

**Nairobi 27th September 2015**

**Over 2000 masons to benefit from Bamburi's Builders Academy program**

Over 2000 masons from across the country are set to benefit from a training program organized by Bamburi Cement to improve skills in the building and construction industry in Kenya.

Bamburi Cement rolled out the free training seminars from across the country from last month (August); a move aimed at improving construction quality standards in the country. The training seminars are part of the Builders Academy initiative began twelve year ago by the Company, with the main objective to enhance masons' skills and professionalism, by offering them formal training, and through this in turn aiding to promote safe construction and job creation in the country.

The main theme for this year's training is 'Professionalism in Construction Causes of Building Collapses and Mitigation Measures'. Beneficiaries will be trained on site planning, drawings, setting out and foundations, mix designs, causes of building defects and how to avoid them, as well as on site safety procedures.

Speaking in Machakos at the weekend where more than 240 masons drawn from the Machakos, Kitui, and Namanga area were in training, the company reiterated its commitment to enabling masons to make their contribution to society in the building and construction industry.

"This program seeks to improve the vocational skills of masons, who are key players in the construction value chain, thus enhancing quality and safety of buildings. The masons are trained by engineers who have practical experience in construction," said Susan Maingi, Director Corporate Affairs, Communication and Sustainable Development at Bamburi Cement.

So far the company has trained over 500 masons and foremen from Utawala, Nyeri, Migori, Embu, Chuka, Meru and Maua. Additionally, the Company looks to target an additional 500 masons from Kitale, Kisumu, Eldoret, Siaya, Bungoma, Nakuru, Webuye, Ol Kalou, Malindi, Mombasa and Ukunda in the month of September.

"Since inception twelve years ago, and in Kenya alone, we have visited over 200 towns and villages around the country. We have held over 500 seminars and interacted with more than 250,000 masons," Ms Maingi stated. 'We commend the National Construction Authority (NCA) in its endeavors to inculcate professionalism in the construction industry through its initiative of registering contractors, capacity building and training and knowledge sharing. Bamburi Cement is in the process of partnering with NCA to continue to enrich this program in the enhancement of skills of artisans and general construction workers' concluded Ms Maingi.

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This comes at a time when the NCA has been stepping up its endeavors to professionalize the Industry, as the country continues to experience an increase in the number of collapsing construction buildings which claim lives of many people including innocent casual laborers. The conversion of most tertiary institutions, mostly polytechnics and technical schools, has created a major skills gap in the sector.

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS

With a well-balanced presence in 90 countries and a focus on Cement, Aggregates and Concrete, LafargeHolcim (SIX Swiss Exchange, Euronext Paris: LHN) is the world leader in the building materials industry. The Group has 115,000 employees around the world and combined net sales of CHF 33 billion (EUR 27 billion) in 2014. LafargeHolcim is the industry benchmark in R&D and serves from the individual homebuilder to the largest and most complex project with the widest range of value-adding products, innovative services and comprehensive building solutions. With a commitment to drive sustainable solutions for better building and infrastructure and to contribute to a higher quality of life, the Group is best positioned to meet the challenges of increasing urbanization.

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

More information is available on LafargeHolcim's website: [www.LafargeHolcim.com](http://www.LafargeHolcim.com) and [www.Lafarge.co.ke](http://www.Lafarge.co.ke)

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