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# Delegation from Germany eyes more business opportunities in Qatar economy

**By Peter Alagos**  
 Business Reporter

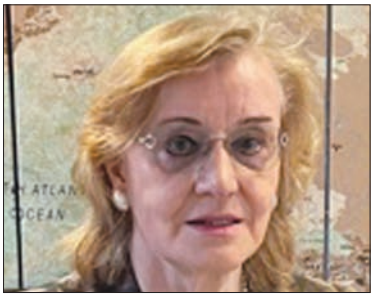
The German Near and Middle East Association (NUMOV) is aiming to explore investment opportunities available in different sectors in Qatar, NUMOV's top executive has said.

A business delegation from Germany is slated to arrive in Doha on January 16. The delegation's meetings with different Qatari companies and other officials will run until January 17, NUMOV CEO Helene Rang told *Gulf Times* yesterday.

According to Rang, members of the delegation are keen to explore investment opportunities in the fields of biotechnology, food industry, education, renewable industry, logistics, security, defence, cable technology, and glass fibre, as well as further support for the upcoming FIFA World Cup this year.

"We also aim to hold talks about an LNG terminal in Germany and discussions on special information technology (IT) solutions and chemical products, among other topics of interest," Rang further explained.

Rang emphasised that NUMOV is also bringing one businessman whose company is specialising in marketing for events such as the 2022 FIFA World



NUMOV CEO Helene Rang.

Cup slated in Qatar by the end of the year.

She said, "As Germany's oldest and largest non-government organisation (NGO), we are keen to support bilateral business relations to the whole region. Qatar was always my personal main objective, namely to bring German and Qatari businesses together, and at the same time to involve German high-level technology in future Qatar development.

"NUMOV was the very first NGO to bring German business to Doha 25 years ago. And we brought business delegations every year since then to support bilateral business relations."

Given the current health restrictions due to Covid-19, Rang said only a select few of NUMOV's members will be holding meetings in Doha during

the business trip. "As soon as the situation changes, we will again bring a delegation comprising 28 people to Doha," she said.

"But because of the coronavirus pandemic, NUMOV also wants to organise bilateral video meetings for each Qatari business representative who is interested in order to bring all delegation members into business partnerships with Doha.

"In fact, German companies are ready to provide any products or services at the request of the Qatari side. Any bilateral video meeting could be organised within a short time. Interested companies in Qatar are encouraged to visit [www.numov.de](http://www.numov.de) so we could organise bilateral meetings in Doha or via video conference," she also said. Rang lauded the economic and legal reforms implemented by Qatar to increase foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to the country. She emphasised that NUMOV has already informed "all companies in Germany about these reforms."

"These steps are very important for investments, as well as for Germany. It is the right way to attract foreign investments to Qatar," explained Rang, adding that meetings in Doha will be organised for new businesses. "We are sure agreements will follow soon," she noted.

## Al-Kaabi meets Pakistan's maritime affairs minister



HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, had a virtual meeting with Syed Ali Haider Zaidi, Pakistan's Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs yesterday. Discussions during the meeting dealt with bilateral Qatari-Pakistani relations in the field of energy and means to enhance them, as well as Pakistan's efforts to build an LNG receiving terminal at Port Qasim.

## 672 building permits issued in December 2021: PSA

**By Santhosh V Perumal**  
 Business Reporter

Al Wakra municipality saw a robust double-digit growth year-on-year in building permits issued in December 2021, which otherwise saw an overall lull at the national level, according to the official data.

A total of 672 building permits were issued in December 2021 with Al Daayen, Al Rayyan and Al Wakra municipalities together constituting as much as 68% of the total; according to figures released by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA).

On a yearly basis, total building permits issued in Doha witnessed a 13.4% growth against a 30.9% decline at the national level with Al Shamal registering a 60% plunge, Al Daayen (59.7%), Umm Slal (50%), Doha (44.5%), Al Khor (31.7%), Al Shahaniya (23.3%) and Al Rayyan (1.6%). There was a general 16% decrease month-on-month in the building permits issued in Qatar with Umm Slal recording 43% contraction, followed by Al Daayen (42%), Al Shamal (33%), Doha and Al Khor (15% each) and Al Rayyan (10%). Nevertheless, Al Shahaniya and Al Wakra saw 44% and 12% growth respectively in the review period.

The building permits data is of particular importance as it is considered an indicator for the performance of the construction sector which in turn occupies a significant position in the national economy.

Of the total number of new building permits issued, Al Rayyan constituted 186 permits or 28% of the total, followed by Al Wakra (169 or 25%), Doha (111 or 17%), Al Daayen (100 or 15%), Umm Slal (45 or 7%), Al Khor (28 or 4%), Al Shahaniya (28 or 4%) and Al Shamal (10 or 1%).

The new building permits (residential and non-residential) constituted 55% (367 permits) of the total building permits issued in December 2021, additions 42% (279 permits) and fencing 4% (26 permits). Of the new residential buildings permits, villas topped the list, accounting for 69% (166 permits) of the total, followed by dwellings of housing loans 19% (46 permits) and apartments 10% (25 permits). Among the non-residential sector, commercial structures accounted for 71% or 90 permits, the industrial buildings as workshops and factories 14% (18 permits) and governmental buildings 6% (eight permits).

Qatar saw a 6.6% year-on-year fall in the total building completion certificates issued in December 2021 with Al Shahaniya witnessing a 94.4% plunge, Al Rayyan (28.4%), Al Wakra (22.1%), Al Khor (20%), Al Shamal (12.5%) and Umm Slal (6.3%). However, there was 56.8% and 57.1% surges in building completion certificates issued in Doha and Al Daayen respectively during the review period.

