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23 November, 2015

**Vodacom/Neotel merger hearing delayed by negotiations between merging firms**

The Competition Tribunal has granted the request by the merging parties, Vodacom and Neotel, that the merger hearing be postponed indefinitely.

The reasons for the postponement request can be found in Vodacom’s SENS statement issued today (Monday, 23 November).

Vodacom and Neotel have until 7 December to inform the Tribunal and intervening parties, which include Telkom, MTN, Cell C and Dimension Data, whether the transaction will be cancelled or be continue in an amended form. A pre-hearing will then be heard on 10 December to determine how to proceed.

If it is decided the merger will continue in an amended form, then new negotiations will be required to decide whether the hearing can continue as part of the present process.

The merging parties did not want to give further information about the negotiations because of their commercially sensitive nature.

The intervening parties have requested that Neotel and Vodacom pay their wasted costs in the matter. The merging parties are arguing that interveners were not entitled to costs.

The Tribunal, at the pre-hearing on 10 December, will set up a process for deciding any disputes of costs that may be arise.

Issued by:

Chantelle Benjamin

Communications: Competition Tribunal

Tel (012)394 1383

Cell: +27 (0) 73 007 5603

E-Mail: [chantelleb@comptrib.co.za](chantelleb@comptrib.co.za%20)

On Behalf Of:

Lerato Motaung

Registrar: Competition Tribunal

Tel: (012) 394 3355

Cell: +27 (0) 82 556 3221

E-Mail: [LeratoM@comptrib.co.za](mailto:LeratoM@comptrib.co.za)