



CIC Drives Industry Regulation and Promotion

The Construction Industry Council (CIC) reflects on the milestones thus far for the financial year 2023/24. Guided by the mandate to regulate, promote and develop the construction industry in Eswatini, the Council remained steadfast in its pursuit of achieving those objectives.

Regulation

In an effort to enhance industry regulation, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport initiated and commissioned the process of reviewing, developing and amending the construction industry legislation in September 2023. These include the National Construction Industry Policy, CIC Act no.14 of 2013, CIC Regulations and the Architects Engineers Surveyors and Allied Professionals Act (AESAP Act), no. 15 of 2013 and Regulations. The Ministry of Public Works & Transport has embarked on this exercise in collaboration with the Council & AESAP.

Review of CIC legislation

The Eswatini Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (ESEPARC) was engaged to facilitate the process and as a consultant to drive the amendment, development, and review of construction industry legislation. ESEPARC has, to date, issued the inception report and is presently undergoing consultations with industry stakeholders and the general public, who play a pivotal role in the growth and advocacy of the construction sector in Eswatini. ESEPARC will issue a comprehensive situational analysis report to enhance the above-mentioned exercise.

The amendment, development and review of the construction legislation, amongst other things, will foster a regula-

CIC's Board Chairperson addressing the participants during the Policy, Legislation Drafting and Development Workshop held at the Hilton Gardens.



His Majesty King Mswati III alongside the Minister of Public Works and Transport Chief Ndialuhlaza Ndwandwe and CIC CEO Maqhawe Mnisi, during the 2023 Trade Fair.

Promotion

tory environment conducive for the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This exercise will further guarantee the development of high-quality infrastructure and service provision within the country. The enhanced regulatory framework will fortify provisions pertaining to the involvement of Swati enterprises. Additionally, the concern of skills transfer and development, where particular skills are scarce, will be effectively tackled.

To ensure that the process succeeds and achieves the expected results, the Ministry of Public Works & Transport, in collaboration with CIC and AESAP, continues to invite stakeholders and the general public to participate actively throughout the exercise. The anticipated completion date of the project is April 30, 2024.

Promotion

The Council considers the promotion of the construction industry to be vital, as it is ranked among its top priorities. To promote the industry effectively, CIC, among other things, compiled the contact information of all contractors (contractors, consultants and manufacturers and suppliers of construction materials) and construction companies registered with it into an online directory (worth noting that every contractor and construction company is obligated to register under CIC). This action facilitated communication between individuals and any construction company or contractor registered under CIC.

The council furthered its promotional efforts by participating in the 2023 Trade Fair. Through the exercise, the Council effectively communicated its objectives to the public and how emaSwati benefited from the Council's presence.

In promoting the industry, the Council issued a gazette in terms of section 33 of the CIC Act. This aimed to publish the list of registered contractors in terms of the Act. The above exercise assists the industry in procuring service providers to undertake their projects.

Development

EWADE AfDB Projects

The CIC hosted several trainings and stakeholder engagements that sought to develop the construction industry by educating industry stakeholders on compliance issues in November 2023, the Council successfully coordinated a workshop for contractors and consultants (Project Managers, Quantity Surveyors, Architects, and Civil Engineers) from the aforementioned categories (B1-3 & C2-3) in collaboration with Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development (EWADE).

The objective of the engagement was to give insights into EWADE's future and existing projects funded by the African Bank Development Projects framework. The dialogue provided valuable perspectives on EWADE's current and forthcoming endeavours pertaining to the African Bank Development Projects framework. The Eswatini Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ESPPRA) was among the guests to share public procurement best practices. Contractors were advised to prepare themselves well for the upcoming Mkhondvo- Ngwavuma- Mpakeni phased projects.

Contractor training

Additionally, CIC conducted financial and business management trainings, where construction firms were instructed on managing business finances effectively. Both trainings were successful due to the construction companies' total capacity attendance and active participation. One of the trainings included the Financial and Business Management conducted by UNESWA. This was done to ensure that the construction sector was globally competitive and highly developed.

ERS, ENPF, MCM Collaboration

The CIC, in collaboration with Eswatini Revenue Services, Eswatini National Provident Fund and Municipal Council of Mbabane, conducted an open workshop for contractors on "Good Compliance Practices and PPP Opportunities" that also sought to address compliance issues around the payment of VAT, labour insurance and tapping into PPPs made available. This was hosted in July 2023.

National Legislations (Companies Bill, Special Economic Zones Bill & National Industrial Policy) workshop

The Council, in collaboration with the Registrar of Companies, Investor Roadmap Department, and National Industrial Policy Department, hosted a discussion and presentations to industry associations on the 22nd of November, 2023. The departments presented the Companies Bill and the Special Economic Zones Bill. The Council conducted a presentation on the draft Industrial Policy. The above workshop aimed to appraise the construction industry on the above bills and policy and gather industry input to be considered during the amendment process.



Participants during the EWADE Projects Eligibility Criteria workshop..