



BANKING, FINANCE & PROJECTS





PRACTICE OVERVIEW

Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr's (CDH) banking, finance & projects services and advice cover debt capital markets, project finance, public-private partnerships (PPPs), commodity trade finance, acquisition finance, general banking and investment structures, and pension and employee benefits.

On the funding side (general lending and project finance), our team advises banks across Africa, as well as the major international banks, and those with a particular focus on South Africa and Kenya.

We are often mandated to advise on banks' lending arrangements and compliance with the country's banking and financial services regulatory framework. Our mandate for foreign banks at times extends to advice on establishing representative offices in South Africa, investment in local banks and related aspects of the regulatory framework.

Our clients range from local and offshore financiers to major corporations that enter into local and offshore finance transactions.

We advise borrowers from the public and private sectors as well as financial services providers and other organisations that have direct and indirect interests in lending arrangements. These organisations include asset managers, developmental finance institutions, private equity funds, insurance underwriters, rating agencies, security trusts and guarantors.

"The team is knowledgeable and consistently delivers in accordance with agreed timelines."

"They go out of their way to help and get the job done."

"They prepare thoroughly for the case and maintain high levels of professionalism."

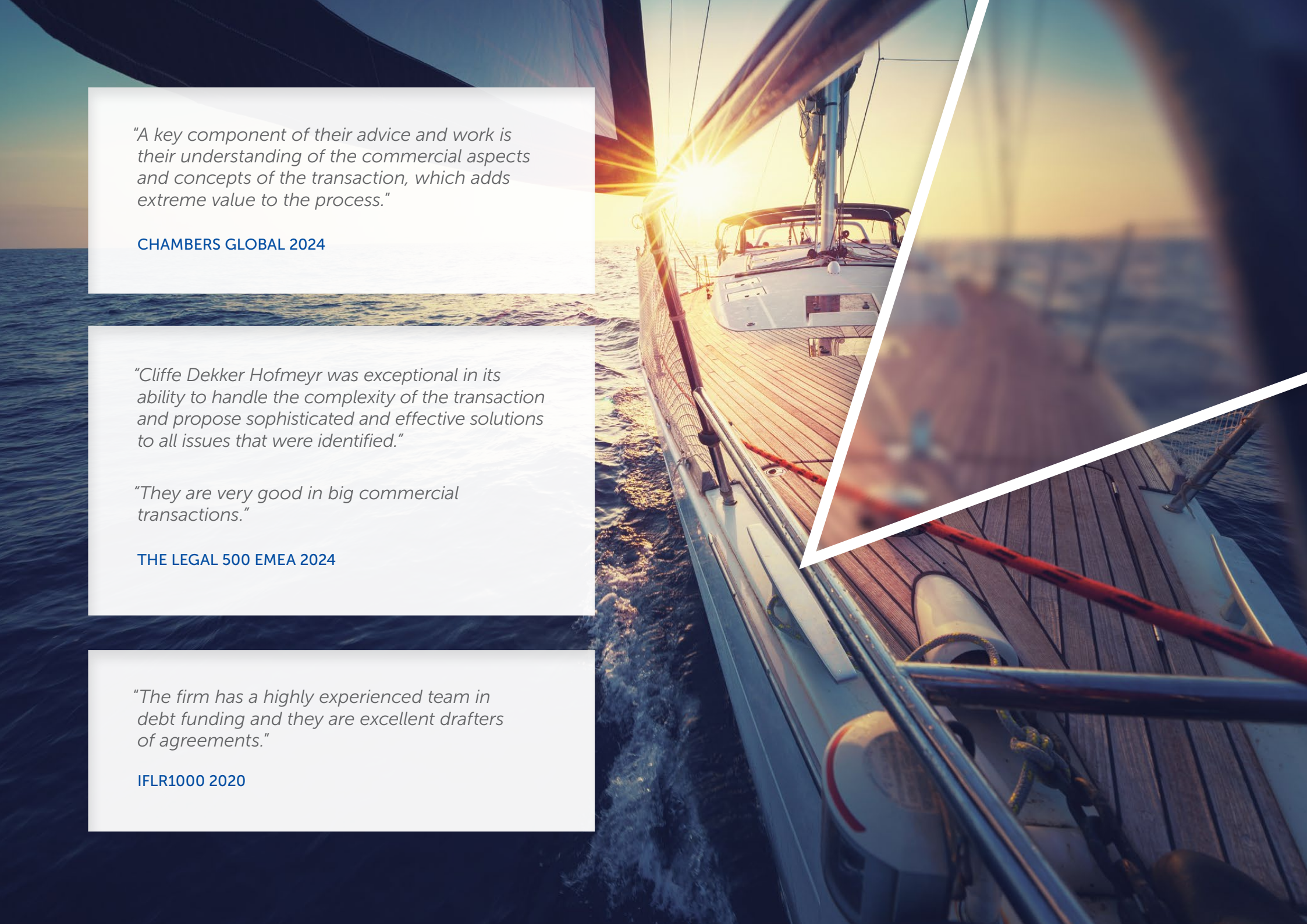
THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2025

