

Speech on the listing of the first Green Bond
CFSL 3.95% 04/11/24 Notes
on the Official Market
of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius

delivered by
Sunil Benimadhu
Chief Executive- SEM
25 October 2023

Honourable Mahen Kumar Seeruttun, Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance

Your Excellency, Mr Jamie Scattergood, Deputy High Commissioner, of the UK Embassy in Mauritius

Mr Mardayah Kona Yerukunondu, First Deputy Governor of the BoM and Chairman of FSC

Mr. Dipak Chummun, Chairman of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius

Mrs. Aisha Timol, Chairperson of CIM Financial Services Ltd

Mr. Mark Van Beuningen, CEO of CIM Financial Services Ltd

Directors of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius

Directors of CIM Financial Services Ltd

Members of the Listing Committee

Members of the press

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

1. On behalf of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius, it gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to tonight's event. I would like to start my welcome address tonight with a quotation from Che Guevara, one of my boyhood heroes, who once said, I quote, "one of the most gratifying moments in life occurs when lofty ideals and objectives are translated into meaningful, impactful and disruptive actions". Unquote. Tonight's event constitutes one such gratifying moment, as we gather here to write a new chapter of the SEM's history with the listing of the first Green Bond on the Official Market of the Stock Exchange.
2. I would like at the very outset to extend my heartiest congratulations to CIM Financial Services Limited for helping us write this new chapter of our history. CIM Financial Services needs no introduction. It is one of the leading financial services companies of the country. It was listed on the Official Market in October 2012 and had a market

capitalisation of Rs 3.7 billion on its listing date. Its market capitalisation today stands at Rs 7.7 billion. It ranks among the 15 largest companies listed on the SEM. It is also one of the better performing listed companies with an annualised total return of nearly 14% and a total return of 309% since listing.

3. More importantly, ladies and gentlemen, CIM made history last year when it became the first company to issue a green bond in Mauritius, in line with the FSC guidelines on Green Bonds. It is, today, making history for the second time by being the first company to list and trade a green bond, as per the FSC guidelines, on the SEM. CIM, in fact, raised Rs 1.1 billion of green bonds and these bonds were listed early today on the Official Market. Rs 5m of these bonds were traded on the first day of listing. Kudos to the CIM team and its advisors for being the trailblazers on the issuance front in the green space.
4. In my welcome address tonight, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to share with you 7 or 8 reasons on the importance and potential impact of this green bond listing :
5. First, this listing is not just a historic moment. It is a statement of intent of our shared vision for a greener and more sustainable Mauritius.
6. Second, today's listing is a concrete demonstration that the world of finance is not only about profits, but that finance can be judiciously used to tackle and resolve real world problems like climate change.
7. Third, from SEM's perspective, this listing adds a new asset class to the array of financial products currently listed on the SEM and reinforces the SEM's position as a leading multi-asset class, multi-currency exchange in Africa.
8. Fourth, with this listing, the SEM and Mauritius, as an international financial centre, are making their entry in the world of listed green financial products, which in, 2023 alone, has crossed the level of \$300 billion in terms of new issues.
9. Fifth, from a jurisdictional perspective, it is a clear signal that Mauritius is not just a passive participant in the global conversation on sustainability. This listing, in conjunction with a number of other concurrent initiatives underway in the island underscores that Mauritius is intent in taking a driver's seat on the sustainability front.
10. Sixth, there is a growing feeling today that sustainable finance will become a mainstay of global finance in the next two decades. As a leading financial centre in the region, it is important that Mauritius strives for a share of this undeniable opportunity. We hope, that today's first listing will foster further listings of green/sustainable bonds, trigger the listing of the first sovereign sustainable bond on the SEM, and eventually

raise the profile of Mauritius and SEM as a funding, issuance and listing platform for sustainable finance in Africa.

11. Seventh, from CIM's perspective, the listing of this green bond on SEM not only enhances the visibility of the company locally, but also internationally through the powerhouses like Bloomberg and Refinitiv, amongst others, which are all connected to SEM's platform. The listing also provides the bond holders of CIM with a real-time daily market valuation of their bonds, which is not available for last year's green bond which is not listed.
12. Last but not least, vying for a greener and more sustainable Mauritius is no longer a matter of choice, but a question of our own survival. This is why any action we take to promote sustainability, however small it is, constitutes a strong signal to the polluters around the world that Mauritius is intent in protecting its environment. It is a message to the world that we take our role as environmental stewards very seriously.
13. For all these reasons and many more, I consider today's event as a transformational, trailblazing event that sets the tone for the upliftment of our involvement on the sustainability front. Let us embrace this moment as a call to action, a reminder that each of us has a role to play in shaping a more sustainable and prosperous future.
14. In conclusion, I would like to thank CIM once again for this pioneering move. I would also like to thank all the advisers and other visionaries who've worked on this listing. Thanks for the BoM and the FSC for coming up with the guidelines on Green and sustainable bonds. My thanks go to the Listing Committee members, the SEM and CDS staff who've made this possible. Last and not least, thank you Honourable Minister for your presence, a powerful demonstration of your commitment to the sustainability agenda. We look forward to working with you and government to further position the SEM and Mauritius as a sustainable platform.
15. Thank you all.