On a monthly basis, the total number of building completion certificates issued in Qatar fell 13% with Al Shahaniya recording an 88% shrinkage, Al Khor (43%), Al Daayen (26%), Al Shamal (22%), Al Rayyan (18%) and Al Wakra (14%).

On the other hand, there was an increase of 36% and 11% in Umm Slal and Doha respectively in the review period.

Qatar saw a total of 298 building completion certificates issued in December 2021, of which 188 or 63% was for the new buildings (residential and non-residential) and 110 or 37% for additions.

Of the total number of new building completion certificates issued in December 2021, Doha constituted 23% or 69 certificates, followed by Al Rayyan (23% or 68), Al Wakra (20% or 60), Al Daayen (18% or 55), Umm Slal (10% or 30), Al Khor (3% or eight), Al Shamal (2% or seven) and Al Shahaniya (0.3% or one).

Of the 159 residential buildings completion certificates issued, as many as 128 or 81% were for villas, 21 or 13% for dwellings of housing loans and 10 or 6% for the apartments.

Of the 128 villas completion certificates issued this December 2021, as many as 34 were in Al Daayen, 25 in Al Wakra, 22 each in Umm Slal and Al Rayyan, 18 in Doha, four in Al Khor and three in Al Shamal. Of the 21 dwellings of housing loans completion certificates issued, Al Rayyan saw 11, Al Wakra and Al Daayen (four each), and Al Shahaniya and Umm Slal (one each).

In the case of 10 apartments, Doha issued nine completion certificates and one in Al Wakra.

# Foreign funds' sustained buying lifts sentiments on QSE

**By Santhosh V Perumal**  
 Business Reporter

Foreign institutions' sustained net buying yesterday lifted the Qatar Stock Exchange by 45 points.

The transport, industrials and insurance counters witnessed higher than average demand as the 20-stock Qatar Index rose 0.37% to 12,056.38 points, recovering from an intraday low of 11,997 points.

The Gulf individuals were increasingly net buyers in the market, whose year-to-date gains improved further to 3.7%. More than 62% of the traded constituents extended gains to investors in the bourse, whose capitalisation grew about QR3bn or 0.39% to QR685.01bn, mainly on the back of small cap segments.

Local retail investors were increasingly net

sellers in the market, where five of the seven sectors were seen bullish. Domestic funds were seen net profit takers in the main market, which saw a total of 193,637 exchange traded funds (Masraf Al Rayan-sponsored QATR and Doha Bank-sponsored QETF) valued at QR2.21mn trade across four deals.

The Total Return Index gained 0.37% to 23,866.33 points, the All Share Index by 0.37% to 3,794.04 points and the Al Rayan Islamic Index (Price) by 0.32% to 2,674.15 points in the market, which saw no trading of sovereign bonds and treasury bills. The transport index shot up 1.26%, industrials (0.71%), insurance (0.64%), banks and financial services (0.2%), consume goods and services (0.18%) and realty (0.05%); while telecom shrank 0.27%.

Major gainers in the main market included Gulf International Services, Inma Holding, Qatari Investors Group, Mesaied Petrochemical Holding, Ahlibank Qatar, Industries Qatar,

Qamco, Qatar National Cement, Qatar Insurance, Ezdan, Vodafone Qatar, Gulf Warehousing and Nakilat.

Nevertheless, Widam Food, Qatar Islamic Insurance, Ooredoo, Investment Holding Group and Dila were among the losers in the main market.

In the venture market, both Al Faleh Educational Holding and Mekdam Holding saw their stoks depreciate in value.

Foreign institutions' net buying increased substantially to QR95.94mn compared to QR41.65mn on January 9. The Gulf individuals' net buying strengthened notably to QR1.19mn against QR0.57mn the previous day.

However, local retail investors' net selling rose significantly to QR92.56mn compared to QR66.77mn on Sunday.

The domestic funds turned net buyers to the tune of QR16.26mn against net sellers of QR5.85mn on January 9.

The Gulf institutions' net buying decreased markedly to QR3.12mn compared to QR9.72mn the previous day.

The Arab individuals' net buying also weakened perceptibly to QR6.07mn against QR6.19mn on Sunday.

The foreign individuals' net buying eased marginally to QR2.5mn compared to QR2.8mn on January 9.

The Arab funds continued to have no major net exposure.

Total trade volume in the main market fell 24% to 169.39mn shares and value by 9% to QR483.33mn, while transactions rose 10% to 10,821.

The telecom sector's volume more than tripled to 5.54mn equities and value also more than tripled to QR13.53mn on more-than-doubled deals to 422.

The industrials sector's trade volume was up less than 1% to 71.23mn stocks, value by 18% to QR186.05mn and 21% in transactions to 3,458.

However, the consumer goods and services sector saw a 63% plunge in trade volume to 20.27mn shares, 44% in value to QR37.14mn and 28% in deals to 1,011.

The real estate sector's trade volume plummeted 39% to 25mn equities, value by 38% to QR32.86mn and transactions by 30% to 958. There was a 30% contraction in the insurance sector's trade volume to 2.94mn stocks and 38% in value to QR8.44mn but on 23% jump in deals to 355.

The transport sector's trade volume tanked 29% to 5.91mn shares and value by 32% to QR33.38mn, whereas transactions gained 13% to 466.

The banks and financial services sector reported an 11% dip in trade volume to 38.5mn equities and 8% in value to 171.93mn but on 27% increase in deals to 4,151.

In the venture market, volume grew 38.88% to 328,553 stocks, value by 47.59% to QR2.29mn and transactions by 84.62% to 192.