

14 June 2019

Hon Soodesh Satkam Callichurn
Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations,
Employment and Training
Level 9, Victoria House,
Cnr Barracks and St Louis Streets,
Port-Louis

Sir,

One of our friends from China have died yesterday the 13th June 2019 in a work accident at Côte-d'Or Olympic Stadium Site.

We have been informed by our members working for other local companies that the Chinese worker employed by China State Construction Engineering Corporation (C.S.C.E.C) have been subjected to a fatal accident due to the fall of scaffolding of metallic structures from a crane.

According to witness, the metallic structure was not tied properly to the crane, that is a metallic sling and same has fell over the worker working beneath.

Many a times, the CTSP has requested that whenever a crane is working, the zone must be demarcated where falling objects can cause fatal harm.

Several times, the Representative of the C.T.S.P sitting on the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety has insisted that Foreign Workers should benefit from Safety classes in their own native language and pictograms should be developed and displayed on site to sensitize and inform foreign workers on hazardous processes on work sites.

Our proposals have been entertained for the gallery only. Despite the Council unanimously recognised that our proposals were most welcomed and needed urgent consideration, same has remained in the good books of your Ministry.

Since 2015 we have submitted to your Government all our proposed amendment to the O.S.H.A 2005 in order to better protect all the workers of the Republic of Mauritius without any distinction or discrimination.

The Former Labour/P.M.S. D Government has taken us for a ride. Instead they have introduced Labour Legislations that rendered the work more precarious. Risk Assessments are supposed to be mandatory, but employers have no obligations to submit same to the workers or your Ministry

Today, unscrupulous employers are using same as a cover – up for their negligence which many a times at the cost of workers life by simply presenting backdated risk assessments before Court.

For years now, we are claiming that workers ought to be empowered to make their own inspections and denounce all abuses. This can only be achieved if Trade unions can have access on work sites. Today only with the express permission of employers in demarcated areas, Trade Unions can conduct meetings.

This need to be changed!

Your Government has taken an engagement that in weeks to come, a new Workers' Rights Bill will be introduced to replace the Former Labour Legislations that have snatched all our rights.

This is the ideal situation where you can bring more protection to workers by empowering them and grant access to Trade Unions on all work sites without any derogation for Chinese and other Foreign Contractors in the Construction Industry.

We are making an appeal that your Ministry conduct a proper and transparent inquiry in the above referred fatal accident and that in the name of Solidarity, Government gives a financial support to the family of the dead Chinese worker, over and above what the Chinese Contractor has to pay as the employer.

We hope that our request will be most urgently positively entertained.

Yours faithfully



Eddy Moocarme
President

c.c.: - The General Secretary - B.W.I
The Regional Officer – BWI
The General Secretary - ITUC