



**Mrs Nadia Daby Seesaram - Chairperson**

## **“Augmenting our reach and making a difference in the construction landscape”**

**2008** is a year that marked a turning point in the construction field in Mauritius, with the inception of the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) as the leading regulatory body in the sector.

**2019** is yet another landmark with the overhaul of the corporate identity of CIDB. Through this rebranding, we want to express our determination to play a more affirmative role in a sector which continues to grow steadily with the numerous large-scale infrastructural projects in progress. We are driven by the desire of building bridges with our stakeholders and clients, for them to fully grasp all the dimensions of our multi-faceted organization.

For many, CIDB is synonymous with policies, registration and regulations. The registration of consultants and contractors is indeed an important process, as it allows us to assess and evaluate their degree of professionalism and competency in view of promoting the development of a high-quality construction industry. There is however more to CIDB than just being a regulator and a watchdog. This rebranding exercise will help us to better express our diversified identity, by keeping our stakeholders informed of the diverse activities that we undertake, while remaining stringent when it comes to our values.

For instance, CIDB is also committed to playing the role of facilitator and even of pathfinder. On the one hand, we want to grow closer to our stakeholders by being the focal point of the construction sector when it comes to providing advice, recommendations and tackling complaints. In order to facilitate this communication and as part of our rebranding, we have revamped our website with more user-friendly features. On the other hand, CIDB also has a crucial role in conveying the right messages with regards to the industry and one of our biggest challenges is to make people realise that environmental sustainability and development are not incompatible. Instead, we can be instrumental in encouraging our consultants and contractors to re-visit their construction strategies so as to minimize noxious environmental impacts.

## **“Augmenting our reach and making a difference in the construction landscape” (cont’d)**

CIDB has initiated several actions for the past 2 years so as to provide a reliable and consistent level of service to its stakeholders:

- Amendments to the CIDB Act 2008 to open registration to a wider variety of construction sector professionals, like suppliers and service providers
- Review of CIDB registration and evaluation criteria
- Definition of a 3-year Action Plan, with priority being given to enabling SMEs to thrive in the field, the development of training programs as well as human resources with competencies that are relevant to the sector, R&D, and assisting professionals in the export of their services
- Preparation of a National Schedule of rates to serve as benchmark for construction costs
- Development of E-registration, through an Electronic Construction Industry Management Information System

We are glad to be able to operate these changes in a favourable context marked by significant improvement of the construction sector since 2017. This year, the growth rate is estimated at 8.6% - an excellent springboard for CIDB in its mission to augment its reach and make a difference in the construction landscape.





## *New Logo, New Identity, Renewed ambitions*



Mr. Bahadoor - Executive Director

### **1. What is the rationale behind the decision of CIDB to rebrand?**

This rebranding is, for us, a strategic step which allows CIDB to re-evaluate and re-visit our core values, philosophies and roles. A visual identity is important as it is a powerful ambassador of any organisation. This change of logo embodies everything we stand for and represents our renewed ambitions for the Mauritian construction sector. Just like the latter has evolved, we have to evolve too, hence the rebranding exercise, which in addition allows us to leverage the relationships, trust and legacy that we share with our stakeholders and clients.

### **2. What does your new logo represent?**

CIDB's new logo is more than a mere cosmetic change - it is also imbued with meaning and evokes strong emotions. The chosen logo translates meaningful messages which revolve around the concept of a Rainbow-Bridge, a paradigm of the rich cultural diversity and the strong bio-diversity that exist in Mauritius. This Rainbow-Bridge is highly visionary as it builds bridges that links the Past to the Present, and the Present to the Future. In a similar vein, it also represents the roles of the CIDB, as a facilitator between contractors, stakeholders and the government.

The green colour symbolises the desire to promote a green-economy while the strand of grey connotes concrete. The fusion of both, shows that both aspects can co-exist in harmony in Mauritius. We encourage our contractors to undertake ambitious construction projects, while sustaining the eco-system. Similarly, the blue colour used to represent the name of our regulatory body denotes our commitment and concern towards the marine environment. We want our stakeholders and the Mauritian public to know that we are deeply conscious of the ecological impact of the activities in a high carbon foot print industry, and that we are constantly finding ways to promote sustainable development.

### **3. Concretely, what will change for your stakeholders and clients after your rebranding?**

In substance, our original roles and services as a regulator and facilitator remain unchanged. They will, in the best interests of the industry and of our stakeholders, continue to evolve. The added value brought by the renewal of our corporate identity lies in the enhanced capacity that it gives us to reiterate our commitment towards our stakeholders by reinforcing our existing values in terms of excellence, responsibility and trust building, among others. By being consistent with those values, we can reinforce our quality of work to reach excellence!

