

NATIONAL

Woermann Brock in smart solar power drive

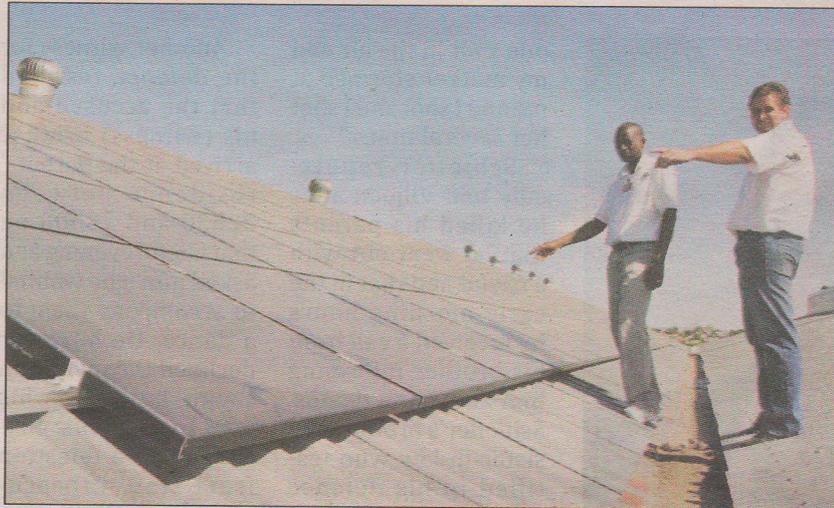
By Irene IHoæs

WINDHOEK - The Woermann Brock Retail and Wholesale Group is implementing its smart business decision to install photovoltaic solar power plants at all its supermarkets.

Namibia, a sunny country, has huge potential for using solar power, but unfortunately very little of this abundant resource is currently being harnessed, usually with the excuse of the 'huge setup costs involved'.

The Managing Director of the Woermann Brock Retail and Wholesale Group, Jesko Woermann, who flipped the main switch of the 100 kWp grid-connected solar plant at the W&B Katutura Supermarket yesterday said that with the installation, the store will be saving about N\$20 000 on its monthly electricity costs.

In 2012, the group installed the largest grid-connected photovoltaic solar power plant in Namibia at its Woermann Brock Hyper Supermarket



The Manager of Woermann Brock Katutura Supermarket, Dennis Gawa'nab, and the CEO of HopSol Africa, Björn Wilschke, next to the solar panels on the shop's rooftop.

in Khomasdal. According to Woermann, they have so far invested over N\$15 million in the solar programme. Of the 26 Woermann Brock retail outlets, five are equipped with the cost-saving and cleaner energy solution.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of HopSol Africa, Björn Wilschke, the 100 kWp solar power plant has an annual energy yield of 220 MWh, with a carbon reduction of 124 tonnes per year.

The number of panels used is 648 and

covers a module area of 825 square metres. Wilschke said due to the specific climatic conditions in desert regions like Namibia, the selection of the right technology, in this case the CIS Technology, is decisive in order to ensure outstanding economic performance of investments in solar panels. "We want to provide our clients with the most ecological and economic solar energy solutions," he said. The technology has a high carbon reduction rate of about

340kg per day, which Wilschke said is the perfect answer to the Namibian energy crisis.

"This means 50 percent less energy consumption from the public grid. A great profitability of the investment," Wilschke added. The group will install two more solar plants at the Woermann Brock Rehoboth Supermarket and Woermann Brock Rehoboth Hyper, tomorrow. Together the two plants will account for 130 kWp of power.