

SAA privatisation plan at risk, *Semafor* reports

South Africa's plan to partially privatise its national airline South African Airways is in trouble because the country's competition regulator may not approve the deal, news website *Semafor* reported on Thursday, 23 February.



A South African Airways aircraft is seen at O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa on 12 January 2020.
Reuters/Sumaya Hisham/File Photo

The South African government in 2021 signed a deal with the Takatso Consortium to sell a majority stake in the state-owned carrier to the consortium, which had promised to invest over R3bn (\$164.71m) to revive the airline.

The involvement of Global Airways, which is part of the consortium and owns the regional airline Lift, could pose a market consolidation risk and is a point of concern for the authorities at South Africa's Competition Commission, *Semafor* said.

The competition watchdog has begun investigating the possibility that the new company would stifle competition if the deal goes through, *Semafor* added, citing officials at the ministries of finance and public enterprises, and an official at the government-chosen consortium.

The regulator did not respond to *Reuters'* request for comment late on Thursday, 23 February.

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