger
Agreements and Abuse of	Agreement/conduct that results or would result in a merger
Dominant	Undertaking of specified activities:
Position	 Supply of waste management services, including the collection, treatment and disposal of waste;
	 b) Supply of scheduled bus services under the Road Traffic Act (Chapter 68);
	 Supply of goods and services specified in the Monopolies Act (Chapter 73):
	 Licensed to collect within and exporting from Brunei Darussalam the skins of crocodiles, pythons and monitor lizards
	 Dealing of all kinds of firearms and ammunition and all kinds of defence equipment and armaments for lawfully established security forces of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan

Applicable prohibition(s)	Exclusions
	Merger approved by any Minister or regulatory authority under any written law
	Merger approved by Brunei Darussalam Central Bank
Anti- Competitive Mergers	Merger under the jurisdiction of any regulatory authority under any written law relating to competition, or code of practice relating to competition issued under any written law
	Merger where economic efficiencies outweigh the adverse effects due to the substantial lessening of competition in the relevant market in Brunei Darussalam

These exclusions apply automatically without the need for a prior determination by the CCBD. Businesses are encouraged to seek legal advice on the exclusions in the Third Schedule of the Order to determine if the relevant exclusion can apply.

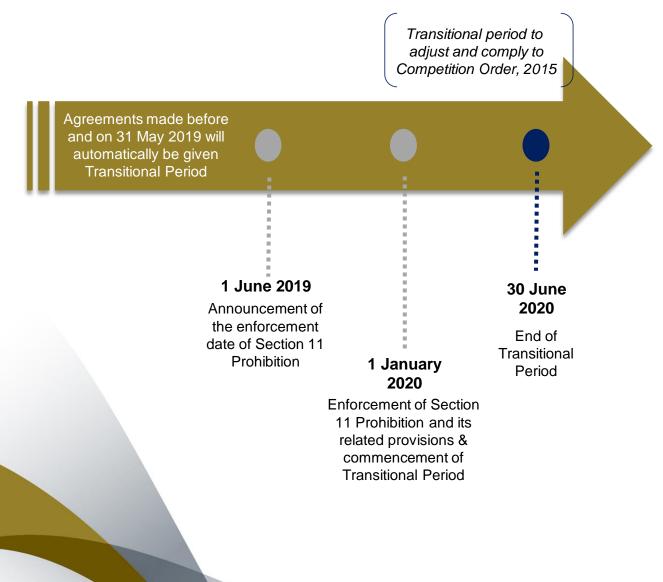
In addition, the CCBD may issue block exemption under Section 15 of the Order to exempt a category of agreements.

Enforcement timeline

With phased-implementation approach admissible under the Competition Order, 2015, the enforcement of key parts and prohibitions of the Order will commence in phases beginning with the establishment of the CCBD. This phased approach allows sufficient time for the CCBD and key stakeholders to prepare for the enforcement of the new competition law in an orderly fashion.

The enforcement of the first key prohibition, Anti-Competitive Agreements and its related provisions had come into force in 1 January 2020. The enforcement of prohibitions related to abuse of dominant position and anti-competitive merger will initiate in the later phases.

The parties to an Anti-Competitive Agreement made before and on 31 May 2019 is granted a transitional period, starting from 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020 to adjust, renegotiate, and terminate their agreement to comply with the Competition Order.



Competition Regulations

1. Competition Regulations, 2020

Regulations to cover commitments, guidance, proposed decisions in respect of investigations, decisions following applications and investigations, directions, block exemptions, exercise of powers of investigations, miscellaneous which includes information on forms, notices, time, confidentiality, consultation, public register, revocation.

2. Competition (Transitional Provisions for Section 11 Prohibition) Regulations, 2020

Regulations dealing with parties seeking an extended transitional period to be immune from the penalty imposed to an agreement.

3. Competition (Appeals) Regulations, 2020

Appeals regulation includes commencing of and response to appeal proceedings, roles and functions of the Appeal Board Secretary, publication and consolidation, case management and the general provisions.

4. Competition (Composition of Offences) Regulations, 2020

Regulations on compoundable offences under the competition act as well as acceptance of composition of offence.



Access Competition Regulations here!

