

ON A CLEAR DAY 2021

NBI
National Business Initiative



On A Clear Day: Issue 799, 16 September 2021

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

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

CLOSING THE GAP OF GENDER INEQUALITY IN THE SA LABOUR MARKET A recent study by the National Business Initiative highlighted the persisting levels of gender inequality, not only in South Africa but around the world. **[Bryden Morton & Cris Blair, Moneyweb, 11 September 2021.](#)**

INSIGHTS FROM YOUNG LEADERSHIP - ETHICAL LEADERS ARE KEY TO SOUTH AFRICA'S SUCCESS As part of the National Business Initiative's (NBI) work on youth and leadership over recent months, we asked a sample of young leaders from our member companies to share their thoughts on how young leaders can drive ethical and bold social transformation in South Africa. **[Insights for NBI Members, 7 September 2021.](#)**

IN 2019, THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE (NBI) PUBLISHED OUR GENDER EQUITY IN THE WORKPLACE REPORT, unpacking complex societal and economic inequity as well as exploring how these dual dynamics affect women. Listen to NBI's Social Transformation Programme Manager, **[Bridgette Mdangayi](#)**, as she unpacks NBI's gender equality work, **[here](#).**

CLIMATE CHANGE COST COULD BE SIX TIMES MORE THAN EXPECTED The economic effects of climate change may be worse than previously thought. This is according to a new economic modelling analysis by a team of researchers from European and US universities, published on Monday in the Environmental Research Letters journal. **[Garth Theunissen, Business Day, 7 September 2021.](#)**

THE IMPERATIVE AND OPPORTUNITY OF BUILDING GENDER DIVERSITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH BOLD AND CONSCIOUS LEADERSHIP IN THE WORKPLACE Every year, August presents a key opportunity to reflect on the momentous strides that have been made towards women's empowerment in the South Africa. **[NBI Quick Brief, 2 September 2021.](#)**

NBI CEO, JOANNE YAWITCH, was interviewed last month on CNBC Africa's Closing Bell Show about the launch of our **Just Transition and Climate Pathways Study Report: Decarbonising South Africa's Power System**. Watch the discussion [here](#) and then [download the Report](#).

INDUSTRY NEWS

4 WAYS TO ADDRESS THE GENDER FINANCE GAP AND EMPOWER WOMEN Gender differences in financial inclusion put women at a further disadvantage, especially in times of crisis. [Victoria Mallinckrodt, WEF, 15 September 2021.](#)

HOW 4IR IS ENABLING POLICY-MAKING FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND AGILE FUTURE Emerging technologies, such as distributed ledger, biotech and data science, enable governments to design the right policies to ensure a sustainable future. [Stefanie M. Falconi & Rebecca King, WEF, 15 September 2021.](#)

SLIGHT DECREASE IN CAPE TOWN DAM LEVELS AS WATER CONSUMPTION RISES The capacity of dams supplying Cape Town decreased slightly in the last week while water consumption has risen in the Metro. [IOL Business, 15 September 2021.](#)

WBCSD HOSTS FIRST COMMISSIONER MEETING OF THE BUSINESS COMMISSION TO TACKLE INEQUALITY On Wednesday 8 September, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) convened the first official commissioner meeting of the newly formed Business Commission to Tackle Inequality. [WBCSD, 8 September 2021.](#)

NEW YORK SETS 2035 ZERO-EMISSION PASSENGER CAR GOAL New York Governor Kathy Hochul on Wednesday signed into law a bill that sets a goal for all new passenger cars and light-duty trucks to be zero-emission models by 2035, joining the state of California in attempting to eliminate gasoline-powered vehicles. [Daniel Trotta & David Shepardson, Reuters, 8 September 2021.](#)

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

WHAT NBI MEMBER COMPANIES HAVE DONE 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](#).

LIBERTY INSTALLS SINGAPORE-STYLE SOLAR TREES AT EASTGATE SHOPPING CENTRE Self-reliant solar trees to provide 'architecturally enriched identity', while increasing awareness of responsible energy sources. [Moneyweb, 15 September 2021.](#)

FIRSTRAND TO END FUNDING FOR NEW COAL MINES, POWER PLANTS South Africa's FirstRand will end funding for new coal-fired power stations and coal mines and has lowered the cap on its coal exposure as part of moves to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, it said on Wednesday. [Engineering News, 15 September 2021.](#)

CLICKS TO OPEN 268 MORE COVID VACCINATION SITES IN THE COMING WEEKS Pharmacy retailer Clicks says its vaccination programme continues to gain momentum, having administered 596,180 vaccinations nationally by the end of August 2021 via 300 vaccination sites. [BusinessTech, 15 September 2021.](#)

GOVT'S PRIVATE-SECTOR PARTICIPATION DRIVE COULD INCREASE EFFICIENCY, PROSPERITY – GRINDROD A port that runs efficiently "can bring prosperity all around", says Grindrod Freight Services CEO Xolani Mbambo. [Engineering News, 15 September 2021.](#)

VODACOM INSTALLS NEW SOLAR-POWERED SITES IN SA As part of Vodacom's energy and carbon management strategy and commitment to reducing its impact on the environment, the company has installed new solar-powered sites in Polokwane, Vereeniging and Bloemfontein. [IT-Online, 14 September 2021.](#)

WOMEN OF MONDI Mondi, a leading global packaging and paper group, is at the forefront of sustainable business practices. [Zululand Observer, 10 September 2021.](#)

ABSA BUILDING AWARDED EPC CERTIFICATE, LEADING THE WAY IN ENERGY PERFORMANCE COMPLIANCE Every company and building owner has a role to play in South Africa's drive to curb carbon emissions. [Engineering News, 9 September 2021.](#)

