

Nairobi, 9 July 2018

Bamburi, Government explore new technology for road construction

Bamburi Cement Limited in conjunction with Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development held a one-day training workshop on use of alternative technologies and materials in road construction at the Crowne Plaza Hotel- Nairobi.

Other partners involved in the workshop include LafargeHolcim and Jaycee- a market leader in Fly Ash exports from India and a strategic partner of LafargeHolcim.

The workshop that targeted the Materials Testing & Research division in the State department of Infrastructure at the Ministry zeroed on two models namely Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) technology and Hydraulic Road Binders (HRB) in road construction.

Speaking during the workshop, Bamburi's Innovation and Technical Services Manager, Fidelis Sakwa said "This workshop demonstrates our concerted effort to innovations and local creation of awareness on contemporary global technologies and approaches for use in construction of roads locally."

Hydraulic Road Binders technologies offer the potential of use of readily available, cost effective cementitious products for soil treatment and stabilisation in road construction. The use of hydraulic road binders (HRB) is a significant milestone heralding a major change in binders' specification in road construction which hitherto has been highly restrictive, allowing only the use of a CEM I 42.5 cement, traditionally known as Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC).

On the other hand, Roller compacted concrete (RCC) involves a technology whereby special concrete is manufactured with very little water and compacted with heavy rollers as opposed to conventional concrete that typically has more water and is compacted by vibrators.

RCC can be surfaced with a small layer of asphalt or left unsurfaced and has a significant advantage of immediate trafficking by vehicles as compared to conventional concrete that requires 28 days of curing. The RCC can be manufactured with fly ash - a waste material in thermal power manufacturing plants that burn coal - and mixed with cement and aggregates following a special mix design process to end up with an alternative suitable material in road construction.

The workshop was conducted by LafargeHolcim specialists, Mike Fisher and Hoa Lam from South Africa and from Singapore respectively. The workshop is a unique partnership between the Ministry, Bamburi Cement, LafargeHolcim and Jaycee.

In 2014, the Government, through the Kenya Rural Roads Authority, challenged cement manufacturers to offer a low cost product for use in soil stabilization. Consequently, an action plan to develop Hydraulic Road Binders (HRB) for soil stabilization was agreed upon. Since then, Bamburi Cement Limited (BCL) has taken the initiative to help fast-track adoption and use of HRBs by producing two products conforming to international HRB standards.

In 2006, Bamburi Cement collaborated with the then Ministry of Roads in the design and construction of the Mbagathi Way concrete road project.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Bamburi Cement Limited, a subsidiary of LafargeHolcim, and is the leading cement manufacturing and marketing Company in the Eastern Africa region, having been operational for 63 years. It has three subsidiaries Hima Cement Ltd (Uganda), Bamburi Special Products Ltd and Lafarge Ecosystems Ltd.

More information is available on Bamburi Cement Group website www.Lafarge.co.ke

LafargeHolcim is the leading global building materials and Solutions Company serving masons, builders, architects and engineers all over the world. The Group is organized in four business segments – Cement, Aggregates, Ready-mix Concrete and Solutions & Products – and is a partner for clients ranging from affordable housing and small, local projects to the biggest, most technically and architecturally challenging infrastructure projects. As urbanization increasingly impacts people and the planet, the Group provides innovative products and building solutions with a clear commitment to social and environmental sustainability. With leading positions in all regions, LafargeHolcim employs around 80,000 employees in more than 80 countries and has a portfolio that is equally balanced between developing and mature markets.

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