

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk management is an important and integral part of the VICOM Group's strategic planning and decision making process. The Group's Risk Management Framework provides a systematic process for the Business Units to identify and review the nature and complexity of the risks involved in their business operations and prioritise resources to manage them. The Group is committed to enhance shareholder value through growth that is sustainable and profitable, while taking measured and well-considered risks.

The Group's approach to risk management is underpinned by several key principles:

- The risk management process is a continuous and iterative one, as the Group's businesses and operating environments are dynamic. Risk identification, assessment and risk management practices are reviewed and updated regularly to manage risks proactively.
- We promote and inculcate risk awareness among all our employees by embedding risk management processes into day-to-day business operations and setting an appropriate tone at the top. Regular exercises, continuous education and training, as well as communications through various forums on risk management are carried out to sustain a risk-informed and risk-aware culture in the Group.
- Ownership of and accountability for the risk management process is clearly defined and assigned to the Business Units, departments and individuals. Managers at each level have intimate knowledge of their businesses and take ownership of risk management, with stewardship retained at Senior Management.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) works closely with the ComfortDelGro Group's Management Risk Committee and takes the lead to ensure that the Risk Management Framework is diligently implemented across the Group.

Key risks for the Group are identified and presented to the Audit and Risk Committee and the Board annually.

The different Business Units have different risk profiles and there are different programmes to manage the risks. The risk management programmes are regularly stress-tested to ensure that they remain relevant and that they meet changing business requirements. The key risks faced by the Group, the relevant mitigating factors and how they are managed are set out in the paragraphs below.

FINANCIAL RISKS

The Group has established internal control systems to safeguard its assets and regularly reviews the effectiveness of these controls to improve and fortify financial discipline. All policies and procedures on financial matters, including approval limits and authority, are clearly defined in the Group's Financial Procedures Manual.

Financial Authority Limits

Comprehensive and specific financial authority limits are put in place for capital expenditure, operating expenses, treasury matters, direct investments, revenue tender participation and disposal and write-off of assets. These authority limits are delegated based on the organisational hierarchy from the Board down to the CEO and the Heads of Business Units/Departments, with the Board retaining the ultimate authority. Any expenditure exceeding the highest authority limit is referred to the Board for approval. To ensure that the Group's assets continue to be managed prudently, the Board periodically reviews the mandate that it delegates to Management.

Budgetary Control

A robust and comprehensive Annual Budget is prepared and approved by the Board prior to the commencement of each financial year. Material variations between actual and budgeted performance are reviewed on a monthly basis, with explanations provided. Specific approvals are required for unbudgeted expenditures exceeding a relevant threshold. The capital expenditure budget is approved in-principle by the Board as part of the Annual Budget. Each capital expenditure is subjected to rigorous justification and review before it is incurred in accordance with the Group's financial authority limits. Tight control on manpower is exercised through headcount budgets.

Financial Risk Management

The Group recognises that prudent management of financial risks is an important aspect in the creation of shareholder value. The main areas of financial risks faced by the Group are foreign exchange/currency risk, interest rate risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. It is the Group's policy not to participate in financial derivative instruments. Sensitivity analysis and reviews of the Group's exposure to financial risks under changing market conditions are carried out regularly.

A detailed description of the financial risks and how the Group manages them are set out in the Notes to the Financial Statements on pages 61 to 87.

Economic Cycle

Changes in economic conditions in the countries that the Group operates in may impact the businesses in terms of customer demand and the cost of providing the services. We manage these risks by continuously scanning and monitoring political and economic issues. We also monitor demand trends and operating margins closely. Expenses are managed in the light of revenue patterns and changing market conditions and to drive improvements in cost structures. Where possible, revenue risks are mitigated by diversifying revenue streams.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

Operational risks may arise from failures in internal controls, operational processes or the supporting systems. The Group has put in place operating manuals, standard operating procedures, authority guidelines and a regular reporting framework to manage these risks.

Safety

Managing the safety of our customers, our staff and the public is the cornerstone of the Group's safety plan. We conduct safety briefings and drills regularly to instil a safety conscious culture in employees at all levels. Safety audits are conducted regularly to ensure that safety standards are maintained.

Environmental

The Group is committed to being a socially responsible organisation through minimising the impact our business activities have on the environment. Our operations, accidents and natural events can result in pollution or other environmental risks. To limit these risks, we engage in active environmental risk management, ensuring that we target the problems that could arise and that preventive measures are put in-place. We comply with all relevant regulations in the countries that we operate in. Ways in which the Group works to protect the environment can be found in our Sustainability Report section of this Annual Report as well as in the Sustainability Report of our parent company, ComfortDelGro Corporation Limited.

