

Savannah Cement lines up a Kshs 8.5Billion Clinker manufacturing plant investment project following KEBS Diamond Mark of Quality certification

22/04...Kenya's latest Cement Manufacturer, Savannah Cement, has swiftly moved to affirm its serious intent to continue playing in the regional cement market top league after attaining the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Diamond Mark of Quality certification for its range of products.

As part of its Quality assurance drive, Savannah Cement has already lined up a Kshs 8.5Billion (US\$100Million) investment plan to establish Kenya's first clinker manufacturing facility at the Savannah Cement production complex near Kitengela.

By establishing its own clinker production facility, Savannah Cement will be hoping to cut the existing reliance on imported clinker to deliver finished cement products.

Speaking during a function hosted to celebrate the firm's Diamond Mark of Quality certification and officiated by KEBS Managing Director Charles Ongwae, Savannah Cement Chairman, Benson Ndeti, disclosed that the clinker manufacturing plant development is part of the firm's bid to guarantee end-to-end quality standards.

The firm, Ndeti confirmed, has already invested more than US\$100million to develop one of the most advanced and eco friendly cement manufacturing plants in sub Sahara Africa with a 1.5million tons annual production capacity.

"Beyond the current investment, plans are underway to develop a clinker production facility at the Savannah Cement production complex near Kitengela to further boost the firm's investment to a value of more than US\$200million in coming months," Ndeti said.

And added: "As you may be aware, the local cement industry tilts heavily on the grinding aspect of cement production and remains heavily reliant on clinker imports to deliver finished products."

The Diamond Mark of Quality certification, which follows a series of stringent product tests, compliance to the scheme of supervision and control assessments by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) now places Savannah Cement products amongst the top companies on the quality assurance table. The certification provides an independent guarantee that Savannah Cement Products are of superior quality and conform to the approved local and international standards.

Touching on the quality certification, Savannah Cement Managing Director, Mr. Ronald Ndegwa said that the firm had adopted some of the most advanced quality assurance standards and product formulation benchmarks in the world for its products.

The Savannah Cement boss explained that the firm's manufactured cement types (Savannah 32.5R and Savannah 42.5R) are uniquely formulated to meet all building needs.

"Our attainment of a KEBS Diamond Mark of Quality certification is a clear affirmation that our products are uniquely formulated to assure superior performance," he said. And added: "Such product



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performance excellence has been achieved and guaranteed through the adoption of a robust and stringent quality management system with real time monitoring of the products' quality at each production stage coupled with strict raw material pre-evaluation and verification.”

On his part, KEBS MD, Mr. Ongwae confirmed that the standards body had raised its market surveillance activities to guarantee consumer confidence on all fronts right from manufacturing up to the market outlets for the building and construction sector.

“At KEBS, we are proud of the efforts made by Savannah Cement to ensure full compliance with our local and international standards which confirms their commitment to quality,” Mr. Ongwae said.

And added: “We are also putting on notice all traders selling substandard products or those displaying standards certification marks and have not yet received permits to use such marks officially from KEBS.” KEBS has upped its market surveillance of retail outlets to ensure consumers are protected in line the consumer rights spelt out in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and Consumer Protection Act 2012.

Commissioned in July 2012, as Kenya’s sixth cement manufacturer, Savannah Cement is now the latest Kenyan cement producer to receive the Diamond Mark of Quality.

The Diamond Mark of Quality, Ongwae, pointed out, is a higher level (as compared with Standardization Mark) voluntary product certification scheme operated by KEBS and awarded to manufacturers (based locally or abroad) who have demonstrated a high degree of excellence in product manufacturing quality controls and environmental sustainability.

With its “R” Cement classification, Savannah Cement products provide rapid strength development, which ensures reduced construction costs through enhanced productivity and construction efficiency.

Savannah Cement products also provide enhanced strength at all ages assuring superior concrete performance as well as unmatched durability with great aesthetics.

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