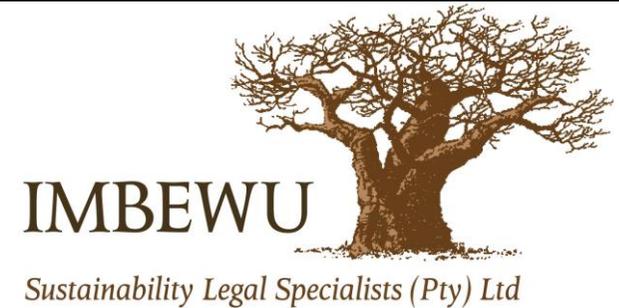




# SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022



**For a copy of the Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) Legislation Update, please go to:**

<https://imbewu.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Monthly-SHE-legislation-update-July2022-1.pdf>

## NATIONAL

### GENERAL

**PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA ANNOUNCES AN ACTION PLAN FOR ENERGY** – On the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa provided details of the Energy Action Plan outlining four key areas of focus to address South Africa's energy crisis. These include improving the current performance of Eskom's existing power stations; accelerating the procurement of new generation capacity from renewable sources; "massively" increasing private investment in generation capacity; and enabling and incentivising businesses and households to invest in rooftop solar. The President said his administration is hoping to "fundamentally transform" the electricity sector to promote "future sustainability."

**Source: Daily Maverick dated 26 July 2022**

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2022-07-26-here-it-is-ramaphosas-energy-action-plan-to-end-sas-rolling-blackouts/>

**GOVERNMENT PLANNING TO SIMPLIFY THE APPROVAL PROCESS FOR RENEWABLE PROJECTS** – Given the current energy crisis in South Africa, the Government announced during a virtual engagement that it hoped to simplify the bureaucratic process required for obtaining regulatory approvals for renewable energy project development. The Government is hoping to speed up the approval processing time in low and medium environmentally sensitive areas from 300 and 147 days, respectively, to roughly 60 days, thus speeding up the much-needed integration of renewable energy into the national power grid.

**Source: Daily Maverick dated 22 July 2022**

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2022-07-22-sa-government-aims-to-drastically-reduce-red-tape-on-solar-energy-projects/>

**ANOTHER RECORD LOW IN FATALITIES IN THE MINING SECTOR** – The Minerals Council of South Africa has reported that there have been no fatalities due to falls-of-ground in the gold and platinum mining sectors in the first half of 2022. This is the first time in the history of South African mining that this has been achieved. The Minerals Council's Head of Safety, Dr Sizwe Phakathi, said that they would be undertaking a comprehensive review to understand what was done well and what can be learnt from the first six months of the year. The results of this review are expected to be unveiled during the National Day on Health and Safety in Mining on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2022.

**Source: Modern Mining dated 21 July 2022**

<https://www.crown.co.za/latest-news/modern-mining-latest-news/21580-record-fatality-reduction-in-the-first-half-of-2022>

**R12,2 MILLION PAID TO SOUTH AFRICA'S SAN AND KHOI PEOPLE** – The Rooibos traditional knowledge benefit-sharing agreement was signed in November 2019. The payment of R12,2 million to the San and Khoi people of South Africa is a significant measure of the successful implementation of the pilot phase of the industry-first traditional knowledge benefit sharing agreement. Because Rooibos has a long history of commercialisation in South Africa, it was deemed important for them to comply with NEMBA and the associated Access and Benefit-Sharing Regulations.

**Source: The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment dated 14 July 2022**

[https://www.dffe.gov.za/mediarelease/san.khoi.communitites\\_rooibosbenefits](https://www.dffe.gov.za/mediarelease/san.khoi.communitites_rooibosbenefits)

**AN INCREASE IN BIODIVERSITY CRIMES LEAD TO UNPRECEDENTED LOSS** – The ongoing illegal wildlife trade and the smuggling of endangered plant species have increased dramatically, exacerbated by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The number of criminal case dockets opened involving succulent plants has increased from 14 to 66 cases from 2020 to 2022 so far. The Project co-ordinator of the Leslie Hill Succulent Karoo Trust with WWF South Africa, said that promoting partnerships across sectors could help find solutions because by losing unique species and biodiversity, there is a weakened ability of the environment to provide critical ecosystem services for people.

**Source: IOL dated 30 July 2022**

<https://www.iol.co.za/weekend-argus/news/south-africas-ecosystem-hangs-in-the-balance-for-better-or-worse-cdb608f8-2244-43ed-bdb9-33f34a4f0509>

## INTERNATIONAL

### GENERAL

**GERMANY EARMARK UP TO €13 BILLION FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS** – The Economy Ministry in Germany has said that over the next few years, about €13 billion will be allocated to subsidise renovations to make buildings more energy efficient. Robert Habeck, Minister for the economy and climate protection, said in a statement, "*Consuming less energy is the cheapest and most efficient contribution to more independence and climate protection, and helps to save on energy costs.*"

**Source: Daily Maverick dated 27 July 2022**

[https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2022-07-27-germany-earmarks-up-to-14-bln-to-make-buildings-more-energy-efficient/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=First%20Thing%2027%20July%202022&utm\\_content=First%20Thing%2027%20July%202022+CID\\_e167b1398d72f66594b3f515e86998db&utm\\_source=TouchBasePro&utm\\_term=Germany%20sets%20aside%20billions%20for%20energy-efficient%20buildings](https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2022-07-27-germany-earmarks-up-to-14-bln-to-make-buildings-more-energy-efficient/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=First%20Thing%2027%20July%202022&utm_content=First%20Thing%2027%20July%202022+CID_e167b1398d72f66594b3f515e86998db&utm_source=TouchBasePro&utm_term=Germany%20sets%20aside%20billions%20for%20energy-efficient%20buildings)

**MAKING THE TRANSPORTATION OF HYDROGEN FUEL SAFE AND VIABLE** – EPRO Advanced Technologies, a Hong Kong based renewable energy solutions company, announced a breakthrough process whereby a silicone-based powder known as Si+ can be safely transported and stored and can generate ultra-pure hydrogen by just adding water. The powder can operate at temperatures ranging from 0 to 80 °C, producing only the necessary hydrogen gas and sand as by-products.

**Source: Interesting Engineering dated 23 July 2022**

<https://interestingengineering.com/innovation/silicon-based-powder-transporting-hydrogen-fuel>

### PUBLICATIONS

**CLEAN AIR JOURNAL** – Vol. 32 No. 1 (2022) – An Official Publication of the National Association for Clean Air – May/June 2022

**Report:** <https://cleanairjournal.org.za/issue/view/1018/465>

## CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

- 16-17 August – **16th International Conference on Environment and Climate Change (ICECC)** – Venice, Italy
- 20-22 September – **Sustainability Summit 2022** – Virtual Event - <https://sustainabilityweek.co.za/>
- 26-28 September – **IAIA International Climate Change Symposium** – Cape Town, South Africa

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For more information contact [sam@imbewu.co.za](mailto:sam@imbewu.co.za) or visit <https://imbewu.co.za/she-electronic-legal-registers/>

5 Tips for creatively going green with your business - <https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/427664>

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