"The firm has the in-depth knowledge, skills and expertise to handle complex and sophisticated matters."

"The team is extremely responsive and provides excellent service with quick turnaround times."

"The lawyers at Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr are great at keeping clients regularly up to date on everything."

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2025



"A key component of their advice and work is their understanding of the commercial aspects and concepts of the transaction, which adds extreme value to the process."

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2024

"Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr was exceptional in its ability to handle the complexity of the transaction and propose sophisticated and effective solutions to all issues that were identified."















"They are very good in big commercial transactions."

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2024

"The firm has a highly experienced team in debt funding and they are excellent drafters of agreements."

IFLR1000 2020

Our services

	Asset finance		Bank regulation and compliance		Real estate finance
	Trade finance		Debt restructuring and workouts		Other bank lending
	Acquisition finance		Islamic financing		Basel III
	Project finance		Pension and employee benefits		Insurance
	Bank products and services		Public finance		

"It is their attention to detail and commitment to getting the job done that I admire most. Nothing is ever too big to attend to."

THE LEGAL 500 EMEA 2024

Our services...continued



Debt Capital Markets

We have a dedicated Debt Capital Markets team that works on all aspects of debt capital markets. The team has worked on both local and international issues, particularly sovereign debt issues and the impact of Basel III.

Commercial paper programmes and private placements

Advising issuers, debt sponsors, arrangers and lead managers in relation to stand-alone bond and note issues, as well as in relation to the establishment of domestic medium-term notes (DMTN) and commercial paper programmes, the issue and listing of bonds and other types of notes and commercial paper under such programmes on the Interest Rate Market of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Bonds

Including sovereign bonds and Basel III advice.

Domestic Medium-Term Notes.

Securitisation

Advising originators, credit enhancers, rating agencies and others on asset backed, synthetic and whole business securitisation transactions.

Preference shares and other debt instruments

Advising arrangers and issuers on the establishment and terms of issue of listed and unlisted preference shares, debentures, linked units, notes and other forms of debt instruments.

We also attend to the updating or supplementation of the programmes mentioned above from time to time and have structured the issue of retail notes under such programmes.

Our services...continued

Financial services

- **Hedge funds and collective investment schemes** – advising on establishing and operating hedge funds and collective investment schemes, as well as the structuring of new products
- **Derivatives** – advising on the conclusion of and documentation for exchange-traded and other derivatives (including futures, options and swaps) using International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) Master Agreements, as well as over-the-counter derivatives
- **Safe custody and administration of securities** – advising on and drafting agreements and other documentation required in safe custody arrangements
- **Financial markets and financial service regulation** – advising on all aspects of primary and secondary legislation governing financial markets and financial services (including the Financial Markets Act, FAIS Act, the National Credit Act and anti-money laundering legislation) and making submissions to the industry regulator on behalf of clients
- **Securities lending** – advising on and drafting various types of securities lending arrangements, including arrangements using ISLA Master Agreements

Tax & Exchange control

The firm's Tax & Exchange Control team supports our Banking, Finance & Projects practice with advice in the areas of tax relating to finance and financial services.

Projects & Energy

The firm's Projects & Energy team supports our Banking, Finance & Projects practice with advice relating to PPPs, energy, infrastructure and project finance.

