

ON A CLEAR DAY 2021

NBI
National Business Initiative



On A Clear Day: Issue 787, 25 March 2021

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

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

DID YOU KNOW? The NBI has been celebrating its 25th anniversary over the past year. As part of the journey, we revisited our achievements over the years. [#NBI25YEARS](#)

VALUING WATER: REFLECTIONS ON WHY WATER HAS NO SUBSTITUTE The month of March is an important opportunity to commemorate the universal importance of water with World Water Day (22 March) and National Water Week (15-22 March) in South Africa. [NBI Quick Brief, 23 March 2021](#).

INNOVATIVE WATER SOLUTIONS: THE PEPSICO FOUNDATION IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE THIS WORLD WATER DAY This year the theme for World Water Day (22 March 2021) is valuing water. While it is accepted that water means different things to different people, in the context of the continuing coronavirus pandemic, water is now further recognised as the first line of defense against the virus. [Read NBI's latest NewsFlash, here](#).

HOW DO WE BRIDGE THE ADAPTATION FINANCE GAP? Accessing funding for adaptation projects requires the right combination of scale, impact investment and bankability. Watch this [video](#) to gain insights from our expert panel on how to 'welcome' climate finance, [here](#).

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC DEMAND STUDY SERVICE PROVIDER TERMS OF REFERENCE – MARCH 2021 The NBI, supported by Atlantis Special Economic Zone is looking for a service provider to carry out a demand analysis for Solar PV in Cape Town and the West Coast area, including current and future projections based on existing legislative framework. View the full RFP: [here](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

THE CORRUPT TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS – DAVID LEWIS Civil rights and anti-corruption group Corruption Watch (CW) on Thursday expressed anger and sadness at reports relating to corruption in the health sector, saying the corrupt took advantage of the public health crisis to loot the procurement necessitated by Covid-19 and even stooped as low as to steal from the various relief programmes. [Thabi Madiba, Engineering News, 25 March 2021.](#)

REBUILDING OUR POST-COVID WORLD TOGETHER One year ago, the world changed. To paraphrase Ernest Hemingway, it happened slowly, and then all at once. [Darren Walker: President, The Ford Foundation, 24 March 2021.](#)

LAST WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF PREFERRED BIDDERS in the independent power producer's emergency procurement round is a step forward for energy security, as was the request for proposals that starts off round five of the renewable energy procurement programme. [Busi Mavuso: CEO, BLSA, 23 March 2021.](#)

MOVE TO IMPACT-BASED WEATHER FORECASTING ASSISTING SOUTH AFRICA, SAYS CREECY The South African Weather Services (SAWS) plays an important role in mitigating the impacts of severe weather, natural disasters and climate-related challenges, and its success in mitigating the impacts of Cyclone Eloise this year was mainly the result of its progress in the 2020/21 financial year to change to impact-based weather forecasting. [Tasneem Bulbulia, Engineering News, 23 March 2021.](#)

NEW FOCUS ON SDGS NEEDED TO REBUILD AFTER COVID-19 A renewed focus on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be essential as countries seek to rebuild from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, says ADB's first report showcasing its contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [Modern Diplomacy, 20 March 2021.](#)

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.](#)

WHY WOMEN ARE KEY TO AFRICA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION The digital gender divide in Sub-Saharan Africa means only around 25% of women have access to connectivity, according to the World Economic Forum. [Vodacom, 24 March 2021.](#)

TIGER BRANDS CELEBRATES 13 YEARS OF PLATES4DAYS UNIVERSITY NUTRITION PROGRAMME This year Tiger Brands celebrates the thirteenth consecutive year of its Plates4Days university nutrition programme, which supports some 4 500 students annually at nine campuses across six South African universities. [Tiger Brands, 24 March 2021.](#)

STANDARD BANK NAMED BEST BANK IN AFRICA Standard Bank Group is pleased to announce that it has been named the Best Bank in Africa in Global Finance's 28th annual awards for the World's Best Banks. [Standard Bank, 24 March 2021.](#)

IDC AND THE DALRRD LAUNCH R1BN AGRI-INDUSTRIAL FUND TO BOOST BLACK FARMERS In a key development aimed at addressing funding constraints facing black farmers and breaking entry barriers to commercial farming, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) has launched a joint Agri-Industrial Fund. [IDC, 23 March 2021.](#)

CONCOR COMPLETES HIGHEST RESIDENTIAL BLOCK IN MOTHER CITY Cape Town has just seen the successful completion by Concor of the tallest residential block in the city area – fronted by a carefully preserved, century-old façade onto one of the trendiest streets in town. [Concor, 23 March 2021.](#)

FNB ACQUIRES FINTECH COMPANY SELPAL IN TOWNSHIP PUSH First National Bank (FNB) has acquired 100% of Selpal – a financial technology solutions company that operates specifically in townships and rural sectors of the economy. [BusinessTech, 23 March 2021.](#)

VALUING EVERY DROP: CELEBRATING WORLD WATER DAY Every year, World Water Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the importance of water, reflect on our water stewardship progress, engage stakeholders on shared priorities and challenge ourselves to innovate further. [AB InBev, 22 March 2021.](#)

SAB DONATES MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO THE VALUE OF R25 MILLION TO GOVERNMENT! South African Breweries (SAB) are committed to helping South Africa by supporting communities in their time of need. [Good Things Guy, 22 March 2021.](#)

MONDI BECOMES MEMBER OF ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP (AWS) TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON WATER SECURITY Mondi Group, a leading global packaging and paper company, has joined forces with the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) to support good water stewardship performance across its operations. [Mondi, 22 March 2021.](#)

WILD COST SUN SPRUCES UP TRAUMA & CARE CENTRE Wild Coast Sun, Sun International's only beachfront resort, formed a partnership to assist victims of violent crimes get the care they need in a friendly environment. [Sun International, 17 March 2021.](#)

NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

VISION 2050: TIME TO TRANSFORM sets a shared vision of a world in which more than 9 billion people are able to live well, within planetary boundaries, by 2050. To achieve this vision, we need transformation at scale, and business needs to focus its actions on the areas through which it can best lead the systems transformations. [WBCSD, 25 March 2021.](#)

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME TO EMPOWER WOMEN IN ENERGY AND WATER SECTORS KICKS OFF In a bid to provide women in management positions with skills to succeed in the energy and water sectors, the Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (EWSETA), in collaboration with Wits Business School, has launched an executive leadership programme. [IOL Business, 19 March 2021.](#)

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: HOW COMPANIES STACK UP [Visual Capitalist, 16 March 2021.](#)

NOMINATE A #LOCALNATUREHERO FOR EARTH HOUR – AND STAND TO WIN WITH WWF! This year's Earth Hour, which takes place on 27 March 2021 at 8:30pm local time, will be a key moment to unite people to speak up for nature. [WWF-SA, 10 March 2021.](#)

APPLICATIONS FOR THE SAB FOUNDATION'S 2021 SOCIAL INNOVATION AND DISABILITY EMPOWERMENT AWARDS ARE OPEN Applications for the 11th annual SAB Foundation Social Innovation Awards and 6th annual Disability Empowerment Awards are open for entry and eligible entrepreneurs are strongly encouraged to apply. Closing date: 31 March 2021. [SAB Foundation Website.](#)

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 20 years CDP has created a system that has resulted in unparalleled engagement on environmental issues. Read their **Media Release**, entitled: **"Cost of water risks to business five times higher than cost of taking action"**, [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 **March 2021 Newsletter**, [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** written by CEO, María Mendiluce, entitled: **"Why Europe's role must be to lead the world out of coal for good"**, [here.](#)

WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD) WBCSD is an international, 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: “**Circular Electronics Partnership (CEP): The first private sector alliance for circular electronics**”, [here](#).

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2021

ONLINE WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS: GENDER QUALITY & THE BUSINESS SECTOR IN SA | Friday, 26 March 2021 | 10:00 to 12:30 | In celebrating Human Rights Day, the Global Compact Network South Africa in partnership with UN Women and the National Business Initiative (NBI) will discuss human rights challenges and in particular gender inequality and the gender pay gap as a concrete issue where business can drive positive impact. [Click here to view details and to register](#).

BUILDING CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AND ACTION IN THE LEAD UP TO UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE, COP26 IN GLASGOW | Friday, 26 March 2021 | 11:00 to 13:00 via Zoom | The British High Commissioner to South Africa, Nigel Casey MVO, Chief Executive Officer of the National Business Initiative (NBI), Joanne Yawitch and Charles Perry of the COP26 Climate Champions Team are hosting a discussion for NBI Member Companies, on building climate ambition and private sector leadership in the lead up to COP26. [Full details and Zoom registration link here](#).

UNLOCKING CORPORATE PROCUREMENT TO DRIVE SOUTH AFRICA'S RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY TRANSITION LAUNCH | Monday, 29 March 2021 | 14:00 to 16:00 SAST via Zoom | Join the National Business Initiative (NBI) in partnership with The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), The Climate Group, CDP and supported by We Mean Business, to accelerate corporate renewable electricity procurement in South Africa. [Full details and Zoom registration link here](#).

UWASP: VIRTUAL PARTNERS PLATFORM MEETING | Thursday, 22 April 2021 | 09:30 to 12:00 via Zoom | 2021 marks the 5th anniversary of the uMhlathuze Water Stewardship Partnership (UWASP), a collaboration that works to improve water security across the uMhlathuze region of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. [Full details and Zoom registration link here](#).

VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKHOPS | 2021

CDP BITESIZE WEBINARS: HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS | March 2021 | Join a series of 30-minute webinars with CDP's gold accredited solutions providers on a range of sustainability topics throughout March. [Sign-up here](#).

BUILDING STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE SERIES | 30 March to 31 December 2021 | Building Strategic Intelligence is a series of interactive virtual sessions where experts and innovators associated with the World Economic Forum's Strategic Intelligence platform share their insights on some of the most pressing global issues. [Find out more](#).

BLOOMBERG NEW VOICES: JOHANNESBURG LAUNCH | 30 March 2021 | 10:00 SAST | Bloomberg New Voices, a global initiative to increase the visibility of women and other under-represented executives in finance across media platforms, is launching its intensive media training programme for the first time in Johannesburg, South Africa with a virtual event to commemorate the expansion which will feature a keynote by South African Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Fundi Tshazibana, followed by a discussion about the challenges for female representation on boards, management and policy-making, and the implications for economic performance. [Register here](#).

A CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR PLASTICS: HOW COMPANIES ARE MOVING FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION | 1 April 2021 | 13:00 ET | As plastic waste continues to threaten the globe, companies are making ambitious commitments and joining with partners to do their part. [GreenBiz Website](#).

GREENFIN 21: THE PREMIER ESG ONLINE EVENT ALIGNING THE SUSTAINABILITY, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMUNITIES | 13 to 14 April 2021 | Investors are increasingly utilizing ESG data to inform investment decisions, but a lack of standardization and communication with corporations is leading to confusion and limiting the acceleration of corporate sustainability initiatives. [Request an invitation](#).

3RD POWER WEEK AFRICA INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE | 20 to 23 April 2021 | Power Week Africa promises valuable insights on a diverse range of topics critical to the African electric power & energy industry today. [Website and details.](#)

National Business Initiative (NBI)

5th Floor, 61 Katherine Street, Dennehof, Sandton, 2196
+27 11 544 6000

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.

