

Savannah Cement joins global race to promote sound management of chemicals at the workplace

28/04... Savannah Cement, a local cement manufacturer, has confirmed that the firm, has now adopted a string of international benchmarks to promote occupational chemical safety standards.

Savannah Cement, which is Kenya's latest cement manufacturing concern, has among other efforts taken the necessary steps to prevent and control potential risks for its workers, workplace, communities and the environment arising from poor chemical products management.

Speaking during an event to mark the 2014 World Day for Safety and Health at Work, at the firm's Kitengela manufacturing complex, Savannah Cement Managing Director, Mr. Ronald Ndegwa disclosed that - in line with this year's theme: "Safety and health in the use of chemicals at work"- the firm's ecofriendly factory had been designed to guarantee 99% chemical and related safety.

The new Savannah Cement plant featuring modern technologies, he said, is the only cement manufacturing plant in the country with advanced dust and related emissions control systems.

"I am proud to confirm that while chemicals remain very important in our production process, the Savannah Cement plant was designed with pollution control in mind hence no dust gets out of the systems," he said.

And added: while chemicals remain very important in our production process, Savannah Cement has taken the necessary steps to prevent and control potential risks for our workers, workplace, communities and the environment."

On the global scene, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is leading a campaign seeking to mobilise the support of national governments, employers, workers and their organizations to collaborate in the development and implementation of national policies and strategies aimed at the sound management of chemicals at work.

In its recently released [Report on safety and health in the use of chemicals at work](#), ILO notes that strategies to promote sound management of chemicals at the workplace must comprehensively and simultaneously address the health, safety, and environmental aspects related to the production and use of chemicals.

"The idea is to maintain the benefits achieved through the production and use of chemicals while minimizing workers' exposure as well as the emission of chemicals



into the environment through national and international action,” the report advises. Adding that: “Significant progress has been made concerning the regulation and management of chemicals in the field of occupational safety and health but more needs to be done.”

Globally, The ILO celebrates the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on the 28 April to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. It is an awareness-raising campaign intended to focus international attention on emerging trends in the field of occupational safety and health and on the magnitude of work-related injuries, diseases and fatalities worldwide.

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