



SUCCESS BEYOND NUMBERS

Board Charter

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1. Introduction

The Board of Directors Charter sets out the objectives, roles and responsibilities and composition of the Board. This Charter should be read in conjunction with the Company's Constitution and in case a dispute in content or meaning arises, the wording of the Constitution shall prevail. This Charter complies with the Mauritian legislation and regulations as well as the provisions governing the relationship between the committees and the Board as contained in the charters of the committees.

This Charter is posted on the organisation's website.

2. Objectives

The objective of the Board is to define the Group's mission, purpose, values and strategic objectives, and determine all matters relating to the directions, policies, practices, management and operations of the MCB Group Ltd ("MCBG" or the "Company") and all its subsidiaries locally and abroad (collectively the "Group"). The Board should thereafter ensure that the Company and its subsidiaries are being managed in accordance with the directions and delegations of the Board. The Board has also the duty to monitor the ethical conduct of the subsidiary companies, its executives and senior officials.

3. Composition

- 3.1. The Board is a Unitary Board and shall comprise of an appropriate balance of executive, non-executive and independent directors and in any case shall consist of at least two executive directors and at least two independent directors.
- 3.2. The Board shall consist of a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of twelve (12) directors.
- 3.3. Board members should be qualified for their positions, have a clear understanding of their role and be able to exercise sound judgement about the affairs of the Company. Board composition is reviewed to ensure that non-executive directors between them bring both the right mix and the range of skills, knowledge and experience necessary to direct the Company going forward.
- 3.4. The Chairperson of the Board may be independent.
- 3.5. The Board shall comprise Directors from both genders as members of the Board with at least one male and one female director.

4. Appointment, Evaluation and Remuneration of the Board / Committee Members

- 4.1. The appointment process has been delegated to the Remuneration, Corporate Governance, Ethics and Sustainability Committee (RCGESC) which recommends to the Board the members to be appointed and /or re-elected.
- 4.2. In accordance with the Constitution, at each Annual meeting, one third of the number of directors in office, or, if their number is not a multiple of three, then the number nearest to, but not exceeding one third, shall retire from office and shall be eligible for re-election.
- 4.3. The RCGESC shall regularly review and assess the Board, the Committees and the individual directors in order to assess the effectiveness of the Board and Committees as a whole and to evaluate performance on a personal and individual level. It is recommended that these evaluations take place on an annual basis.
- 4.4. The Board must have a formal and transparent policy in respect of directors' remuneration. The budget with respect to remuneration of directors for Board and Committees for the ensuing financial year shall be submitted to the Annual Meeting of Shareholders for approval.

5. Meetings

- 5.1. The Board must determine the frequency of the Board meetings, which shall be at least once per quarter.
- 5.2. The quorum for Board Meetings shall be fixed by the Board and, if not so fixed, shall be a majority of the directors in office.
- 5.3. Meetings are convened, wherever possible, so that directors are able to attend and participate in person. Where personal attendance by some or all directors is not possible, meetings are convened and conducted by means of audio, or audiovisual, communication by which all Directors participating and constituting a quorum can simultaneously hear each other throughout the meeting.
- 5.4. In case of absence of the Chairperson, the Remuneration, Corporate Governance, Ethics and Sustainability Committee shall appoint an independent or a non-executive director to chair the meeting.
- 5.5. The Board may request any non-members to attend any Board Meetings.

6. Decision Making

Every Director shall have one vote and the Chairperson shall have a casting vote. A resolution of the Board shall be passed if it is agreed to by a majority of the Directors present.

A resolution in writing signed or assented by all directors entitled to receive notice of a Board Meeting shall be as valid and effective as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board duly convened and held.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

The Board is ultimately responsible to stakeholders, with a primary obligation to shareholders, for the affairs of the Company and to provide effective corporate governance. The delegation of authority to any Committee does not discharge the responsibility of the Board in respect of the actions and decisions of the Committee.

7.1. Strategy

- 7.1.1. The Board shall approve the Group's mission, purpose, values and strategic objectives, and shall ensure that they are communicated throughout the organisation.
- 7.1.2. The Board must retain full and effective control over the Company and its capital resources and is responsible for monitoring Management in respect of the implementation of Board plans and strategies.
- 7.1.3. The Board shall exercise leadership, enterprise, intellectual honesty, integrity and judgement in directing the Company and its subsidiaries, with a view to achieving maximum sustainable shareholder value.
- 7.1.4. The Board shall use all reasonable efforts to ensure that highest standards of project governance are adhered to, for the Board to receive accurate, timely and clear information regarding key projects being implemented within the Group.
- 7.1.5. The Board shall monitor the competitive position of the Company and its subsidiaries and the evolution of main competitors.
- 7.1.6. The Board shall encourage a culture that promotes ethical and responsible decision making throughout the Group.