Competition Guidelines



. Guidelines on Anti-Competitive Agreements Incorporates the examples of business agreements that may adversely affect competition process in the marketplace and practical recommendations for business compliance.

Guidelines on Complaint Procedures

Describes the complaint mechanisms and process in handling complaints.

3. Guidelines on Leniency

Details the process and procedures for cartel members to break up a cartel, in exchange for immunity from the financial penalty.

4. Guidelines on Extension of Transitional Period

Includes the rules and procedures for applications relating to extension of the transitional period. This is only applicable for agreements that were made before 1 June 2019.

Guidelines on Financial Penalty in Pursuant to Section 42

Provides general guidance and information on how the CCBD determines the appropriate financial penalty for the infringement of Section 11, Section 21 and Section 23 prohibitions under the Order.

6. Guidelines on Application of Confidential Treatment

Sets out the definition and criteria of confidential information and outlines process and procedures on how parties may apply for confidentiality claim for preservation of secrecy as per Section 70(1)(b).



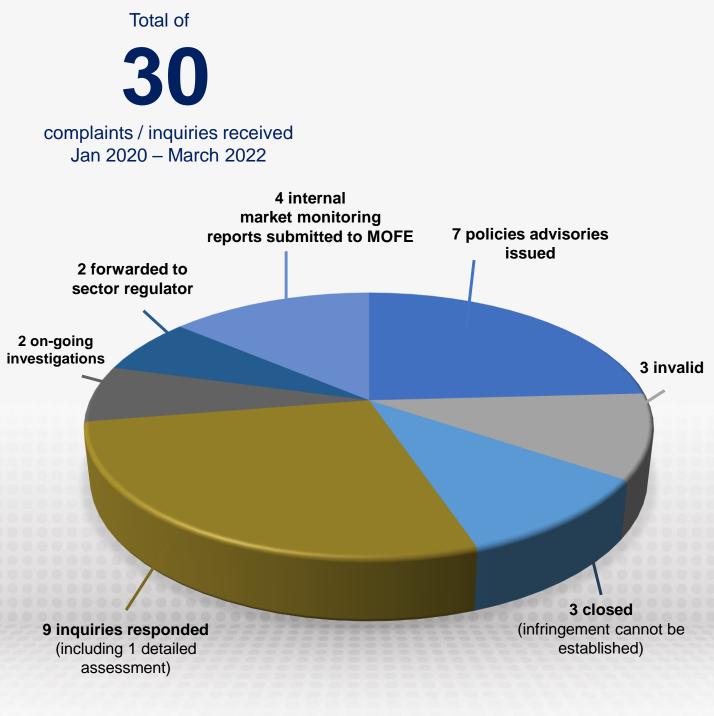
Access Competition Guidelines here!



Complaints and Inquiries

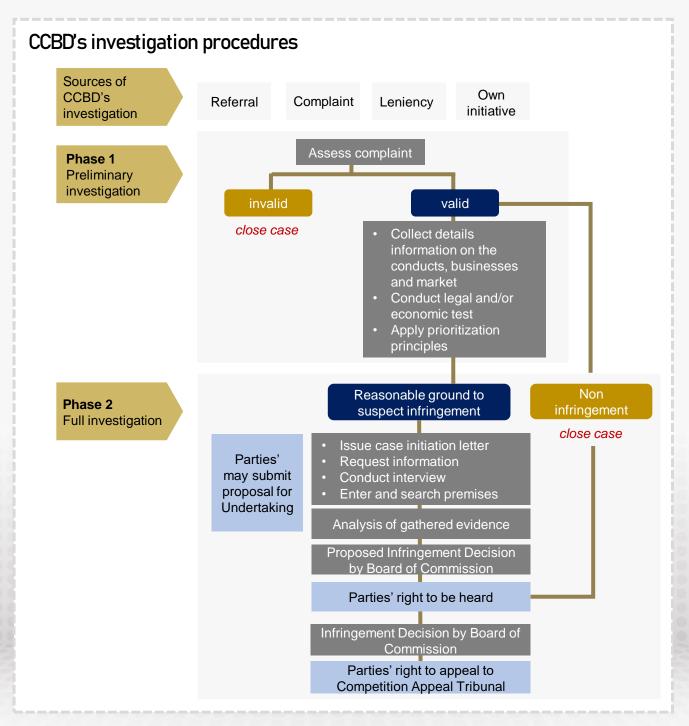
The CCBD relies on complaints and inquiries to identify possible infringement against the Competition Order, 2015. Businesses involved in cartel may also approach the CCBD for leniency application. In addition, the CCBD may also initiate investigation from other sources including its own market findings, directives from Ministry or referrals from other government agencies.