Human Resource

The Group's ability to develop and grow the business depends on the quality of its employees, and it is committed to invest in building its resource pool to support this growth. We have in place various programmes and processes that focus on several key areas, including talent management and building management bench strength, succession planning, performance management, compensation and benefits, training and development, employee conduct and supervision, as well as occupational health and safety. We ensure that our employees are selected based on merit, they understand their responsibilities and are given access to necessary training. At all times, a positive, constructive and productive working climate based on strong tripartite relations is fostered. We ensure that all terms and conditions of employment, along with policies and procedures, are in compliance with the relevant regulations.

Property and Liability

The Group's exposure to property damage, business interruption and other liability risks is constantly monitored and reviewed with the Group's wholly-owned in-house insurance broking subsidiary. We ensure sufficiency of insurance coverage and maintain an optimal balance between risks that are retained internally and risks that are placed out with underwriters.

Business Continuity

We have put in place Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) to mitigate the risks of disruption and catastrophic loss to our operations, people, information database and other assets. The BCPs include identification and planning of alternate recovery centres, operational procedures to maintain communication, measures to ensure continuity of critical business functions and recovery of information database. We update and test the BCPs regularly. Drills and emergency response exercises are conducted to familiarise employees with the various incident management plans. The BCPs enhance the Group's operational readiness and resilience to potential business disruptions.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RISKS

Information technology system failures are key risks for the Group since almost all the businesses rely heavily on information technology. This can take the form of a major system failure which can result in disruption of the business, loss of data or a security breach of our information technology systems. Information security is about protecting information and information systems from unauthorised access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification or destruction. The Group's information technology security management framework complies with current industry standards. We have put in place various controls and data recovery measures to mitigate the risks, including the use of intrusion prevention systems, multi-level firewalls, server protection, software code hardening and data loss prevention controls to manage Internet security and Cyber threats. Penetration tests are carried out regularly to test the systems, identify potential vulnerabilities and to strengthen the security hardening of our websites. Information security policies and procedures, including education for all staff, are reviewed and enhanced regularly.

COMPLIANCE RISKS

The Group keeps abreast and complies with all laws and regulations governing the conduct of business in the countries that it operates in. We work closely with regulatory Authorities in the respective countries as part of our risk management process to keep abreast of developments and policies that may affect our businesses and the competitive landscape. We manage our operations effectively to ensure that standards are met, thereby reducing significantly the risk of losing the business.

STRATEGIC RISKS

We evaluate each new investment proposal to ensure that it is in line with the Group's strategy and investment objectives, and that it is able to meet the relevant hurdle rates of return. This assessment includes macro and project specific risks analysis covering feasibility study, due diligence, financial modelling and sensitivity analysis of key investment assumptions and variables. To ensure that the rate of return on any new investment or business opportunity commensurate with the risk exposure taken, the new investment opportunity is evaluated in terms of (a) profitability; (b) return on investment; (c) pay back period; (d) cash flow generation; (e) potential for internal and external growth; and (f) investment climate and political stability of the country. The investment proposal has to be approved according to the financial authority limits approved by the Board.

AUDIT PROCESS

The Internal and External Auditors conduct reviews in accordance with their audit plans to assess the adequacy of the internal controls that are in place. Non-compliance and recommendations for improvements are reported to the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), which reviews the effectiveness of the actions taken to mitigate the risks. In the course of their audits, the Internal and External Auditors will highlight to the Management and the ARC the areas where there are material deficiencies, weaknesses or where there are occurrences or potential occurrence of significant risk events. The auditors will also propose mitigating measures and treatment plans. The recommendations are followed up as part of the Group's continuous review of the system of internal controls.

RISK MANAGEMENT

CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT AND WHISTLE BLOWING POLICY

The Group has adopted a Code of Business Conduct which sets out the principles and policies upon which businesses are conducted. The Code of Business Conduct includes the anti-corruption and anti-bribery policies which stress on zero tolerance on fraud, improper use of monetary favours, gifts or entertainment. In addition, employees should not put themselves in a position of conflict of interest with the Group. If there is a conflict of interest, employees should declare to their immediate supervisors and should not participate in the decision process.

The Whistle Blowing Policy is to provide a mechanism for employees to raise concerns, through well-defined and accessible confidential disclosure channels about possible improprieties in financial reporting or other improper business conduct. New employees are briefed on the channels they can go about raising their concerns. Incidents can also be reported through a direct link to the CEO, the ComfortDelGro Group Chief Human Resource Officer or the ComfortDelGro Group Chief Internal Audit Officer on the Group's Intranet. All cases are investigated and dealt with promptly and thoroughly.

OPINION OF THE BOARD

Risk management is an important and integral part of VICOM's strategic planning and decision-making process. Key risks are identified and presented to the Board annually. Ownership of the risk management process is clearly defined and cascaded to the executive and functional levels, with stewardship retained at the Senior Management. Action plans that are necessary to manage the risks are in place and closely monitored. The adequacy and effectiveness of the risk governance, risk policy and internal controls in place are also assessed as part of the process. Based on these reviews, the Board is of the view, with the concurrence of the ARC, that adequate and effective internal controls (including financial, operational, compliance and information technology controls) and risk management systems are in place within the Group.