7.2. Control and Risk

- 7.2.1. The Board is responsible for setting principal policies in respect of risk management at large, internal controls and conduct of business for the Company. The Board must regularly monitor that senior management is conducting the business in accordance with such policies.
- 7.2.2. The Board shall ensure that clear lines of responsibility and accountability exist and are enforced throughout the organisation.
- 7.2.3. The Board shall ensure that there is appropriate oversight by management consistent with Board policy.

- 7.2.4. The Board shall ensure that the related procedures and processes are in place that protect the Company's assets and reputation. It shall therefore review these procedures and processes on a regular basis to ensure effectiveness of the Group's risk management framework and internal control systems.
- 7.2.5. The Board has the duty of ensuring that the Company complies with all the relevant laws, regulations and codes of business practice.
- 7.2.6. The Board shall on a reasonable basis satisfy itself that appropriate audit arrangements are in place and are being effectively implemented.

7.3. Financials

The Board is responsible for:

- 7.3.1. Approval of the quarterly accounts ensuring that they have been prepared using the appropriate accounting policies and standards and fairly presents the state of affairs of the Company and any other information for disclosure to the market.
- 7.3.2. Approval of major capital expenditures, contracts, acquisitions and divestments.
- 7.3.3. Declaration of dividends when appropriate and determine the amount of dividend to be declared.
- 7.3.4. Issuance of shares of any Class at any time, to any person and in such numbers it thinks fit, subject to the Companies Act 2001, the Constitution of the Company, the terms of issue of any existing shares and/or approval from the Shareholders.
- 7.3.5. Approval of the budget at least annually.

7.4. Interests of Shareholders and Other Stakeholders

- 7.4.1. When carrying out its roles the Board should consider:
 - the primary objective of the Company which is to continue to maximise sustainable value for shareholders.
 - the expectations of shareholders and other stakeholders including, "inter alia", employees, investors, customers, societies, communities and authorities. The directors will undertake their responsibilities with honesty, integrity, care and diligence, in accordance with the law and in a manner which reflects the highest standards of corporate governance and with the consideration of the Corporate Social Responsibility of the Company.

- 7.4.2. The Board shall ensure that the Company is governed in a transparent manner through accurate and timely information to the public, through its reports to the relevant authorities and in its annual report.
- 7.4.3. The Board shall encourage shareholders to attend all meetings of shareholders.
- 7.4.4. The Chairperson shall ensure that (unless there are important reasons) all the members of the Board attend the Annual Meetings of Shareholders.
- 7.4.5. The Board shall ensure that each item of special business included in the notice of meeting of shareholders is accompanied by a full explanation of the related justification and of the impacts of the proposed resolution.
- 7.4.6. The Board shall ensure that a brief presentation of each director standing for election or re-election be made to the shareholders.
- 7.4.7. The Board shall ensure that sound ESG practices are implemented across the organisation in line with the sustainability ambitions of the MCB Group.

In this respect, the Board shall monitor the Group's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint , whilst supporting the country's transition to low-carbon emission in line with the Paris Climate Agreement adopted on 12 December 2015. Moreover, the Board shall also be kept informed of the Group's contribution towards creating an environment that boosts local production and consumption, whilst enabling economic growth.

7.5. Appointment of Chief Executive Officer ("CEO")

The appointment and remuneration of CEO of the Company shall be made by the Board upon recommendation from the RCGESC.

8. Role and Function of the Chairperson

8.1. Election

The Chairperson shall be accountable to the Board and ultimately to the shareholders. The Chairperson is elected by his or her fellow directors and may be independent.

8.2. Duties

He/she should be a firm, objective and open-minded leader, assuming his/her role by bringing independence of mind and intellectual honesty. Apart from being fully conversant with the Company's organisational structure and have sound overall knowledge of the Company's activities, the Chairperson is expected to be impartial and objective so as to support or take the right decisions concerning the organisation.

8.3. Responsibilities

The main responsibilities of a Chairperson can be summarised under the following areas:

8.3.1. Strategy and Management of the Company

- To ensure that the Board is effective in its tasks of setting and implementing the Company's direction and strategy.
- To exercise oversight of the Group's ethics performance.
- To co-ordinate the Board Committees, with a view to ensuring that appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the effective management of the organisation.
- To ensure that the decisions of the Board are executed.
- To sign the Statement of Compliance to be filed with the Financial Reporting Council along with a director to confirm whether the Company has complied fully, partially or has not complied with the National Code of Corporate Governance.

8.3.2. Leadership

- To provide overall leadership to the Board, be impartial and resolve differences in the most constructive way, whilst continuously encouraging and ensuring the active participation of all directors in discussions and Board matters.
- To participate in the selection of the Board members whilst ensuring that the Board has an appropriate mix of competencies, experience, skill and independence.
- To provide support and supervision to the CEO.

