



## Ethical recruitment critical to workers' welfare

Nepali entrepreneur Rajendra Kumar Sharma established Pigeon Engineering in Qatar in 2004. Over the last 15 years, he has witnessed remarkable transformation of Qatar's urban landscape and a new era in workers' welfare.

In May 2016, Pigeon Engineering was appointed as a sub-contractor for Al Bayt, Ahmad Bin Ali, Al Thumama, and Education City stadiums – host venues for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022<sup>™</sup>, under the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC).

"We have been in the workforce sector for a long time and we have seen a steady progression and evolution in workers' welfare in Qatar. The FIFA World Cup 2022 has put significant focus on workers' rights and most importantly compliance to workers' welfare standards," said Sharma.

"The SC Workers' Welfare Standards are by far the most rigorous and we work very hard to maintain them. While complying with these Standards, we know we are improving ourselves and the lives of our workers."

The implementation of the Standards has resulted in Pigeon Engineering making a huge shift in the area of ethical recruitment. Millions of workers worldwide fall victim to the unethical practice of recruitment fees, which is illegal under Qatari law and prohibited by the SC's Standards.

Pigeon Engineering was quick to adopt the SC's recruitment fees reimbursement scheme, committing to pay around 2,500 SC and non-SC workers.

Following the latest ethical recruitment audit by the SC's external monitor, Impactt Ltd., the company achieved a compliance score of 98%, demonstrating true commitment and conviction to implement the standards set by the SC. "We are now cautious about recruitment agencies. We only work with those registered under the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour & Social Affairs to ensure our workers are ethically recruited. We directly interview each candidate, to brief them about their rights, job role, contract and Qatari laws."

Rajendra Kumar Sharma Managing Director, Pigeon Engineering

Sharma believes that awareness, engagement and training are key to workers' welfare. Together with the SC, the company empowers workers by educating them on their rights and providing them with ongoing training.

"We work closely with our contractors to ensure that our workers receive the necessary training, as per the SC requirements, to protect them both on and off the site.

"Our workers are our family; their welfare is our priority. We are working together with the SC to make the World Cup a success and we are contributing to a legacy in workers' welfare, which will extend beyond 2022," said Sharma.

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