



Nathisha Maharaj

FASKEN

Partner



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Q *What are the biggest energy deals you have worked on?*

A My banking and finance legal experience is wide and varied across multiple sectors. Recently, however, given the current state of affairs in South Africa, there is an even greater shift and focus on the energy sector. To this extent I have been fortunate to be part of the Fasken team advising the Lenders on all aspects relating to the financing of two 100 MW solar PV wheeled energy projects, situated in the North West Province, developed by vertically integrated independent power producer, SOLA Group. These two projects were the first renewable energy projects to reach financial close pursuant to the regulatory change in August 2021 to raise the licensing limit for distributed generation projects from 1 MW to 100 MW.

Q *Do you think this area of expertise requires any special attributes and if so, what would you say they are?*

A From a practising lawyer's perspective I think it is so important to not only see things with a legal hat on, but to keep abreast of everything going on around you – you also need to have sight of and understand the commercial, environmental, social and legal spheres in order to get the job done efficiently and correctly.

Q *Do you find this area of expertise to be an exciting field and if so, why?*

A Absolutely, I get to see the fruits of my work at a larger scale; for instance seeing the renewable energy projects that have been completed when traveling around South Africa is incredible. Although at times the legal aspect on a project is just one puzzle piece the impact of the commissioned renewable energy projects has a far greater and positive impact on society.

Q *What are notable changes in recent years?*

A There has been a lot of regulatory changes to streamline various aspects of a transaction, and as a result of these regulatory changes we adapt our approach as legal advisors.

The world is a lot smaller and as a result we are very comfortable doing cross-border work from South Africa given the way that technology has advanced and especially due to how techno savvy the world has become.

Q *Can you share any experience of working on projects in Africa and navigating the unknown?*

A I believe that building a strong and wide network is important particularly in the African country where the transaction is taking place. Across the different African jurisdictions there are different specialists, and ultimately I always keep in mind the best interests of clients when seeking the best local advisors on the ground.

Q *What advice would you give others who are growing in their careers?*

A Always keep abreast of current affairs. Personally I would encourage others, especially women, to have perseverance, but more importantly to keep sight of personal and professional goals, and maintain a balanced life.

Q *Do you have any hobbies?*

A Nothing unusual but I do love to cook, especially my chocolate cake! Whenever there is a function I am called upon to bake my chocolate cake! ♻️