8.3.3. Presiding and conducting meetings effectively

- To set the agenda for Board meetings, therefore giving the meetings their direction and scope.
- To preside over the Board meetings and shareholders meetings of the Company and to ensure the smooth conduct of the Meetings.
- To ensure that Board meetings take place regularly and that all the relevant information and facts are placed before the Board to enable the directors to reach informed decisions.

- To ensure that each meeting is planned effectively, conducted according to the constitution and that matters are dealt with in an orderly, efficient manner.
- To ensure that proper minutes are taken and sign the minutes of Board meetings and shareholders' meetings jointly with the Secretary. Minutes which have been signed correct by the Chairperson of the meeting are prima facie evidence of the proceedings.
- To arrange for the Chairperson of Board committees to be available to answer questions at the Meetings of Shareholders and for all directors to attend.

8.3.4. Relations with Shareholders

- To act as the Company's leading representative and be the spokesperson at functions and meetings to present the aims and policies of the Company.
- To maintain, jointly with the CEO, sound relations with the Company's shareholders and ensure that the effective communication and disclosures are being implemented.
- To ensure that all directors be made aware of the concerns of the major shareholders and other key stakeholders and that their views be communicated to the Board as a whole.

8.3.5. Induction, Development, Succession and Performance Evaluation

- To ensure that newly appointed directors participate in an induction program with the support of the Company Secretary.
- To ensure that the development needs of the directors are identified and appropriate training be provided to continuously update the skills and knowledge of the directors so that they are in a position to adequately fulfill their role on the Board and its Committees.
- To identify the development needs of the Board as a whole to promote its effectiveness as a team.
- To ensure that the performance of the Board members is evaluated upon the recommendation of the RCGESC of the MCB Group.
- To oversee a formal succession plan for the Board, the CEO, as well as certain Senior Executive and other critical Management positions, in close collaboration with the RCGESC .

9. Role of Executive, Non-Executive and Independent Directors

- 9.1. Executive directors must develop and execute the plans and strategy of the business, in line with the policies set by the Board and will manage the day-to day operations.
- 9.2. Executive directors will ensure that the Group corporate culture and values are embraced throughout the organisation.
- 9.3. Executive directors should ensure that the Group has implemented the necessary frameworks and structures to identify, assess and mitigate risks at large.
- 9.4. Executive directors must always manage the conflict between their management responsibilities and their fiduciary duties as a director, in the best interests of the Company. Additionally, executive directors have the responsibility of ensuring that the information laid out before the Board is an accurate and true representation of their understanding of the Company's affairs.
- 9.5. Non-Executive and Independent directors collectively shall contribute to the elaboration of the Group's strategy, analyse and monitor the performance of management against agreed objectives. Whenever required, they should challenge proposals presented by management and request additional information where they consider that information is necessary to support informed decision-making.
- 9.6. Non-Executive and Independent directors shall collectively provide independent judgement in all circumstances.
- 9.7. Non-Executive and Independent directors individually should inform themselves, to a reasonable extent, in connection with the subject-matter of all decisions they are called upon to make as directors of the Company.
- 9.8. Non-Executive and Independent directors are expected to maintain the skills required to discharge their obligations to the Company and, to the extent necessary, newly-appointed directors may request suitable induction courses which would be made available to them, upon request.
- 9.9. All directors are expected to take reasonable steps to satisfy themselves that financial information released to the markets and shareholders is accurate and that the Company has adequate and proper financial controls and systems of risk management.
- 9.10. All directors are bound by fiduciary duties and duties of care and skill.

10. Roles of Company Secretary

10.1. Compliance

- 10.1.1. To ensure that the organisation complies with its constitution, all relevant statutory and regulatory requirements, codes of ethics and procedures established by the Board.
- 10.1.2. To inform Board of all legislations relevant to or affecting meetings of shareholders and directors.
- 10.1.3. To continually review developments in corporate governance.

10.2. Board members – Appointment, Guidance and Development

- 10.2.1. To ensure that procedures for the appointment of directors are properly followed.
- 10.2.2. To facilitate the proper induction of directors into their role.
- 10.2.3. To provide the Board as a whole, and directors individually, with guidance as to their roles and responsibilities, advising and assisting the directors with respect to their duties and responsibilities, in particular compliance with prevailing regulations.
- 10.2.4. To act as a channel of communication and information for non-executive directors.
- 10.2.5. To assist the Chairperson in governance processes such as Board and Committee evaluation.