Since the enforcement of Section 11 of the Order, the CCBD has assessed a total of 26 complaints / inquiries, which have been concluded as follows:



The nature of some complaints received were relevant to Section 11 prohibition, with allegation on bid rigging; price fixing and limiting supply. Nonetheless, most of these were closed at a preliminary investigation phase as no prima facie indication of infringement can be established to pursue a full investigation.

Apart from general inquiries on the application of the Competition Order, 2015, the CCBD also received complaints and inquiries related to business practices that may raise concerns under Section 21 prohibition of Abuse of Dominant Position such as refusal to supply; tying and bundling; and distributorship arrangement.



Policy Advisories

On the policy advisories front, the CCBD stepped up its efforts to advise government agencies to include competition dimension in their policy formulation and decision. The CCBD also received a fair amount of requests for assessment and guidance from Ministries and government agencies to ensure their existing regulations, policies and procedures are in accordance with the competition principles and the objectives of the law.

To date, a total of 10 competition advisories on matters related to trade policies, licensing requirements, scale of fees, soledistributorship practices, and pro-competition tendering processes.

These advisories were issued to Ministries/agencies such as the Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Transport and Info-Communication; Ministry of Development; Ministry of Religious Affairs and State Tender Board.



On pro-competition tendering process, emphasis was given on improving the tender designs and regulations to ensure the tender does not introduce any unjustified restrictions for companies to participate. The CCBD also highlighted on the administrative measures that may be taken to effectively address tender bids that do not comply to any conditions, regulations or laws.

Additionally, the advisory underscored the notion of 'prevention is better than cure' in combatting potential bid rigging conducts such as requiring participating bidders to declare their compliance to Competition Order. Following this, the CCBD has issued a Declaration Compliance with the Competition Order, 2015 clauses for procurement agencies' adoption.

Declaration on Compliance with the Competition Order, 2015

I/We as the registered owner(s)/manager/director of the firm/company with address of business at _____ have submitted a Tender Proposal for the above mentioned project, hereby make the following declaration:

- *i.* that I/We or any person representing my/our firm/company understand that colluding with other firm (s)/company (ies) or any other person or entity in submitting the Tender Proposal for the above mentioned project is an offence under the Competition Order 2015.
- ii. that I/We have not colluded with any other firm (s)/company (ies) or any other person or entity in submitting the Tender Proposal for the above mentioned project, and my/our firm/company's participation/involvement in the Tender Proposal for the above mentioned project is fair and transparent.
- *iii. that I/We or any person representing my/our firm/company will comply with the Competition Order 2015.*
- iv. that I/We or any person representing my/our firm/company understand that procurement agency may report suspected collusion conduct to the Competition Commission Brunei Darussalam and provide the Competition Commission Brunei Darussalam with any relevant information, including but not limited to information on our Tender Proposal for the above mentioned project or personal information.
- v. that I/We or any person representing my/our firm/company understand that any infringement to the Competition Order 2015 may be imposed with financial penalty of up to 10 percent of business turnover for maximum of 3 years in pursuant to section 42(4) of the Order.

Response to COVID-19 impact

Following the outbreak of the first and second waves of COVID-19 pandemic in Brunei Darussalam, back in March 2020 and in August 2021 respectively, the CCBD has collaborated with the Consumer Affairs Division in responding to public complaints on price and supply issues resulting from the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic to the market.

In responding to the price issues and supply chain disruptions in the market brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the CCBD together with the Consumer Affairs Division has implemented market monitoring exercise of certain essential goods. Data including prices and stock availability of monitored essentials such as face masks, hand sanitisers, Antigen Rapid Test Kits and several food items including chicken and eggs were gathered and analysed to understand the causes and concerns in the market and prevent anti-competitive conducts.

