

ON A CLEAR DAY 2020



On A Clear Day: Issue 748, 26 March 2020

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

WORLD WATER DAY: THE SOUTH AFRICAN WATER CRISIS PERSISTS South Africa has experienced significant water shortages since 2014, with heavy restrictions still in place in many parts of the country. We face a global phenomenon where water is constrained from both an availability (quantity) and fitness for use (quality) perspective. Read NBI's latest [News Update, here](#).

NBI/WBCSD 2050 VISION REFRESH Can you imagine a world where more than 9 billion people are living well and within the boundaries of our planet? Now imagine we achieve that vision by 2050. Read NBI's latest [Quick Brief, here](#).

SOUTH AFRICA: WBCSD VISION 2050 DIALOGUES HOSTED BY THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE The National Business Initiative (NBI) hosted a dialogue on [Vision 2050](#), diving into roles and opportunities for business to help unlock the transformations that are needed to allow over 9 billion people to live well, within planetary boundaries by mid-century. [WBCSD, 12 March 2020](#).

THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE (NBI) fully supports the national effort to limit the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in South Africa. We stand behind the message delivered by President Cyril Ramaphosa on Sunday, 15 March 2020. We also entirely support organised business in its commitment to support the Government at this critical time. Connecting and engaging with our members, partners and other stakeholders and undertaking impactful collective action is a key part of our ethos. We will endeavour to find ways to maintain this under the current circumstances, and we are confident that we will continue to deliver value to you during this unprecedented time. [NBI COVID-19 Communication](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

A TIME TO LEAD WITH PURPOSE AND HUMANITY We measure success by the way we touch the lives of people. – Bob Chapman, *The Value of Identifying Values*, 2012. [Hubert Joly, HBR, 24 March 2020](#).

AI IS CHANGING WORK — AND LEADERS NEED TO ADAPT As AI is increasingly incorporated into our workplaces and daily lives, it is poised to fundamentally upend the way we live and work. [Martin Fleming, HBR, 24 March 2020.](#)

'RED FLAG FOR COP26': MOST HIGH-CARBON COMPANIES SHOOTING 'WIDE OF THE MARK' FOR A 2C WORLD The vast majority of companies in carbon-intensive industries such as oil, electricity, cement, metals and transport remain far off track for alignment with the Paris Agreement goals, which "raises a red flag" ahead of the critical United Nation climate change talks in Glasgow later this year. [Michael Holder, GreenBiz, 23 March 2020.](#)

BUSINESS BODIES SET UP SPECIALIST TASK TEAMS TO HELP GOVT TACKLE CORONAVIRUS South African business bodies and lobby groups have set up specialised task teams to help government respond to the coronavirus. [Engineering News, 23 March 2020.](#)

IEA URGES GOVERNMENTS TO INTEGRATE CLEAN-ENERGY TRANSITION INTO COVID-19 STIMULUS PACKAGES The stimulus plans being developed by governments to counter the economic damage of the Covid-19 pandemic "offer an excellent opportunity to ensure that the essential task of building a secure and sustainable energy future doesn't get lost amid the flurry of immediate priorities", International Energy Agency (IEA) executive director Dr Fatih Birol argued in a recent commentary. [Engineering News, 23 March 2020.](#)

WORLD WATER DAY: OFTEN OVERLOOKED, WATER RESOURCES ARE ESSENTIAL PART OF SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE On World Water Day, the United Nations launched a flagship report which says that reducing both the impacts and drivers of climate change will require major shifts in the way we use and reuse the Earth's limited water resources. [UN News, 20 March 2020.](#)

BEING WATER-SMART MUST BECOME THE NEW NORMAL FOR BUSINESS While load shedding continues to keep energy security top of mind for South Africans, the need for collective action to address a looming water crisis has recently been raised at the highest level. [Ettienne Thiebault, BizCommunity, 20 March 2020.](#)

IT'S FRONTLINE LEADERS WHO MAKE OR BREAK PROGRESS ON DIVERSITY People often reflexively equate leadership with the C-suite. But frontline leaders—the middle managers who directly supervise line employees—can have a huge impact on an organization's performance. [Frances Brooks Taplett, Jennifer Garcia-Alonso, Matt Krentz, and Mai-Britt Poulsen, BCG, 5 March 2020.](#)