We advise on infrastructure and project finance in relation to solar, wind and hydro plants, toll roads, prisons, ports, aluminium smelters, chrome and platinum-group metals smelters, steel mills, mines and commercial property. Our Banking, Finance & Projects practice advises on mining-specific project financing and Export Credit Agency covered transactions.

Insurance

The firm's team of corporate insurance specialists supports our Banking, Finance & Projects practice with advice relating to developing and structuring financial products offered by insurers, reinsurers, financial services providers and intermediaries to comply with the legislative and regulatory provisions, as well as general advice and assistance regarding complex legislation regulating the insurance and financial services industries.

Pensions & Employee benefits

The firm's Pensions & Employee Benefits team supports our Banking, Finance & Projects practice with advice relating to retirement funds, regulatory issues for financial service providers, fiduciary duties, onerous obligations of related tax provisions, such as the application of pay-as-you-earn to independent contractors and fringe benefits, share schemes and other benefits employers are required to provide.

Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr's (CDH) banking, finance & projects services and advice cover:

- Debt capital markets
- Project finance
- Public-private partnerships (PPPs)
- Commodity trade finance
- Acquisition finance
- General banking and investment structures
- Pension and employee benefits

Recent, notable deals

advised **Sun International** on the ZAR9 billion refinancing of all of Sun International Group's senior debt, working capital and short-term facilities (including transactional banking) and redeemable preference share facilities with a group of six South African banks.

Advised **Harmony Gold Mining Company**, the third-largest gold mining company in South Africa on ZAR9,5 billion term and revolving credit facilities.

Advised the **Development Bank of Southern Africa Limited** in their USD300 million loan facility provided to the New Development Bank, subject to English law.

Acted for **Nduna Maritime** in relation to its USD26,5 million acquisition finance obtained from the Sasol Siyakha Trust, for purposes of acquiring the first 100% South African owned and 100% black-owned chemical tanker vessel.

Advised the **PIC** in its capacity as PIK Note Lender and shareholder in the reorganisation of the share and debt capital structure of Afrisam Group Pty Ltd, transaction value of over R5 billion.

Advised the **PIC** in relation to its equity and debt investment in Grocapital Bank Limited formerly known as Bank of Athens, transaction value R1 billion.

Acted for **Portuguese bank Caixa Geral de Depósitos (CGD)** in respect of the disposal of their entire stake in Mercantile Bank Holdings Limited to Capitec Bank Limited for ZAR3.56 billion, as part of CGD's re-capitalisation plan. CGD is the second largest bank in Portugal. CDH drafted and reviewed the regulatory applications and notices to the Minister of Finance, Prudential Authority, Financial Sector Conduct Authority and Financial Surveillance Department of the South African Reserve Bank and provided ancillary regulatory advice in respect of the transaction. This deal represented the most significant bank take-over in South Africa in 2019.

Advised **Nedbank Group Limited** (as Issuer) and Nedbank Limited (as Dealer) in relation to the issue, on 22 November 2019, of ZAR1,000,000,000 Subordinated Floating Rate Notes (the proceeds of which qualify as "*additional tier 1 capital*" under the Banks Act, 1990) (listed on the Interest Rate Market of the JSE) under the Nedbank Group Limited ZAR25,000,000,000 Domestic Medium Term Note Programme.



MARKET RECOGNITION

Our Banking, Finance & Projects practice is externally praised for its depth of resources, capabilities and expertise.

Chambers Global 2021–2025 ranked our Banking, Finance & Projects practice in Band 2 for capital markets: equity. *Chambers Global 2013–2025* ranked our Banking, Finance & Projects practice in Band 2 for capital markets: debt. *Chambers Global 2017–2025* ranked our Banking, Finance & Projects practice in Band 2 for banking & finance. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2009–2025* recommended us in Tier 2 for banking & finance. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2025* recommended our Kenya Banking, Finance & Projects practice in Tier 2. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2022–2023* recommended our Kenya Banking, Finance & Projects practice in Tier 3. *IFLR1000 2016–2024* ranked our practice in Tier 2 for capital markets: debt and capital markets: equity.