As the outcome of the exercise, retail prices data were published in the public domain to promote information transparency and choice availability, which also serves as a preventive strategy to deter unethical business practices as well as cartel/abusive conducts.

In addition, the exercise also provides inputs for relevant sector regulators to devise measure to address any supply chain issues/shortages; and insights to ensure measures do not raise competition concerns.



ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

Advocacy and education

The CCBD recognised that a two-pronged approach of enforcement and advocacy is crucial for the effective implementation of the competition law. To this end, the CCBD committed to reach out to a spectrum of stakeholders to promote competition principles and encourage greater compliance. Despite the challenges brought by the pandemic and limited physical events during the period in review, the CCBD had managed to conduct at least 22 engagement sessions reaching different audiences including policy makers, professional bodies, business community, media partners, and academic institutions.



Government agencies

22 June 2020

Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB)

25 July 2020 Audit Department, Prime Minister's Office

24 October 2020 & 7 November 2020 *Tabung Amanah Pekerja* (TAP)

14 January 2021

Ministry of Finance and Economy Coffee Table Discussion for Division 4 and 5

15 February 2021

Launching of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Reports on Competition Impact and State-Owned Enterprises

4 March 2021

Royal Customs and Excise Department

1 April 2021

Permanent Secretary's Meeting

16 June 2021

Transport Division, Ministry of Education



28 December 2021 Anti-Corruption Bureau

26 January 2022

Department of Road, Public Works Department

Sessions with government agencies delved into the topics of government participation in markets and importance of competition principles in formulating policy in pursuit of achieving the overall benefits for the people and economic as a whole. This is in line with the priority of the CCBD to promote competition policy coherence to the policy makers.

Some sessions also gave focus to the prohibition of bid rigging conduct and how the relevant officers can play a role in improving its procurement process to minimise the risks of bid rigging conduct.

As a result of the engagement, the CCBD not only recorded requests on policy assessment and guidance from government agencies, but also forthcoming information on possible bid rigging conduct in public tender.

Business community and professional bodies

8 July 2020 Licensed Surveyors and members of Brunei Institute of Geomatics (B.I.G)

29 July 2020 Muara Maritime Services

9 June 2021 Gadong Wet Market Vendors (Beef and Chicken)

24 June 2021 Butra Heidelberg Cement

10 July 2021 Brunei Institute of Geomatics

16 February 2022 Brunei Shell Marketing

With the enforcement of Competition Order's Anti-Competitive Agreements prohibition, the CCBD recorded an increase in businesses' interests to learn about the Order. The sessions highlighted on the objectives of the Order to create more opportunities for maintain businesses and to a fair marketplace. Effective implementation of competition policy and law will encourage businesses to be innovative, productive, and compete on a fair-level playing field resulting in goods and services being provided to consumers at competitive prices.



Media and public

17 August 2020 Media Community

4 – 6 December 2020 Roadshow Bruneian Made







The sessions also served as a candid discussion platform for the CCBD to learn on the potential competition issues in the market. Frequently raised issues were gathered and categorised, which helps the CCBD to navigate its enforcement priority.



CCBD acknowledges the role of media as a crucial partner in disseminating information to foster competition and smart consumer culture in achieving a healthy market and enhanced consumer welfare. The session elaborated on how effective implementation of the Competition Order, 2015 can serve as building blocks to promote a healthy market, which can create business opportunities and boost domestic consumption and contribute to growth, as aspired in the Wawasan 2035.