### **4. How do you intend to respond to your clients' needs, going forward?**

As previously mentioned, our services will continue to evolve based on the exigencies and expectations of the construction sector and of its stakeholders. For example, initially, only consultants and contractors or traditional architects and engineers were eligible for CIDB registration. However, we have brought amendments to the CIDB Act so as to include professionals like interior designers, landscape architects, urban planners and environment engineers in our list as these categories of professionals are playing a more and more important role in the sector.

Our main aim is to be consistently efficient in terms of service delivery. Correspondingly, we aim to be more present to receive complaints and feedback from clients and professionals, and to act on them accordingly, thus preserving the quality and integrity of the construction industry. We are committed to building a thriving organisation that promotes a culture of collaboration. Through the new tools and mechanisms that the rebranding establishes, we will build bridges with our stakeholders for them to know that CIDB is an organisation that promises and delivers.





# CIDB: Paving the way towards a concrete future

The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) is the focal point of the construction industry in Mauritius. Established under the CIDB Act 2008 and operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, we have a comprehensive set of objects and functions which enables us to ensure the proper development of the construction industry. With unflinching principles and core values like Cohesiveness, Integrity, Trust, Responsibility, Excellence, Quality & Timeliness, we seek to revolutionise the construction industry, making it accessible, innovative, transparent and sustainable.

Here at CIDB, we understand that the road to success is always under construction. Therefore, one of our core philosophies is to facilitate things for consultants and contractors – including SMEs - by guiding them with a clear set of objectives and functions to ensure that they thrive in the construction industry.

## 1. Make it concrete, make it known

In line with government policy with regard to the development of the construction sector, one of our organisation's major and most recurrent activities, is the registration of consultants, contractors, suppliers and service providers to ensure an enhanced professionalisation of all stakeholders. We all agree that a strong foundation is coterminous with an enduring and sustainable future. Therefore, we consider this registration process to be extremely crucial because it allows us to lend our support to small and medium construction enterprises in particular. For instance, we provide visibility and recognition to these firms by publishing a list of registered contractors and consultants on a yearly basis. This annual list opens them to more possibilities in the construction sector, while at the same time being a formal indication of their compliance with current standards and norms.

## 2. Constructing visions

At CIDB, we pursue consistency and quality. In addition to being the only regulatory body in the field of construction in Mauritius, we ambition to act as a facilitator by frequently developing training programs devised for the empowerment of operators. We also invest in research and development to embrace innovation in this sector. CIDB adopts a customer-oriented approach as we regularly conduct surveys to have an insight of our clients' requirements. We then undertake necessary measures to answer those needs and demands.





### 3. Brick safe

We never compromise with security as we fervently believe that a safe and healthy work environment is essential to be productive. First of all, we constantly promote campaigns to raise awareness on physical safety measures both on-site and in other spaces where our contractors work. For instance, we organised a workshop on the very topical issue of Fire Safety to not only raise awareness on the importance to adopt safety and security measures in the construction field, but to also make our consultants and contractors understand that we have reinforced laws pertaining to the Fire Code and Health and Safety Regulations.

### 4. Listen better, plan better, build better

The CIDB is not only about policies and regulatory frameworks. We also pay attention to the issues and challenges that our clients may encounter throughout their professional journey. We are readily available to listen to our clients' complaints with regards to construction works and services in view of resolving them. In addition, we act as the middle man to liaise our contractors and consultants with the appropriate authorities where and when necessary. We also build bridges between stakeholders of the construction industry to facilitate communication and build healthy interpersonal connections.

As the leader of the construction industry in Mauritius, CIDB seeks to deliver the best quality service to its clients. We always strive to spur the advancement of the construction industry in view of increasing its contribution to economic growth and sustainable development, in line with best international standards and practices.



## Evolution of the Construction Growth Rate over recent years

The construction growth rate has been erratic over the last 14 years. Figures from the Statistics Mauritius office indicate that the construction growth rate was at its peak during the years 2007 and 2008 whereby the construction growth rate was **+15.2%** and **+11.6%** respectively. Subsequently the construction growth rate started to decline and went below **+10%** during the years 2009 and 2010 where it was **+4.3%** and **+5.9%** respectively. Thereafter, the construction sector in Mauritius experienced one of its worst period in its history with the construction growth rate going below **0 %** thereby generating negative growth over the period 2011 to 2015; the worst year being 2013 when the growth rate fell to **-9.4%**. In year 2016 the growth rate was zero.

