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## PRESS RELEASE

The Fair Trading Commission has circulated an opinion paper following its investigation into a complaint of an alleged abuse of dominance by Seychelles Public Transport Corporation (SPTC) in the Omnibus Sector. The report provides the Commission's assessment and recommendation based on the provisions of the Fair Competition Act 2009.

In December 2011, the Commission received a complaint in accordance with section 33 (b) of the Fair Competition Act, 2009 from an Omnibus Operator. The Omnibus firm alleged that SPTC more specifically the Special hire services section had unfair competitive advantage over other omnibus operators.

It has been concluded that despite having such advantages due to the receipt of benefits consisting of grants and subsidies such as fuel concessions, the Commission is satisfied that SPTC has not breached any provisions of the Fair Competition Act, 2009.

However, the Commission has recommended to the Ministry of Home Affairs & Transport and the Ministry of Finance Trade & Investment to strongly consider separating the two activities. The latter being the SPTC mass transportation of the public and the special hire services, thus ensuring that any government subsidy is only applied to mass transportation and not the special hire services.

This recommendation is being advocated as a policy change tool which will effectively remedy the situation to ensure fair competition and competitiveness in this sector.

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*"Be the leading institution in the protection of consumers and the competition process for the promotion of socio-economic welfare"*