19 October 2020 University Brunei Darussalam (UBD)

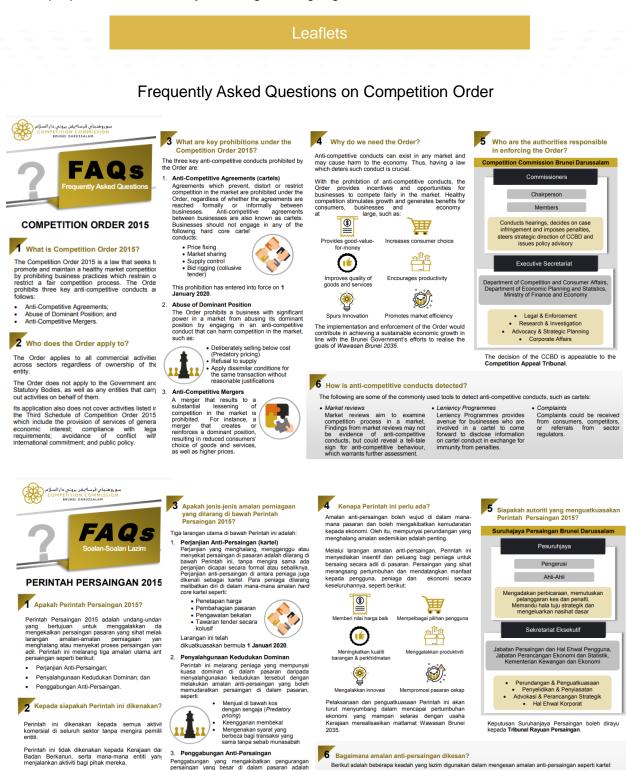
19 October 2020 Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE)

CCBD continues to engage higher learning institutions to develop and nurture the next generation that can comprehend the importance of competition law and policy in economic growth. Topics discussed were economics concepts, the application of Competition Order, 2015 as well as its key prohibitions. The sessions also took the opportunity to inspire and stimulate interest to undertake research in competition law and policy, considering the relevance and importance of the subject in achieving Brunei Darussalam's long-term economic vision of a dynamic and sustainable economic growth.

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Advocacy materials

To create more awareness on the Competition Order and its prohibitions, numerous advocacy materials had been developed and published in several media platforms to maximise the outreach and get the message across the general public. The materials were prepared in both Malay and English language.



Perintah ini juga tidak dikenakan kepada aktiviti aktiviti yang tersenarai di dalam Jadual Ketiga di bawah Perintah Persaingan 2015, termasui perkhidmatan yang mempunyai kepentingan ekonomi umum; pematuhan terhadap kepentuar undang-undang; mengelakkan percanggahat dengan komitmen anlarabangas, dan dasar ewam.

dan

Penggabungan yang mengakibatkan pengurangan persaingan yang besar di dalam pasaran adalah dilarang. Sebagai contoh, penggabungan yang mewujudkan atau mengukuhkan kedudukan dominan sehingga menyebabkan pilihan barangan dan perkhidmatan yang terhad serta kenaikan harga.



Kajian pasaran (taksanakan bagi menilai proses persaligan di dalam pasaran. Walaupun dapatan kajian pasaran tidak menjadi bukli amalan ani-persaingan, tetapi boleh digunakan sebagai petanda bagi penilaian lanjut.

 Program Kelonggaran (Leniency)
 Program Kelonggaran menyediakan platform bagi peniaga yang terlibat dalam kartel untuk tampil bagi mendedahkan maklumat mengenai kartel sebagai ganti kepada imuniti daripada penalti. • Aduan

Aduan boleh diterima daripad pengguna, pesaing ata pengawalselia sektor. atau

Posters



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Bid rigging awareness campaign

Consistent with the CCBD's focus against bid rigging or collusive tendering to promote competitive public procurement processes, the CCBD launched Bid Rigging Awareness campaign in December 2021 to enhance public knowledge among procurement officials or agencies on the risks and preventive measures to deter anti-competitive conducts in public tenders.

The Bid Rigging Awareness campaign includes releasing a series of posters to raise awareness on the risks and preventive measures from the outset of a tender process.







CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

Institutional capacity

In strengthening the Commission's overall capability and effectiveness in handling competition issues, the CCBD remains committed in building its internal capacities. Despite the travel restrictions imposed during the period in review, the CCBD managed to participate in more than 30 workshops/forums held virtually, organised by regional and international counterparts. Participation in capacity building programmes provides the opportunity for CCBD to gain knowledge and exposure through experience shared by other countries in relation to the implementation and enforcement of competition law, as well as to develop informal cooperation with other competition authorities.

In addition, the CCBD had the opportunity to host the OECD Competition Workshop for Younger Competition Agencies virtually in 2020. The workshop, co-organised by the CCBD and the OECD, Korea Policy Centre (KPC) under the OECD/KPC Competition Programme, was targeted at young competition agencies in ASEAN with the aim of facilitating knowledge and experience sharing on the first necessary steps of implementing and enforcing competition law.