However, the construction sector regained its momentum in 2017 when the construction growth rate started to increase. It rose to **7.5%** in 2017 and **9.5%** in 2018. However, Statistics Mauritius has forecasted that the construction growth rate would be around **8.6%** for the year 2019.

## Contribution of the Construction Industry to the GDP of Mauritius

Over the last 14 years, the contribution of the construction industry to the GDP of Mauritius was highest during the period 2009 to 2010 at around **7.0%**. The contribution has been declining since 2011 from **6.6%** to reach **4.2%** in 2016. However, according to Statistics Mauritius (2019), the contribution of the construction sector to the GDP has been increasing since 2017 and 2018 when it was **4.3%** and **4.4%** respectively. It is expected to be around **4.9 %** in 2019.

One of the major reasons for the increased construction growth rate is the government's massive investment in major infrastructure projects, namely the Metro Express Project and the Road Decongestion Programme. Other government projects such as the construction of a sports complex at Côte d'Or, construction of Bagatelle Dam project (including treatment plant and other associated works), NHDC housing projects, port development, utilities projects, etc. have a significant part to play in the higher growth rate. Another contributing factor for a higher growth rate is the heavy investment by the private sector, mainly under the Smart City Scheme.

## Registration Status as of April 2019

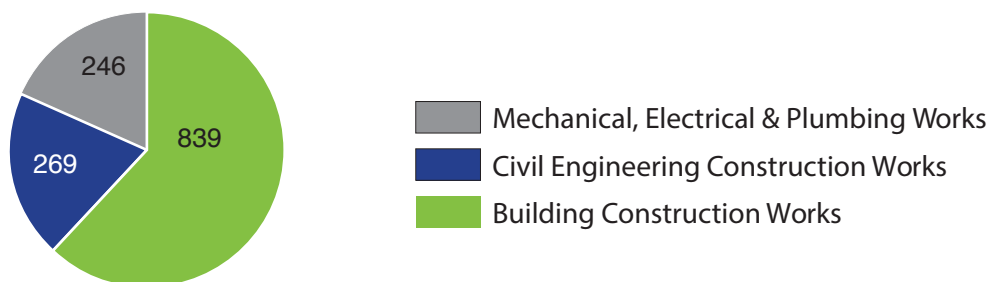
One of the key functions of the CIDB is the registration of local as well as foreign contractors and consultants. Such registration became mandatory as from 1 July 2016.

The evolution of registration over the years, since the exercise first started in 2015, is as follows:

CIDB Registration				
CONTRACTORS			CONSULTANTS	
	Local	Foreign (temporary)	Local	Foreign (temporary)
<b>2015</b>	126	2	35	0
<b>2016</b>	1,002	32	158	19
<b>2017</b>	1,182	34	173	17
<b>2018</b>	1,262	33	174	15
<b>2019 (up to end of April)</b>	1,354	40	183	19

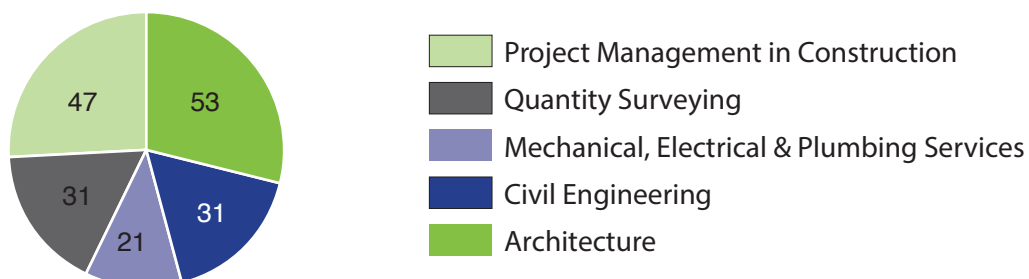
The current registration status is as follows:

a) Local Contractors registered in various classes of works:



The total number of local contractors registered is actually 1133 since some of them are registered in more than one class of works, which accounts for the above total of 1354.

b) Local Consultants registered in various fields of specialization:



The total number of local consultants registered is actually **142** since some of them are registered in more than one field, which accounts for the above total of **183**.



