

ON A CLEAR DAY 2020



On A Clear Day: Issue 754, 7 May 2020

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE'S (NBI'S) RESPONSE TO COVID-19 [View here.](#)

HAND-WASHING IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS POSSIBLE WITH SIMPLE SOUTH AFRICAN INNOVATION A South African innovation is helping people living in informal settlements access water to wash their hands... we can help place them in every community. [GOODTHINGSUY, 7 May 2020.](#)

AFTER YEARS OF TALKING, IT IS TIME WE DELIVERED THE GOODS As we begin to wrestle with the grand task of first rescuing and then reviving our shattered economy, certain points are becoming clear. State stimulus packages may be imperative, but they cannot hope to meet the challenge alone. [Gray Maguire, Business Day, 5 May 2020.](#)

The **NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE (NBI)** is conducting a survey to understand the experiences of **LGBTQI+ employees in the private sector**. This survey forms part of our research to assist in creating strategies which support and enhance inclusion & representation in the workplace. Those interested in participating should click [here](#). Please take note that participation in the survey is limited to employees who personally identify with the LGBTQI+ community.

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION: COVID-19 AND THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY IN AN UNEQUAL SOCIETY The National Business Initiative's (NBI's) Social Transformation work has long been driven by the imperative of achieving a just and equal society. At a time when social inequalities are becoming more pronounced, the work of the NBI's Social Transformation team has never been more pertinent. [Read NBI's latest Thought Leadership article, here.](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION VITAL TO IMPROVE SERVICE DELIVERY The Covid-19 pandemic lays bare the urgent need for a government-driven strategy to propel digital transformation in the public sector and greater South African society. [Andy Dikobo, BizCommunity, 7 May 2020.](#)

4 WAYS TO STRENGTHEN CLIMATE ACTION IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19 2020 was supposed to be a decisive year for climate action. Countries were expected to put forward new, more ambitious climate plans (NDCs) in accordance with the Paris Agreement on climate change, kicking off a “decade of ambition.” *Yamide Daqnet, Nathan Coqswell and Jemima Marie Mendoza, WRI, 6 May 2020*

BUSINESS FOR SA URGES URGENT OPENING OF ECONOMY TO AVOID JOBS BLOODBATH The quicker the economy reopens, with health and safety precautions in place, the less severe the damage to growth and employment, B4SA says. *Carol Paton, Business Day, 6 May 2020.*

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IS ABOUT TALENT, NOT TECHNOLOGY As The Economist recently noted, one of the most obvious consequences of the current Covid-19 pandemic will be “the infusion of data-enabled services into ever more aspects of life.” We expect digital transformation to be an even bigger imperative for organizations in the short-term future. *Becky Frankiewicz and Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic, HBR, 6 May 2020.*

WIND POWER LIKELY A KEY BUILDING BLOCK FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY Wind energy representative organisation, the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC,) along with signatories representing all the major international wind industry corporates and associations, reports that wind power is a key building block for economic recovery from the impact of Covid-19. *Donna Slater, Engineering News, 6 May 2020.*

SOUTH AFRICA’S DAM LEVELS RISE SHARPLY South Africa’s average dam levels are now at 70.4% full, with Gauteng’s dams increasing to 100.5%, followed by Northern Cape and the Free State at 98.8% and 83% respectively. *Natasha Odendaal, Engineering News, 6 May 2020.*

GREEN STIMULUS CAN REPAIR GLOBAL ECONOMY AND CLIMATE, STUDY SAYS Projects will deliver higher returns amid Covid-19 crisis than conventional spending, researchers claim. *Fiona Harvey, The Guardian, 5 May 2020.*

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

WHAT NBI MEMBER COMPANIES ARE DOING IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 [View here.](#) If you are an NBI member company and would like to be profiled on this website page, please contact: [Gillian Hutchings.](#)

VODACOM LAUNCHES NEW DATA CENTRES IN SA WITH AMAZON SUBSIDIARY Mobile communications company Vodacom said it was partnering with Amazon Web Services (AWS), a subsidiary of American conglomerate Amazon, in launching new data centres in South Africa which will enable it to deliver improved business, cloud and other solutions. [IOL Business, 7 May 2020.](#)

SASOL HANDS OVER COVID-19 SUPPLIES TO CITY OF JOHANNESBURG JSE-listed Sasol on Wednesday donated 1 500 litres of hand sanitiser to the City of Johannesburg to be allocated to the most vulnerable facilities as part of its support for citizens across Gauteng during the Covid-19 crisis. [IOL Business, 6 May 2020.](#)

FNB AND WESBANK GIVE PAYMENT BREAKS ON 500,000 CREDIT AGREEMENTS Nearly 150,000 individual and business customers have been approved for relief [Business Day, 6 May 2020.](#)

ENGEN HELPS EDUCATE COMMUNITIES ABOUT COVID-19 THROUGH MURALS South African oil company Engen has launched a campaign to support the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic by educating local communities on safety measures to curb the spread of the virus. [IOL Business, 5 May 2020.](#)

ABSA GRANTS COVID-19 PAYMENT RELIEF TO RETAIL AND BUSINESS BANKING ACCOUNT HOLDERS The Absa Group has granted payment relief of R5.8 billion to about 376000 account holders in its retail and business banking (RBB) division to help its clients to deal with the Covid-19 outbreak. [IOL Business, 5 May 2020.](#)

OLD MUTUAL PARTNERING TO PROVIDE CARE DURING COVID-19 Collaborating to flatten the curve as well as address some of the more challenging socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 has been a common theme amongst many players recently, even before the lockdown started. [Old Mutual, 29 April 2020.](#)

NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

NEW WHATSAPP LINE LAUNCHED TO HELP ADDRESS SPIKE IN GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE [BizCommunity, 5 May 2020.](#)