سوروهنجاي قرساميقز بروني دارالسلاه

BRUNEL DARUSSALAM





List of capacity building programmes attended

No	Date	Title
1	21 April 2020	Webinar on Competition Authorities Reponses to COVID-19
2	28 May 2020	OECD Webinar – 'Antitrust in Times of Crisis'
3	16 - 21 July 2020	OECD Korea Policy Centre (KPC) Web Workshop on Health Sector
4	3 - 4 September 2020	GCR Live Singapore: 9th Annual Asia-Pacific Law Leaders Conference 2020
5	9 September 2020	ACCC Competition and Consumer Protection in Digital Markets: Group Discussion
6	16 September 2020	OTCC Competition Assessment Report under OECD-ASEAN Competition Assessment Project
7	17 - 18 September 2020	CTI-EC FTAAP Policy Dialogue on Competition Related Provisions in FTAs / EPAs from a Business Perspective
8	30 September 2020	Taiwan Anti-Trust Seminar
9	5 - 9 October 2020	OECD/KPC/ADB/PCC Workshop on Competition Economics - Abuse of Dominance
10	7 - 8 October 2020	Validation Workshop of the Study on Recommended Procedures for Cooperation on Cross-Border Competition Cases
11	19 - 23 October 2020	OECD/KPC/ADB/PCC Workshop on Competition Economics - Merger
12	27 January, 10/17 February 2021	USDOJ ASEAN Merger Investigation Workshop
13	29 January 2021	PHCC Launching of OECD report
14	2-3 February 2021	ASEAN-OECD Regional Report Workshop
15	23 February 2021	Workshop on Methodologies to Measure Market Competition
16	22 - 23 February 2021	PHCC Forum on Competition in Developing Country
17	2 March 2021	UNDTAC-ESCAP Regional Policy Dialogue on the role of competition policy in supporting the economic recovery of MSMEs post COVID-19
18	3/10/17/24 March 2021	CCCS Competition Law Series
19	4,9,18 & 23 March, 8,12,22,27 April 2021	"Train-the-Trainer" series of webinars and one-to-one mentoring sessions
20	27 May 2021	Indonesia Launching of OECD Report
21	4 June 2021	Singapore Launching of OECD Report
22	1-2 July 2021	Merger Case Workshop



CLIP Train the Trainer, March – Apr 2021

No	Date	Title
23	28 July 2021	Cambodia Launching of OECD Report
24	2-4 August 2021	Training Course on Unilateral Conduct and Abuse of Dominance
25	31 August 2021	Vietnam Launching of OECD Report
26	09 September 2021	Regional Launch OECD Competition Assessment and Competitive Neutrality Reports in ASEAN
27	22-23 September 2021	Media and Advocacy Workshop
28	23 September 2021	Lessons Learned from the RCEP Agreement and Other Relevant FTAs to support the AANZFTA Negotiations
29	28 September 2021	East Asia Top Level Officials' Meeting on Competition Policy
30	29 September 2021	East Asia Conference on Competition Law and Policy
31	4,5 & 7 September 2021	OECD / KPC Workshop on Competitive Neutrality
32	5 October 2021	MyCC Launching of Market Review
33	5 October 2021	Malaysia Launching of OECD Report
34	5 November 2021	Making Digital Markets Work for Consumers: Competition, Consumer Protection and Data
35	17-19 November 2021	Workshop on Competition and Public Procurement
36	1-2 December 2021	9th ASEAN Competition Conference (ACC)
37	6-8 December 2021	2021 OECD Global Forum on Competition
38	9 December 2021	OECD Workshop on the OECD Competition Assessment Reviews and Competitive Neutrality Reviews in ASEAN
39	13-14 December 2021	Workshop on New Economic Issues in Merger Enforcement
40	15 December 2021	Virtual International Competition Workshop
41	24-25 January 2022	ASEAN-US DOJ Investigation Cooperation on Cross- border Mergers and Cartels Workshop
42	8, 10-11 March 2022	OECD/KPC Workshop on Market Studies for Competition Advocacy and Enforcement
43	14 March 2022	APEC Capacity Building Workshop on Data Science Tools for Sector Regulators and Competition Authorities Amidst the New Normal
44	17 March 2022	Official Launch of the National Dissemination Workshop on Cambodia Competition Law