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

OLD MUTUAL PLEDGES R50M TOWARDS COMPREHENSIVE COVID-19 RESPONSE Old Mutual has pledged R50 million towards a comprehensive Covid-19 response, in partnership with government, business, labour and civil society. [IOL Business, 25 March 2020.](#)

VODACOM INTRODUCES SMME BUSINESS FUNDING PLATFORM Telecommunications giant Vodacom has launched a new small, medium-sized and microenterprises (SMME) business funding product that lets business owners apply online for funding and have an answer within four hours. [Engineering News, 25 March 2020.](#)

NEDBANK, FNB JOIN STANDARD IN OFFERING TO HELP THE FINANCIALLY DISTRESSED Nedbank and FNB yesterday joined Standard Bank in offering measures to alleviate the woes of financially distressed clients as Covid-19 cases continue to mount across South Africa, causing financial disruption. [IOL Business, 24 March 2020.](#)

SASOL APPOINTS HARPER TO BOARD, AUDIT COMMITTEE JSE-listed petrochemicals company Sasol has appointed Katharine Harper independent nonexecutive director and audit committee member, effective April 1. [Engineering News, 23 March 2020.](#)

MTN SLASHES DATA BUNDLES BY UP TO 50% Telecommunications group MTN on Friday said it would, from April 15, reduce the prices of its 30-day data bundles and offer up to 600 MB of data a month. [Engineering News, 20 March 2020.](#)

BCG: LEADERSHIP, RESILIENCE, AND THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK As the world mobilizes to contain the impact of the coronavirus, uncertainty abounds. One thing is clear, however: the COVID-19 outbreak underscores the need for business and society to be resilient and prepared—qualities that will be in demand long after public health has been restored. [BCG, March 2020.](#)

NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

AFRICAN VENTURE PHILANTHROPY ALLIANCE (AVPA), a pan African network of social investors whose aim is to increase the flow of capital into social challenges on the continent, is stepping up to assist in co-ordinating players to support the countrywide and continental efforts against CORVID 19, more so where it concerns the most vulnerable in our communities. This initiative has further been driven by lessons from our sister networks in Europe and Asia whose members wish that they had not only been better prepared, but also more aggressive in their response to what they've just experienced with CORVID 19. Kindly urgently contact [Dr. Frank Aswani](#) to get involved with this Initiative or **register your Project/Company/Organisation**, [here](#).

BASA: BANKS RESPOND TO COVID-19: KEEPING ESSENTIAL BANKING SERVICES OPEN, PROTECTING OUR STAFF AND HELPING OUR CUSTOMERS [Read here](#).

2020 UPDATE ON SDG REPORTING IN SOUTH AFRICA Two researchers at **IRAS**, within a three-week period reviewed the 2018-19 annual reports for ALL of the 320 companies listed on the Johannesburg Securities Exchange (JSE) to assess the status of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) reporting in South Africa. To review what they found, kindly click [here](#) and to access the **Summary of the UN SDGs and IRAS impacts on them**, click [here](#).

CDP AFRICA REPORT Benchmarking progress towards climate safe cities, states, and regions. [Download Report](#).

WORLD WATER DAY 2020 LAST SUNDAY was about water and climate change – and how the two are inextricably linked. Adapting to the water effects of climate change will protect health and save lives. Using water more efficiently will reduce greenhouse gases. We cannot afford to wait - everyone has a role to play. The NBI's water programme is focussed on building the capacity of South Africa to respond to water risk. Read about it [here](#).

WOMEN ON SOUTH AFRICAN BOARDS – FACTS, FICTION AND FORWARD-THINKING Women make up 51% of the South African population. Yet, only 20,7% of directors of JSE-listed companies are female. **So, there is work to be done.** This report aims to help board members, management teams and the public to understand how South Africa got to this point, and what we can do to change it. [USB Website](#).

HOOT is a South African start-up business offering creative projects for Independent Power Producers and mining companies to expand and enrich their socio-economic development activities, specifically aimed at the youth in rural communities. HOOT teaches children to build solar-powered mobile phone chargers partly from recycled materials. Learn about HOOT and what we do [here](#).

