



Comparative Analysis of Competition Law Frameworks in EAC Countries: A Focus on São Tomé and Príncipe

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Abstract

This study examines the competition law frameworks in East African Community (EAC) countries with a particular focus on São Tomé and Príncipe. The methodology involves literature review of national statutes, regulations, and case law related to competition law in EAC countries. A comparative legal analysis will be conducted, highlighting similarities and differences in the frameworks across jurisdictions. A notable finding is that São Tomé and Príncipe's competition law framework includes provisions for market entry barriers and antitrust enforcement mechanisms but lacks comprehensive consumer protection measures compared to other EAC countries. The comparative analysis reveals inconsistencies among EAC member states in their competition law frameworks, with some jurisdictions lagging behind international standards. Recommendations include strengthening consumer protections and harmonizing laws across the region. Suggested recommendations are for São Tomé and Príncipe to enhance its competition law framework by incorporating comprehensive consumer protection measures, aligning with regional best practices, and improving enforcement mechanisms.

Keywords: *East Africa, Competition Policy, Regulatory Frameworks, Legal Institutions, Economic Integration, Comparative Analysis, Regional Cooperation*

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