GCR Singapore: Asia-Pacific Law Leaders' Forum 2021, 26 & 27 Aug



16th EATOP, 28 Sept 2021



INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

International engagement

The CCBD continues to establish engagement with other competition agencies, be it informally via bilateral communications or formally through platform such as the ASEAN Experts Group of Competition (AEGC), the ASEAN Heads of Competition Agencies (AHCA) and APEC Competition Policy and Law Group. In 2022, Brunei Darussalam has the privilege to become the Chair of the AEGC to lead the implementation of competition deliverables in the region. During the year in review, the CCBD participated in 14 regional and international meetings including negotiations for Free Trade Agreements upgrade.

AEGC and Related Meetings

- AEGC Online Video Conference Meetings
- 3rd ASEAN Competition Enforcers' Network, 7-8 Oct 2020
- 25th AEGC and related meetings, 20-22 Oct 2020
- 26th AEGC and related meetings, 22-26 Mac 2021
- 27th AEGC and related meetings, 11-15 Oct 2021
- 28th AEGC and related meetings, 28 Mac 1 Apr 2022

AHCA Meetings

- 1st AHCA Meeting, 11 October 2021
- 2nd AHCA Meeting, 15 March 2022





ANNZFTA Upgrade Negotiations

- ASEAN Caucus for the 1st Round AANZFTA CC Negotiations, 13-14 Jul 2021
- 2nd Round AANZFTA CC Negotiations, 23-24 Aug 2021
- 3rd Round AANZFTA CC Negotiations, 27 Oct 2021

APEC CPLG Meetings

- APEC CPLG Meeting, 25 February 2021
- APEC CPLG Meeting, 18 February 2021

OECD Asia-Pacific

- Special Covid 19 OECD High Level Meeting Webinar Asia Pacific, 15 Jul 2020
- 6th Meeting of High Level Representatives of Asia-Pacific Competition Authorities, 13 Dec 2021





MEDIA APPEARANCES

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Competition, economic growth go hand in hand



Borneo Bulletin THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17. 2020

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NASIONAL Lebih 20 sertai sesi dialog Perintah Persaingan 2015



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Business | 13

MMS gains deeper understanding on Competition Order

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Borneo Bulletin THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

MMS gains deeper understanding on Competition Order

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Business | 13

10 HARI SABTU 18 APRIL 2020 Pendedahan perintah persaingan dalam pertumbuhan ekonomi

R SERI BEGAWAN, 17 April. - Persaingan

Page 39

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6 | Home Fair competitive

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SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2020 Borneo Bulletin weekend

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6 | Home

FRIDAK, JUNE 18, 2021 Borneo Balletin



YEARS AHEAD

2022/2023 focus

In terms of the enforcement priority, the CCBD will continue to place focus in fighting bid rigging conducts, noting the potential significant harm to the consumers, economy and government expenditure. This is in support of the national agenda that emphasizes on preventing leakages in public procurement, as well as to uphold prudent spending and value-for-money public procurement.

Notably, priority is also given to policy coherence to ensure policies are consistent with the competition principle and national vision towards achieving the long term economic objective – a dynamic and sustainable economy.

As such, several agendas have been lined up as CCBD's commitment moving forward.



Enforcement works

- Cartel and bid rigging
 Investigation
- Policy advisory



Legal frameworks

- Guidelines on (i) Competition Impact Assessment and (ii) Exemption Application
- Internal manual and procedures



Capacity building

- Structure and staff strength
- · On-the job training with competition advisor
- · Secondment to enforcement agency
- Workshops/forums



Awareness and compliance

- Outreach sessions to government agencies, business associations and academics
- · Advocacy materials including video
- Media appearances



International commitments

- ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (AEGC)'s Chair
- Free Trade Agreements (RCEP, AANZFTA, CPTPP)
- International cooperations including APEC, UNCTAD, EATOP, OECD





www.ccbd.gov.bn exec.secretariat@ccbd.gov.bn | +6732383100 Level 5, Ministry of Finance and Economy Building, Commonwealth Drive, Bandar Seri Begawan, BB3910

