

Markets

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10 RANKINGS

30-day % chg		DIVIDEND YIELD 30-day % chg		DIVIDEND COVER 12-mth % chg	
39716	9	NAIL	59	MOBILE	10
511	1	NAIL-N-	n/a	ARGENT	12
351	2	ALLIANCE	n/a	ADVTECH	15
300	0	FAIRVEST	19	PRIMESERV	14
300	-17	CHROMETCO	16	BRIMSTON	12
206	0	IQUAD	15	BRIMSTN-N-	12
175	21	HOSP B	11	AQUARIUS	16
136	-211	ERBACON	11	FREEWORLD	11
128	1	PROTECH	9	TRUSTCO	12
86	-12	FORTRESSA	9	MAS	151

SABMiller boosts operations in Sudan

ANNALEIGH VALLIE
Retail Industries Correspondent

SABMILLER will widen its African footprint by investing an additional \$15m in its operations in South Sudan to "increase production capacity and build on the strong performance of its local brand portfolio", the company said yesterday.

SABMiller is a major investor in Africa, with a presence in 36 of the continent's 52 countries.

The London-based company with brewing interests and distribution agreements across six continents said the Juba brewery in South Sudan would increase capacity to 500 000 hectolitres by November this year.

"Our investment in Southern

Sudan continues to bear fruit due to the country's improving economic outlook and a continued positive consumer response to our brand portfolio. Increasing our brewing capacity takes the business to the next level, supporting growth in our key mainstream segments and helping us to build market share," Southern Sudan Beverages MD Ian Alsworth-Elvey said.

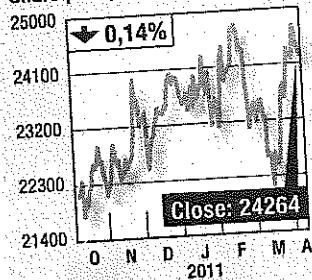
White Bull brand and the locally brewed and bottled Nile Special brand had driven the increase in production capability, the company said.

Improved capacity would also give the company the flexibility to introduce new brands to the market, it said.

SABMiller subsidiary South-

SABMILLER

Share price, daily close (cents)



Graphic: RUBY-GAY Source: F-NET BRIDGE

ern Sudan Beverages commissioned its brewery in South Sudan in 2009 and invested \$37m to build the facility in Juba.

Beer remains an expensive drink in South Sudan and the

SABMILLER

	2011	2010
Half Year Revenue (\$bn)	9.5	8.8
Pretax (\$bn)	1.7	1.5
Net Income (\$bn)	1.2	0.973
Headline EPS (USc)	70.8	62.6
Dividend PS (USc)	19.5	17.0

company is counting on economic growth to make it more affordable and raise consumption.

Southern Sudan Beverages is the only foreign manufacturing investment in the region at present. Its biggest competitor, Nairobi-based East African Breweries (EABL), owned by UK drinks giant Diageo, imports all its product. EABL has said it will not rule out producing locally, but is not planning to do so any time soon.

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Rebar shortage slows construction recovery

MARK ALLIX
Industrial Correspondent

A SHORTAGE of reinforcing steel is further slowing recovery in the building and construction sector, according to the South African Reinforced Concrete Engineers Association (Sarcea).

This was likely to cause massive cost and time overruns for both contractors and developers, making it necessary to import large quantities of the product and preventing smaller companies from being able to compete.

"There have been deliveries,

but orders have not been fully met since January," Sarcea director Rod Mountford said yesterday. "The industry is in a state ... some of our members are turning away jobs in these dire times because they can't get reinforcing steel."

The association said steel mills were generally not able to meet delivery dates, making it impossible for companies that process the reinforcing steel (rebar) to stick to construction programmes and deadlines.

SA's steel industry has been dealt a treble blow in the past 14 months. First, Kumba Iron Ore

halted sales of cheap iron ore to premier steel maker Arcelor-Mittal SA early last year. Then, in December, ArcelorMittal shut its Newcastle furnace, leading to delays in the supply of rebar. And in January, construction company Murray & Roberts closed its loss-making subsidiary, Cape Town Iron and Steel Works, the biggest maker of rebar in the country.

Sarcea said rebar suppliers and manufacturers had begun defaulting on their contracts with construction companies.

"There is very little that (Sarcea's) members can do about

this ... barring importing steel bars from international mills, which requires a two-to-three-month delivery period and extensive capital outlays," Mr Mountford said.

John Hulse, owner of contractor JG Hulse Manufacturing in Cape Town, said yesterday that everybody in the industry had experienced a shortage of rebar — in his case, probably more than 50% since January.

"I've been in the industry a long time and have never experienced anything like this. We are desperately short," he said.

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