COVID-19: HOW ARE SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANIES RESPONDING TO THE CRISIS? The Covid-19 crisis has resulted in a new and very complex situation around the world. CDE wanted to find out how some of our biggest companies in different industries and sectors, facing diverse challenges and opportunities, are dealing with the situation. [Read more and download the full report.](#)

CDP: UNLOCKING NATURE'S POTENTIAL: Forests related Nature-based Solutions to address climate change and promote sustainable development. In a historic moment where holistic solutions are required to tackle the complicated societal and environmental issues facing our global society, we should remember to observe and learn from our surroundings: nature offers immense potential to support the core connecting our world's economic, environmental and development needs. [Download report.](#)

NEW REPORT ON MAPPING PUBLIC WATER MANAGEMENT Poor water management poses major risks to agriculture, industry, and local communities. However, there is a critical lack of information available about local water conditions, making better management difficult. A new technical note from the Pacific Institute and the World Resources Institute presents a questionnaire for companies to map water risk, towards better public water management through crowd-sourced data. [Pacific Institute Website, 23 April 2020.](#)

CLIMATE WEEK NYC TO GO AHEAD IN SEPTEMBER 2020 The Climate Group announced that Climate Week NYC will not be postponed and will take place as scheduled on September 21-27, 2020. Climate Week NYC will launch a virtual platform that will host all major events to ensure that delegates and speakers can join irrespective of any restrictions at the time. [Read here.](#)

17TH ANNUAL STANDARD BANK TOP WOMEN AWARDS This collaborative platform is dedicated to recognising organisations and individuals who are shaping women's roles in the private and public sectors. With these awards, we honour those with unfailing vision and whose innovative leadership has had a significant impact in their communities and broader society. [Enter now.](#)

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. [More 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 **latest Insights**, [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 this week's **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 **News Update**, [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 **News Article** entitled, “2020: a different kind of “super year”, [here](#).

NBI EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS | 2020

NBI WEBINAR EVENTS | The National Business Initiative (NBI) will be running on-line events starting on the 19 May 2020. Details to be published shortly.

NBI ACES WEBINAR | 26 May 2020 | 10:00 to 13:00 | In the light of the ongoing lockdown, the NBI has decided to host the next ACES meetings online. Kindly note that we will postpone the Cape Town ACES meeting from the 14th May to the 26th May 2020 and will combine this meeting with the Johannesburg one, to allow for an in-depth engagement and the opportunity for interaction. Please contact [Sibusiso Nxumalo](#) for further information.

WEBINARS | 2020

WBCSD: JOIN OUR NEW VIRTUAL MEETING SERIES: BUSINESS AS UNUSUAL, RESHAPING THE PRESENT AND FUTURE. Fully complimentary and held from April through July, these meetings will highlight innovative and collaborative solutions to face current and future challenges. Consult our [virtual meeting calendar](#) and register to the desired session to access the latest insights, exchange with leaders and actively engage. For any inquiries, please contact: events@wbcسد.org.

CDE WEBINAR: HOW ARE SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANIES RESPONDING TO THE CRISIS? A recording of the webinar that took place on Wednesday 22 April 2020 with Norman Mbazima, Chairman of Anglo American Platinum; Johnny Copelyn, CEO of Hosken Consolidated Investments; Ian Kirk, CEO of Sanlam; Tommie van Zyl, CEO of ZZ2; and Alon Lits, GM of Uber (Sub-Saharan Africa) which provided insights into how their companies are coping with the crisis, and what they are doing to mitigate its impact. Laurie Dippenaar, chairman of CDE ended the discussion with his ideas on how companies should think about their response in this unprecedented situation. [Listen here](#).

JHB BUSINESS SCHOOL: THE FUTURE SERIES | Friday 8, 15, 22 & 29 May 2020 | The JBS Future Of: is a series of lively and engaging masterclasses that will be hosted each Friday throughout the month of May. The series explores the many ways in which certain sectors will be transformed through the passage of time. Each week will focus on one out of the four industries which were chosen for their commercial importance and for the critical role that each plays in supporting the economic inclusion and well-being of people across the world. [View details here](#).

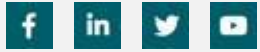
CDE WEBINAR: COVID-19: ‘UNLOCKING’ SOUTH AFRICA’S ECONOMY – DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES | Friday, 8 May 2020 | 11:30 | South Africa's lockdown and the risk-adjusted approach to its easing, have been as strict as any in the world. What are the pros and cons, costs and benefits of the approach? Are there other options to consider. [Registration link](#).

GREENBIZ: HOW TO TRANSITION FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS FROM EXTRACTIVE TO REGENERATIVE | Tuesday, 12 May 2020 | 13:00 EST | In this webcast, you will hear from the pioneering company leaders, entrepreneurs and policymakers who are transforming food industry supply chains so that the industry can feed more people while also protecting our wild places and fighting climate change. [Further information and registration](#).

WEBINAR: USB LEADER’S ANGLE SERIES: THE NEW POLITICAL NORMAL AFTER COVID-19 | Thursday, 14 May 2020 | 17:00 CAT | Join us for the Alumni Webinar facilitated by the Mpumalanga Chapter, where Dr Pieter Croucamp, Senior Lecturer at North West University, explores the new political normal in the aftermath of the current COVID-19 pandemic. [Book now](#).

WRI: SCIENCE BASED TARGETS CRITERIA FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS - SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK | Tuesday, 19 May 2020 | 09:00 EDT | The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) is developing a framework for financial institutions to set science-based climate targets in line with the ambition of the Paris Agreement. During this webinar,

we will share a summary of feedback on the SBTi's draft target validation criteria, a central component of the framework.
[WRI Website](#).



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