10.3. Organisation of Meetings of the Company

- 10.3.1. To prepare the agenda of Board, Board Committees and shareholders' meetings in consultation with the Chairperson and the CEO , and to circulate the relevant agendas and supporting documents in a timely manner.
- 10.3.2. To ensure that there is a quorum for meetings.
- 10.3.3. To take minutes of Board/Annual meetings and circulate draft minutes to all members and to ensure that minutes of proceedings of Board meetings and meetings of shareholders as well as resolutions of the Board are properly maintained.
- 10.3.4. To ensure that Annual and Special Meetings of Shareholders are held in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act and the Company's Constitution.

10.3.5. To ensure that proxy forms are correctly processed and that the voting process whenever applicable is carried out correctly at meetings of shareholders.

10.4. Communication with Shareholders

10.4.1. To ensure that the shareholders' interests are taken care of and act as a primary point of contact for all shareholders.

10.4.2. To communicate with shareholders and arrange payment of dividends and/or interest, issuing documentation regarding corporate events being undertaken by the Company such as rights and bonus issues and maintaining good shareholder relations.

11. Board Committees

The Board may from time to time establish standing and ad-hoc Committees to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities. For each Committee the Board shall adopt a Charter setting out its role, composition, powers, responsibility, structure, resources and any other relevant matters. The appointment of a Chairperson and of the members of any Board Committee shall be made by the Board.

The roles of Chairperson of Committees shall, as far as it is practical, be adequately distributed among the directors so that no individual is burdened with too many Committees. It is recommended that, wherever possible, all Board Committees be chaired by an independent non-executive director.

Board Committees shall comprise exclusively Board members. However, non-directors can be invited to attend the Committees.

The Board has established the following Committees:-

- Audit Committee
- Risk Monitoring Committee
- Remuneration, Corporate Governance, Ethics and Sustainability Committee
- Strategy Committee
- Supervisory and Monitoring Committee

Proceedings of Committees shall be reported to the Board to allow other directors to be informed and seek clarifications from the Committee members, if so desired.

Committees must have timely access to the resource and information necessary for them to fulfill their duties. This will include secretarial and administrative support, as well as resources such as legal advisers and outside specialists, as necessary. Management and staff should be advised that they must cooperate with the Committees and supply all information as required in a timely fashion.

The Board shall make funds available to the Committees to enable them seek independent legal, accounting or other advice, as necessary.

12. Other Provisions

12.1. Professional advice

The Board has an agreed procedure whereby directors are able to seek independent professional advice, should the need arise. The professional services procured will be at the Company's expense and prior approval of the Chairperson is required.

12.2. Conflict of Interests and Related Party Transactions

- Transactions between the Company and its directors or shareholders are sources of conflicts of interest.
- The personal interests of a director, or persons closely associated with the director, must not take precedence over those of the Company and its shareholders.
- A director should make best efforts to avoid conflicts of interest or situations where others might reasonably perceive there to be a conflict of interest.
- A director shall forthwith after becoming aware of the fact that he/she is interested in a transaction or proposed transaction with the Company, disclose same to the Board and cause same to be entered in the Interests Register.
- The Board has developed a corporate Code of Ethics and a Conflicts of Interest & Related Party Transactions Policy that address issues that relate, inter alia, to related party transactions and conflicts of interest, particularly relating to directors and management.

12.3. Access to information

The Board shall have access to sufficient resources in order to carry out its duties, including access to the Company Secretariat for assistance as required.

12.4. Reporting

- All matters likely to have an impact on the affairs or reputation of the Group and its subsidiaries shall be reported by the Chairperson of the respective Committees and the Chairperson of the Boards of the different subsidiaries to the Board of MCB Group Limited.
- The Board shall deal with and take appropriate decisions with respect to all significant matters brought up by the different Committees and subsidiaries of the MCB Group Limited.

12.5. Confidentiality

- Duty to keep Information Confidential

Unless required to do so by law, no Board member shall, during his or her membership on the Board or afterwards, disclose any information of a confidential nature regarding the business of the Company, that came to his or her knowledge in the capacity of his or her work for the Company and which he/she knows or should know to be of a confidential nature. A Board member may disclose such information to fellow Board members as well as to staff members of the Company who, in view of their activities for the Company, should be informed of the information.

A Board member shall not use such confidential information for his or her personal benefit.

- Return of Confidential Information

At the end of each Board member's term of office, he/she shall return all confidential documents in his or her possession to the Company or guarantee their disposal in a manner that ensures confidentiality is preserved.

- Notice of Disclosure

If a Board member intends to disclose to third parties information which he/she has become aware of in his or her duties and which may be confidential, he/she must inform the Chairperson of his or her intent and the identity of the person who is to receive the information with sufficient notice for the Chairperson to assess the situation and advise the Board member accordingly. This section applies to both official and personal statements and to any person attending Board meetings which, in terms of their content and form, are clearly only intended for the Board.