

NBI

National Business Initiative

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE

WHO WE ARE

The National Business Initiative (NBI) is an independent and voluntary coalition of South African and multinational businesses launched in 1995 by the then President, Nelson Mandela. Today we have over 100 member companies that work together towards sustainable growth and development in South Africa. Our membership includes a significant proportion of the country's leading listed companies, a number of major state-owned enterprises and a variety of medium-sized firms. The NBI is a Level 1 Contributor to Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE).



WHAT WE DO

It is widely accepted that South Africa needs to transform, both socially and economically. We must address inequality, spur on economic growth and development, accelerate youth employability and halt environmental degradation to enable the thriving society we want and need. The NBI plays a transformative role by placing the interlinked success of society and business at our forefront. We recognise that business can only prosper in a society that succeeds.

Our two major programmes – social sustainability and environmental sustainability – work to address key challenges in South Africa, including the need for skills development and youth employability, enhanced social cohesion, inclusive business growth and environmental protection. We deliver these outcomes by working through three mechanisms: thought leadership, capacity building and collective action. The NBI has a strong track record in the implementation of all three of these 'ways of working'.





WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM

Since our inception, the NBI has made a distinct impact in the spheres of housing delivery, crime prevention, local economic development, public sector capacity building, skills development, schooling and public private partnerships. The NBI has also played a catalytic role in establishing organisations such as the Business Trust, Business Against Crime and the Joint Initiative on Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA) (now known as the Human Resources Development Council).

WHO WE PARTNER WITH

The NBI has strong ties and working relationships with a number of leading international organisations and business coalitions. We are a global network partner of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the focal point of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Local Network in South Africa and an implementation partner of We Mean Business, the CEO Water Mandate and CDP.



WHAT WE ARE DOING TODAY

The NBI's current areas of emphasis includes leading-edge work in energy efficiency, water risk management and water stewardship and climate change, the development of scalable workplace-based learning models for enhancing youth employability through Technical Vocational and Education Training Colleges, Transformation and Social Cohesion interventions, and the role of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the National Development Plan (NDP) in supporting inclusive business growth. Furthermore, the NBI is currently the Secretariat to the CEO Initiative. We maintain a strong focus on strengthening partnerships between business and all areas of government, and building trust between stakeholders through action and working together. Further detail on the NBI is available on our website: www.nbi.org.za



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