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**FTCNewsLine** is an on-line quarterly newsletter of the **FAIR TRADING COMMISSION** that contains information on competition matters dealt with by the Fair Trading Commission as well as other competition agencies from around the world. The aim is to provide readers with insights into some of the matters that are prosecuted in other jurisdictions; and to assist businesses and consumers in better identifying issues that may pose competition concerns.

Competition legislation is specific to each jurisdiction and activities that are prohibited in one jurisdiction are not necessarily prohibited in other jurisdictions. For information on the prohibitions under the Jamaica's competition legislation, the **FAIR COMPETITION ACT (FCA)**, please visit our website at [www.jftc.gov.jm](http://www.jftc.gov.jm).

*In this Issue we feature issues related to the period July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020.*

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## **FTC concludes assessment of Supreme Venture's acquisition of Champion Gaming**

In August 2020, the FTC completed its assessment of the acquisition of Champion Gaming Limited by the Supreme Ventures Group and concluded that the transaction does not breach section 17 of the Fair Competition Act.

The assessment focused on the slot machine gaming services market. The Staff of the FTC determined that the conditions of entry are characterized by easy conditions of entry, which would limit the incentives for the Supreme Ventures Group to engage in anticompetitive conduct. Further, there is unlikely to be harm to competition, and consumers will likely benefit from better quality of service, for example an increased number of outlets, and payout rates.

The report is available at the FTC's website at [www.jftc.gov.jm](http://www.jftc.gov.jm).

## **FTC Staff participates in regional conferences**

The Staff of the FTC participated in two online regional conferences in August and September 2020. In August 2020, Mr. David Miller, Executive Director and Dr. Kevin Harriott, Competition Bureau Chief participated as resource experts in the Masters in Trade Policy programme delivered by the Sir Shridath Ramphal Centre of the University of the West Indies. Mr. Miller and Dr. Harriott fielded questions on institutional design and institution building of competition authorities and the value of conducting market studies.

Miss Michelle Phillips, Legal Officer, participated in a forum organized by the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce in September 2020. Under the theme, "Fair Trade 101: T&T Competition Policy Explained" the forum discussed T&T's Competition Policy. Miss Phillips provided an overview of Jamaica's competition law regime and shared information

concerning the impact of the FTC's enforcement experience on the business community in Jamaica.

### **FTC signs MOU with the Broadcasting Commission**

In continuance of strengthening its advocacy capacity, the FTC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Broadcasting Commission in July 2020. The MOU will facilitate cooperation between the two agencies to achieve more competitive outcomes in the electronic communications and broadcasting sector to make markets in those sectors work well for consumers, businesses and the economy.

This MOU is the fifth that the FTC has signed with government agencies in the past nine months. The FTC is in discussion with agencies to sign MOU's and remains committed to collaborating with agencies to protect the competition process in Jamaica, and to promote competitive markets.

### **FTC Annual Magazine**

The FTC will publish the 25<sup>th</sup> issue of its annual magazine, *Compete*, in January 2021 under the theme, "*Clearing the air: post-pandemic markets and consumer welfare.*" The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed how markets operate and has significantly impacted consumer welfare. Some markets have completely shut down while others emerged or have expanded due the pandemic. The magazine will therefore explore the effect of such market transformations on competition and consumer welfare.

Articles from several agencies as well as highlights of the work of the FTC will be presented. *Compete* will be distributed to Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, academic institutions, business enterprises and professionals; and be made available on the FTC's website at [www.jftc.gov.jm](http://www.jftc.gov.jm).

### **FTC publishes article 'Competition will drive value in gaming'**

On August 3, 2020, the FTC's letter to the Editor titled 'Competition will drive value in gaming' was published in the Gleaner describing the FTC's views on the prospects for competition in the lottery services market. The FTC shared that markets work best for consumers and competitors when competition determines market conditions, such as entry and exit, instead of by state intervention. The full letter can be accessed on the FTC's website at [www.jftc.gov.jm](http://www.jftc.gov.jm).

### **FTC to study digital payment services**

The FTC has launched a study into the payment services sector in Jamaica with a view to understanding how the sector operates, and to assess the role and level of competition in the sector. In other countries, evidence has emerged that there is a lack of effective competition in the payment services sector and that the sector does not adequately meet the needs of final consumers or small and medium sized enterprises. Consequently, the aim of the study is to identify strategies to, where necessary, increase competition in the payment services sector in Jamaica. The study is scheduled to be completed by December 2020.