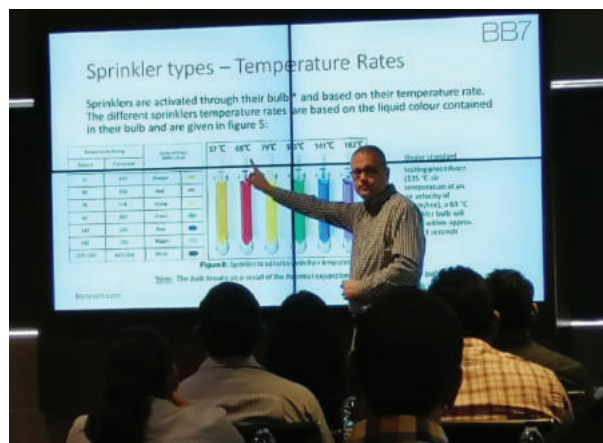
## CIDB Workshops



### Fire Safety with CIBSE

CIDB organised a workshop, with the collaboration of a facilitator from CIBSE (Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers), for construction experts to gain more awareness of fire safety via discussions and training modules around themes like fire detection and prevention.

The workshop was the appropriate platform to better tackle the issue of non-compliance with fire safety standards, despite the latter being part and parcel of the Occupational Safety & Health Act 2005.



Jamie Davis Director of Fire Risk Management



### FIDIC Contracts

Today, consulting engineers are key professionals in the construction industry and are the ones to ensure that projects meet all standards, both local and international.

To better familiarize them with the standards of the FIDIC, the CIDB and the Association of Consulting Engineers (Mauritius) organized two courses which covered two modules based on FIDIC contracts. The courses were delivered by Dr. Munther Saket, an internationally accredited FIDIC trainer.

Ram Bahadoor, Executive Director of CIDB, puts emphasis on the importance of FIDIC contracts in the construction industry. It is essential that consulting engineers understand the provisions of these contracts



Dr. Munther Saket, an internationally accredited FIDIC trainer

The CIDB is a reference organization and its role is to promote and guide the development of an efficient construction industry. It must therefore collaborate with the industry's professional organizations to empower stakeholders to adopt the required practices from this perspective.

FIDIC, the International Federation of Consulting Engineers, is the global representative body for national associations of consulting engineers and represents over one million engineering professionals and 40,000 firms in more than 100 countries worldwide.



### Memorandum of Understanding with MCCI

CIDB and MCCI (Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry) signed a Memorandum of Understanding so as to open services of the MCCI Arbitration and Mediation Center (MARC) to stakeholders of the construction industry. In addition to helping the industry to be better structured, this agreement will, among other things, enable CIDB to better play its role as a regulator, facilitator and training provider, particularly in the areas of arbitration and mediation in cases of disputes and claims.



Mr Ram Bahadoor signing the Memorandum of Understanding





## Regional Conference: 'Innovations in Delivery of Infrastructure Projects'

The Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, in collaboration with the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), is planning a Regional Conference entitled "Innovations in Delivery of Infrastructure Projects". This 3-Day event is scheduled to be held in Mauritius in August 2019, on dates yet to be confirmed. It will comprise presentations on projects in the transportation, water, and energy sectors over two days, with the third day meant for a business forum and a schedule of site visits.

The conference is aimed at Member States of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), to showcase their flagship infrastructure projects. The projects could be those that are under way or have already been completed, provided they contain some element of innovation. Such innovation may relate for instance to procurement route, project funding, contract strategy, design of works, construction methods, or alternative construction materials, among others. Such a conference should help participants understand the challenges and problems associated with the innovative approaches adopted for the projects concerned. It is hoped that the presentations will stimulate fruitful discussions, sharing of knowledge, learning from each other's experience, and encourage capacity building initiatives as well as export of services within the region.



INDIAN OCEAN  
COMMISSION



## Electronic Construction Industry Management Information System

In line with government's policy for promoting ease of doing business, the CIDB has been reviewing its criteria for registration and streamlining its procedures for same. In this respect it is proceeding with the development of an E-Registration Platform. This will allow both local as well as foreign consultants and contractors to apply for registration online, and also to effect payment of fees electronically.

The **E-Registration Platform** will be part of a Management Information System. This Construction Industry Management Information System would provide CIDB with the necessary tools to collect and process relevant data and statistics.

Such a system would enable the compilation and analysis of pertinent information, and thereby assist decision makers in the formulation of appropriate strategies for the construction industry.





## National Schedule of Rates

Construction rates and prices tend to vary significantly among suppliers of construction works and services. This often results in wide discrepancies between tender prices quoted during bidding exercises. This situation stems partly from the absence of a benchmarking tool for construction rates. CIDB had in 2012 published a National Schedule of Rates which has since become obsolete.

It is now proceeding with the development of a new National Schedule of Rates which would be software based. Use of an appropriate software for this purpose will allow a continual updating of construction rates.

This would in turn allow the CIDB to produce periodically, for the benefit of all stakeholders, rates for the major work items that are usually found in typical construction projects. Such rates should prove very useful for the preparation of budget estimates or bid prices for construction projects





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