# COMPETITION TRIBUNAL REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Case No: 01/LM/Jan06

In the large merger between:

Pangbourne Property (Pty) Ltd

and

**Transnet Retirement Fund Property Trust** 

### **Reasons for Decision**

# **Approval**

1. On 8 March 2006 the Competition Tribunal issued a Merger Clearance Certificate approving the merger between Pangbourne Property (Pty) Ltd and Transnet Retirement Fund Property Trust. The reasons appear below.

#### The Parties

- 2. The acquiring firm is Pangbourne Property (Pty) Ltd. ("Pangbourne"), a company listed under the financial real estate sector of the JSE. It is not directly or indirectly controlled by any firm. Pangbourne controls a number of subsidiaries, none of which are relevant for the purpose of this analysis. It also has a 49% interest in iFour Properties Limited and 43% in Siyathenga Property Fund Ltd.<sup>1</sup> The Pangbourne Group manages its own properties.
- 3. The primary target firm is Transnet Retirement Funds Property Ltd ("Transnet Property"), a trust registered in terms of the Trust Property Control Act. 1988.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Siyathenga's subsidiaries are: Siyathenga Properties One (Pty) Ltd, Siyathenga Properties Two (Pty) Ltd and Siyathenga Properties Three (Pty) Ltd. The top 5 shareholders of Siyathenga are Pangbourne Properties 43%, Old Mutual Life Assurance Co 14.29%, The Siyathenga Unit Ourchase Trust 5.55%, Stanlib Property Income Fund 4.41% and SBSA 3.50%.

### **The Merger Transaction**

4. Pangbourne is acquiring 48 properties comprising of industrial, commercial and retail properties, including rights to a shopping centre development from Transnet Property. Six of these properties will simultaneously be resold, as one indivisible transaction, to Siyathenga, the specialist retail fund in which Pangbourne holds 43% shares.

#### **Rationale for the Transaction**

The increase of Pangbourne's asset base as a result of the acquisition will allow it to benefit from enhanced economies of scale in management efficiencies and systems.

# The relevant product and geographic markets

6. The merging parties activities overlap in respect of grade A office space in Bryanston, Rivonia and Sandton and in light industrial space in Corporate Park, Driehoek in Germiston, Halfway House, Isando, Jet Park, Linbro Park and Strydom Park.

# **Effect on Competition**

7. The combined post-merger market shares in Grade A office space in each geographic node are low, being as follows:

Bryanston	4.1%
Rivonia	4.8%
Sandton	1.2%

8. The post merger market shares of the merging parties in light industrial space are:

Corporate Park	15.6%
Driehoek Germiston	2.7%
Halfway House	9.6%
Isando	4.1%
Jet Park	7.6%
Linbro Park	10.9%
Strydom Park	2.4%

9. The combined market shares of the merging parties remain low in all the geographic markets with the average increase not more than 2%. In Corporate Park Pangbourne's market share in the light industrial space

market will increase by 7%. However, the Industrial Property Databank has confirmed that numerous players including but not limited to Metboard, Momentum, Old Mutual and Sanlam compete in this market.

# Conclusion

10. We conclude that the merger will not lead to a substantial lessening or prevention of competition. There are no public interest concerns, which would alter this conclusion.

D. Lewis 9 March 2006
Date

Concurring: U. Bhoola and M. Mokuena

For the merging parties: Vani Chetty, Edward Nathan Corporate Law Advisors

For the Commission: Leonard Lamola, Mergers and Acquisitions