



Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour
Matagaluega o Pisinisi, Alamanuia ma Leipa



COMPETITION LAW AWARENESS PROGRAM

24 - 26 APRIL 2017 – UPOLU

4 – 5 MAY 2017 – SAVAI'I

MCIL is hitting the road with a new Competition Law awareness program for the Samoan people

In preparation for the introduction of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2016* on 1 July 2017, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour is conducting an awareness program through Upolu and Savai'i over the coming weeks.

The dates and locations for the Competition Law Awareness Program are:

<u>UPOLU</u>	<u>SAVAI'I</u>
24 April – Tu'utu'uileloloto Hall	4 May – Auga Seaside Hotel Conference Room, Asau
25 April – EFKS Lepa, Aleipata, Hall	5 May – Apita o Pisaga Hall, Salelologa
26 April – EFKS Matautu, Falelatai, Hall	

“The new law promotes competition in markets and will support a trading environment in which the safety and interests of Samoan consumers are protected. A new body will be created to enforce the law, which will be called ‘The Samoan Competition and Consumer Commission’, says Fepulea’i Roger Toleafoa, Acting CEO of MCIL.

“The Samoan Competition and Consumer Commission will investigate potential breaches of the law, and work with businesses over the coming months to ensure they understand their obligations and are compliant with the law.”

Under the new *Competition and Consumer Act 2016*, price control orders will be removed and the Prices Board will no longer have a role in setting prices. Instead, the Samoan Competition and Consumer Commission (SCCC) will investigate prices in particular markets under the direction of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour’s Minister.

If the SCCC’s investigation finds that there is no effective competition in that market, Cabinet may recommend the Head of State to introduce a new price control order.

Fepulea’i Roger Toleafoa says, “We are confident that the Awareness Program being run in Upolu and Savai’i will help businesses to prepare for the introduction of the new law. This is an exciting opportunity for Samoa to strengthen its economy for the future, and encourage better business practices and benefits for Samoan consumers.”