KEEP THE LIGHTS ON THIS EARTH HOUR THIS SATURDAY, 28 MARCH 2020 WWF South Africa is turning this year's Earth Hour celebration upside down by urging its supporters to "shine a light" on the issue of the day – how to keep our lights on in a way that is good for both people and the planet. [WWF-SA, 4 March 2020](#).

JOIN SOUTH AFRICA'S TOP GENDER EMPOWERED NETWORK Nominations for the 17th annual Standard Bank Top Women awards celebration are now open. [Further information](#).

2020 ECO-LOGIC AWARDS CALLING SA'S GREENEST South Africans can look forward to the 9th annual Eco-Logic Awards which will take place 05 June 2020 (World Environment Day). Hosted by the Enviropaedia, entries are now open for individuals, organisations and communities who are making a difference through environmentally sustainable initiatives. [Further information](#).

NBI INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Bringing you news and the latest research from our international partners

CDP in South Africa is a long-standing partnership between the London-based CDP and the NBI. They have built the most comprehensive collection of self-reported environmental information in the world. Over the past 15 years CDP has created a system that has resulted in unparalleled engagement on environmental issues. Read their **Case Study** entitled: **“Kisumu: Delivering low carbon technology to the next generation”**, [here](#).

UNGC CEO WATER MANDATE NBI partners with the CEO Water Mandate to encourage water stewardship in South Africa. Established by the UN Global Compact in 2007 and rooted in the belief that cross-sectoral collaboration on shared water goals is the most effective path to more sustainable water management, the CEO Water Mandate is a unique public-private initiative that mobilizes business leaders for water stewardship. Read their **23 March 2020 Latest News Update**, [here](#).

WE MEAN BUSINESS (WMB) NBI is the South African partner to WMB. WMB is a coalition of organizations working with thousands of the world’s most influential businesses and investors to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy. Read their latest **Blog Article**, entitled: **“New interim CEO takes the helm at the We Mean Business coalition”**, [here](#).

WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD) WBCSD is a global, CEO-led organization of over 200 leading businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world. The NBI is the global partner of the WBCSD in South Africa. Read their latest **News Article** entitled, **“World Water Day: the relationship between water and climate change”**, [here](#).

NBI EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS | 2020

Due to concerns of COVID-19 the NBI has taken the decision to postpone our Thought Leadership Dialogues and Events, while simultaneously ascertaining which can be run remotely. Details will be communicated in due course.

INTERNATIONAL WEBINARS | 2020

PODCAST: ADJUSTING TO REMOTE WORK DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS Tsedal Neeley, a professor at Harvard Business School, says that there are simple ways leaders can help their employees stay productive, focused, and psychologically healthy as they work from home during the current global pandemic. [HBR, March 2020](#).

WRI WEBINAR: PUBLIC WATER MANAGEMENT FORUM | 26 March 2020 | World Resources Institute, Pacific Institute, and the UN Global Compact CEO Water Mandate are working with businesses to develop a database on public water management in the U.S. and Mexico. [Register here](#).

GREENBIZ WEBINAR: ENSURING RELIABLE POWER & WATER TO DRIVE SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS OPERATIONS | 31 March 2020 | Managers of industrial operations – plants that generate mission-critical power and manage water systems supporting industrial processes – face numerous challenges, including aging infrastructure, fluctuating commodity costs, narrowing profit margins, and a shrinking pool of veterans to manage these systems and processes. [Details here](#).

WEBINAR RECORDING: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 2020: NOW IS THE MOMENT TO #BIASCORRECT International Women’s Day (IWD) is an annual day of awareness-building and celebration, dedicated to accelerating the progress of women’s social, economic, cultural, and political achievements globally. IWD also marks a call to action for accelerating gender equality throughout workplaces globally. [Access webinar here](#).



5th Floor, 61 Katherine Street, Sandton

The National Business Initiative (NBI) respects your right to privacy, if you do not wish to receive any further On A Clear Day's from the NBI, please click [UNSUBSCRIBE](#) and your name will be removed from the mailing list.