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CCP seeks services of informers

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ISLAMABAD: The

Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has offered a cash rewards ranging from Rs. 200,000 to Rs. 2,000,000 to informers, asking them to provide information of prohibited activities of the companies, including involvement in anti-competition practices and cartelization.

Sources told Business Recorder here on Thursday that the CCP has issued Competition (Reward Payment to Informant) Regulations, 2014 to collect

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information about undertakings involved in serious violation of Competition Act.

According to the reward rules, the Commission may grant reward ranging between Rs. 200,000/- (Rupees Two Hundred Thousand Only) to Rs. 2,000,000/- (Rupees Two Million Only), to informants furnishing the information of the prohibited activities and fulfilling all other requirements under the regulations. The information being provided by informers includes material information about the involvement of the undertaking in a prohibited activity, which is known by the undertaking's board of Directors, Management, and/or Employees, but not by the public and inter alia includes minutes of meetings; emails and fax transmissions exchanges between the car-

tel members and the concerned directors/employees of the undertaking and voice/video recordings of meetings.

The informant may make an initial contact with the Commission either via phone or otherwise, but without necessarily disclosing his/her name, if the informant is hesitant to reveal his/her identity at the very start.

After an initial contact, an officer, not less than the rank of Director, will be designated by the Chairman to liaise with the informant. The officers designated to deal with informants would be required to ensure that any information provided is carefully safeguarded and handled. Upon initial assessment of information provided by an informant, if the liaison officer finds that the informant is likely to assist the Commission, a meeting with that informant shall be arranged by

the liaison officer to seek further details.

An Informant will be required to remain available and continuously cooperate with the Commission unless the Commission issues the Order. "It shall be within the discretion of the Commission not to accept the intended information provided by the informant, and it shall also be within the discretion of the Commission to grant the financial reward claim, based on the veracity and usefulness of the information supplied under these regulations," CCP said.

As per rules, the reward payable under these regulations will be calculated by the Commission, while taking into account any or all of the following:

Accuracy, usefulness and effectiveness of the information provided under these regulations;

efforts made by an informant and the nature of cooperation extended by him or her; the seriousness of the prohibited activity and the determination of the Commission regarding the quantum of the reward under the regulations shall be final.

The payment of reward will be made in two stages: Initial payment may be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of complete information after assessing generally the value/materiality of information given and the final/remaining payment may be made within sixty (60) days of conclusion of enquiry and issuance of a Show Cause Notice.

In the event, the Commission comes to the conclusion that the information provided is false, fabricated or inaccurate, the Commission may by Order direct that informant to return the

amount of reward.

The Commission shall, to the extent that is consistent with its obligations to disclose or exchange information, to keep the identity of the Informants under the regulations confidential.

In addition, notice is also given that upon coming into force the regulations, Part IX of Competition Commission (General Enforcement) Regulations, 2007 (the 'General Enforcement Regulations') and Regulations 55 to 57, which were inserted vide S.R.O. No. 1126(I)/2008 dated 30th October 2008 shall be deleted and existing Part X of the General Enforcement Regulations shall be renumbered as Part IX and the existing Regulations 58 to 60 shall be renumbered as Regulations 55 to 57, respectively, CCP added.