



Pravin Semnarayan

Semnarayan has completed a **Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD)** at GIBS (Gordon Institute of Business Science). Graduation was scheduled for the 7 April 2020, which has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Semnarayan has published academic papers in the area of capital investment and asset-pricing.

Semnarayan completed an **MBA from WBS (Witwatersrand Business School) in 2002, which he completed with Distinction**. Semnarayan developed and implemented a new chemical process control concept at Sappi. Semnarayan was awarded a **Master of Science degree** for this research from the University of Stellenbosch in 1998. Semnarayan completed a **Bachelor of Chemical Engineering degree** from the University of Natal in 1995.

Semnarayan mentors MBA and MPhil students at GIBS and WBS in the areas of leadership, finance and strategy; and serves on the University of Johannesburg School of Management Advisory Board.

Semnarayan is a **Professional Engineer and Mentor with ECSA** (Engineering Council of South Africa); Member of IoDSA (Institute of Directors in Southern Africa); Member of COMENSA (Coaches and Mentors of South Africa); and Chartered Member of SAICHE (South African Institute of Chemical Engineers).

Semnarayan current role is CEO of the Vecteng Group and CEO of RustMo1 Solar Farm.

Semnarayan is a **client of the IDC**. RustMo1 Solar Farm was the **first IDC project** to reach financial close and achieve scheduled commercial operations, as part of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme. Semnarayan initiated and established RustMo1 Solar Farm and managed the project from greenfield, development, financial close, construction and operations. Semnarayan is shareholder and director of Momentous Foundation RF Pty Ltd which currently has a Preferential Share Subscription Agreement with the IDC. He also founded the Momentous Foundation RF Pty Ltd for community ownership of the project, funded by the IDC. The IDC has published a number of articles with Semnarayan, due to the success of the RustMo1 project.

As a chemical engineer, Semnarayan's vision is to establish a manufacturing hub for pharmaceutical products in South Africa. In the health industry, Semnarayan has initiated the process to register effervescent medicines and female condoms with SAHPRA (South African Health Products Regulatory Authority).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Semnarayan has used his networks, partners and experience to find a way to assist in combatting this pandemic. He, together with Umsebe, have secured the supply chain for personal protective equipment and diagnostic test kits for South Africa.

Here, he is collaborating with Umsebe (Umsebe profile enclosed) who are already assisting him with his Vecteng Health business; and with Julia Sun who is an export/import expert for products between Shanghai and South Africa. Julia Sun is based in Shanghai and South Africa. Semnarayan established an offshore entity for the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS Asia) in Shanghai in collaboration with Julia Sun in 2008. Julia Sun is currently based in close physical proximity to the manufacturers for these products, and manages the inspection process (with SGS) and export process from Shanghai. Semnarayan, was also previously Director of UTi (now DVS) an international supply chain, freight forwarding and clearing company. Semnarayan has secured the freight forwarding and clearing for the critical personal protective equipment from Shanghai to South Africa. Semnarayan has also secured distribution of these products in South Africa.

Semnarayan previously held positions as:

- **Strategic Projects Director: UTi** (Nasdaq listed – freight forwarding, transportation, logistics, warehouse, and supply chain)
- **Chief Operating Officer: Emerald Casino Resorts** (Subsidiary of London Clubs International – hospitality, food & beverage, entertainment.)
- **Chief Operating Officer: SABS (South African Bureau of Standards)** – standards, certification, laboratories. Commercial leadership of SABS, responsible for system and product certification, with over 4000 clients across SA, across diverse industries including electrotechnical, mining, chemical, transportation, medical, mechanical and services.
- **Business Development Director: NamiTech (Altron Group)** – ICT solutions. ICT solutions in the area of smart cards, biometrics and IT security – focussed on national security, telecommunications and banking industries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Management Consultant: Gemini Consulting (Cap Gemini Ernst and Young Group)** – strategy and operations consulting. Strategy and operations consulting, mainly to large retail chains.
- **Engineer: National Refiners of South Africa (Sasol and Total Group)** – crude oil refining. Engineering design and implementation of advanced process control systems to optimize production within the petroleum refinery.
- **Engineer and Production Manager: Sappi (South African Pulp and Paper Industries)** – pulp and paper manufacturing. Plant design and project management. Operations management of chemical production units.