Our Banking, Finance & Projects practice won the following awards at the Global Banking & Markets Awards 2025 (formerly the Bonds, Loans & ESG Capital Markets Awards):

- *Local Currency Loan Deal of the Year* in our capacity as Legal Adviser to the Bookrunner/JLMS on the City of Cape Town ZAR 3,5 bn term loan;
- *Power Finance Deal of the Year* for our role as Legal Adviser to Issuer on the AMEA Power ZAR 2,09 bn financing of 120MW solar photovoltaic project.
- *M&A Deal of the Year* in our capacity as Legal Adviser to the Bookrunner/JLMS on the Infinity Power/Lekela Power matter.

The way we support and interact with our clients attracts significant external recognition.

Mashudu Mphafudi is the Practice Head of our Banking, Finance & Projects practice. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2021–2025* recommended Mashudu for banking & finance. *IFLR1000 2019–2024* recommended him as a highly regarded lawyer for banking, capital markets: debt, and project finance. *IFLR1000 2018* recommended Mashudu as a 'Rising Star' for banking, capital markets: debt and project finance.

Sammy Ndolo is the Kenya Managing Partner. *Chambers Global 2025* ranked Sammy Ndolo in Band 3 for Fintech. *Chambers Global 2021–2025* ranked Sammy in Band 4 for corporate/M&A. *Chambers Global 2025* ranked him in Band 3 for banking & finance and in Band 4 from 2023–2024. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2024–2025* recommended Sammy as a 'Leading Individual' for banking, finance & capital markets. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2022–2023* recommended him for banking, finance & capital markets. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2023–2025* also recommended Sammy for corporate, commercial/M&A. *IFLR1000 2021–2024* ranked him as a 'Notable Practitioner'.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2025 recommended **Johan de Lange** for projects & infrastructure. *IFLR1000 2017–2024* ranked Johan as highly regarded lawyer for restructuring and insolvency, banking, project finance, capital markets: debt, and for capital markets: equity.

Tessa Brewis is the Joint Sector Head of our Projects & Energy sector, and a director in our Banking, Finance & Projects practice.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2021–2025 recommended her for projects & infrastructure. *IFLR1000 2022–2023* ranked Tessa as highly regarded in project development.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2025 recommended **Mbali Khumalo** for banking & finance.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2023–2025 recommended **Brian Muchiri** for banking, finance & capital markets.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2025 recommended **Stella Situma** for banking, finance & capital markets.

Andrew van Niekerk is the Joint Sector Head of our Projects & Energy sector, and a director in our Banking, Finance & Projects practice.

Chambers Global 2024–2025 ranked him in Band 3 for construction. *Chambers Global 2022–2023* ranked Andrew in Band 2 for construction.

Chambers Global 2013–2021 ranked him as a leading lawyer for construction. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2013–2025* recommended him as a 'Leading Individual' for construction. In addition the *Legal 500 EMEA 2022–2025* recommended him for projects & infrastructure. *IFLR1000 2024* ranked Andrew as highly regarded in banking, project development and project finance, and also in energy and infrastructure, transport and mining from 2021–2023.

Chambers Global 2025 ranked **Deon Wilken** in Band 4 for banking & finance and from 2021–2024 in Band 3. *The Legal 500 EMEA 2013–2023* recommended him for banking & finance. *IFLR1000 2018–2023* recommended Deon as a highly regarded lawyer for capital markets: debt, energy and infrastructure, and for project finance.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2024–2025 recommended **Michael Bailey** for banking & finance.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2025 recommended **Kuda Chimedza** for banking & finance.

The Legal 500 EMEA 2025 recommended **Tsele Moloi** for projects & infrastructure.



OUR TEAM

For more information about our Banking, Finance & Projects practice and services in South Africa, Kenya, and Namibia, please contact:



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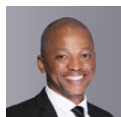
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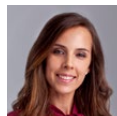
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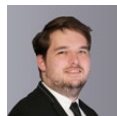
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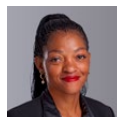
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BBBEE STATUS: LEVEL ONE CONTRIBUTOR

Our BBBEE verification is one of several components of our transformation strategy and we continue to seek ways of improving it in a meaningful manner.

PLEASE NOTE

This information is published for general information purposes and is not intended to constitute legal advice. Specialist legal advice should always be sought in relation to any particular situation. Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr will accept no responsibility for any actions taken or not taken on the basis of this publication.

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