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Senior Transactor:
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AREA OF SPECIALTY

My area of specialty within the Infrastructure Sector Solutions team encompasses the structuring and funding of large infrastructure related transactions spanning renewable energy, roads, rail, ports, and general infrastructure. More recently, the renewable energy market in South Africa and the rest of Africa has been booming hence the focus on this exciting and rapidly evolving market.

EXPERIENCE WITHIN THE INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY RENEWABLE ENERGY

My career originally started off in Global Markets where I spent 5 years, I then moved on to Aviation and Structured Asset Finance which involved the funding of commercial aircraft and yellow metal equipment, and I have now for the past 6-7 years been in the Infrastructure Sector Solutions team at Rand Merchant Bank.

My experience within the infrastructure sector has been varied and interesting to say the least, having closed several deals spanning the broad spectrum of Infrastructure transactions. A notable transaction in the renewables sector specifically related to the first refinancing of a project concluded under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme. This refinancing served to reduce the tariff paid by Eskom thereby delivering savings of ca. R800m to the consumer over the remaining tenor of the Power Purchase Agreement. In addition, the Infrastructure Sector Solutions team is currently busy with a large pipeline of private power deals for mining and other large C&I clients that are in execution phase and which we expect to reach financial close over the next few months, thereby bringing a substantial amount of megawatts onto the grid.

THOUGHTS ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND RENEWABLES IN SA

There never has been a more exciting time to be a part of a sector that directly and indirectly impacts

the lives of South Africans in such a positive way. In the renewables space, with the impact of load shedding crippling the economy, I'm proud to be a part of the solution which ultimately assists our clients with more price certainty on electricity costs, achieves their decarbonisation goals and ensures stability of supply. This has many positive knock-on effects in the economy such as job creation and sustainable economic growth driven by the private sector.

HURDLES/CHALLENGES WITHIN THIS SECTOR

Given the intricacies associated with large infrastructure and renewables deals, there is a perception that these types of deals can take slightly longer to conclude. It is however important to note that a well-structured deal is vital to the smooth operation of the deal and from which the country can reap benefits for decades to come. In the renewables sector specifically, we have seen great strides being made in corporates seeking to procure their own power in a multitude of different ways. However the available grid capacity remains a key hurdle which the public and private sector need to work together on in order to forge ahead in fulfilling the country's renewable energy goals.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT YOURSELF

I'm a creative soul at heart and enjoy creating and curating beautiful things, planning parties and scouring Pinterest! ♻️