"TO REACH THESE AMBITIOUS CLIMATE GOALS, WE HAVE TO LOOK AT TRANSPORTATION" – ABB'S STEPHANIE MEDEIROS ON FLEET ELECTRIFICATION Today marks the second annual World EV Day, of which ABB is headline partner. [ABB, 9 September 2021.](#)

STANDARD BANK'S UNAYO PLATFORM AIMS TO CONNECT AFRICA'S INFORMAL MARKET TO FINANCIAL SERVICES Lender Standard Bank has launched a digital platform, Unayo, with which the financial services group hopes to disrupt the mobile money status quo in Africa. [IOL Business, 7 September 2021.](#)

NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

OLD MUTUAL: MUTUALLY COLLABORATE SURVEY To help us understand the key challenges, issues and opportunities currently facing SMMEs, entrepreneurs and working professionals in South Africa, we invite NBI Members to take part in our Mutually Collaborate Survey. The findings of the survey will enable us to design Financial Inclusion, Mentorship and Leadership programmes that are engaging and relevant and meet the needs of valued NBI and its member base. Please make your voice heard by completing this survey before **Monday, 27 September 2021** - all responses will be kept anonymous and confidential. [Click here](#) to access the voluntary survey and to view further information.

SOUTH AFRICAN PLASTICS PACT PUBLISHES AN INITIAL LIST OF PROBLEMATIC AND UNNECESSARY PLASTICS FOR PHASING OUT IN 2021 AND 2022 The South African Plastics Pact members have published [a first list](#) of problematic or unnecessary plastics, titled "Addressing problematic or unnecessary plastics" for phasing out in 2021 and 2022. [GreenCape/BizCommunity, 13 September 2021.](#)

CITY'S NEW CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AIMS TO MAKE CAPE TOWN STRONGER The City of Cape Town's Climate Change Strategy is now available online as a digital publication on the City's website. [Social TV, 12 September 2021.](#)

THE SOUTH AFRICAN SMALL BUSINESS AWARDS TO RECOGNISE ENTREPRENEURIAL EXCELLENCE This year, the National Small Business Chamber (NSBC) will mark the 13th anniversary of the South African Small Business Awards. Entries are now open. [BizCommunity, 8 September 2021.](#)

NEW CERES REPORT: FINANCING A NET ZERO ECONOMY: THE CONSEQUENCES OF PHYSICAL CLIMATE RISK FOR BANKS This report offers detailed recommendations to guide the banking industry in fully measuring, analysing, and acting against threats posed by the physical risks of climate change. [Download Report.](#)

WBCSD POLICY BRIEF: DRIVING THE TRANSITION TO A CIRCULAR ECONOMY WBCSD's [Vision 2050](#) report identifies the circular economy as a key lever in achieving a world where nine billion people live well within planetary boundaries while contributing to global agendas such as [the Paris Agreement](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). [WBCSD, 7 September 2021.](#)

OPINION: GENDER EQUALITY FOR FEMALE LEADERSHIP STILL A PIPE DREAM Real change will only come about through a determined shift in company cultural — and this starts with leadership. [Leila Ebrahimi, Business Day, 29 August 2021.](#)

SAB FOUNDATION: APPLICATIONS FOR THE THOLOANA ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME ARE OPEN The SAB Foundation is calling for entrepreneurs who are committed to boosting their growth and achieving new levels of success to apply for its Tholoana Enterprise Programme. [Details here.](#)

THE BLOOMBERG GENDER-EQUALITY INDEX (GEI) The data submission period for consideration of the 2022 Bloomberg Gender-Equality index is open now through September 30th, 2021. [Further information.](#)

#COP26: The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November 2021 and will act as a critical milestone for Governments to communicate enhanced levels of ambition to tackle the climate challenge. This year's conference will aim to address critical issues such as making coal an energy source of the past, the role of nature in addressing the climate crisis and the need to mobilise climate finance to accelerate the transition towards a net zero economy. [View the Road to COP26, here.](#)

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 latest **Blog Article**, entitled: [“How can companies handle so-called 'residual emissions'?”](#), [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 **Blog Article** entitled: [“Building Resilience Faster at World Water Week 2021”](#), [here.](#)

WE MEAN BUSINESS COALITION (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. View last week's: [“Net-Zero Transition – Latest Signals Of Change \(10.09.21\)”](#), [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 newly released Aid, entitled, [“The True Value of Food – a powerful aid to business decision-making”](#), [here.](#)

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2021

JUST TRANSITION PATHWAYS PROJECT: PUBLIC RELEASE OF THE MINING SECTOR AND THE PETROCHEMICALS AND CHEMICALS SECTOR DECARBONISATION REPORTS | Thursday, 14 October 2021 | 10:00 to 12:00 SAST | Details to be published shortly, [here.](#)

ONLINE & HYBRID EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKHOPS/CONFERENCES | 2021

CLIMATE WEEK NYC 2021: HYBRID | 20 to 26 September 2021 | Hosted annually by international non-profit the Climate Group in conjunction with the United Nations, and in partnership with the COP26 and the City of New York, Climate Week NYC is a global opportunity to come together to accelerate climate action and assess progress ahead of COP26. [Website and further details.](#)

TRIALOGUE WEBINAR: HOW BIG BUSINESS CAN SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS THROUGH TRYING TIMES | 30 September 2021 | 09:30 to 10:30 SAST | As our unemployment rates continue to climb – with one in three South Africans looking for a job – more collective effort is needed to help drive job creation. Join Trialogue and the Eskom Development Foundation for a conversation about how big business can leverage their corporate social investment to

help support the development and growth of the small business sector, particularly through these challenging times. [Zoom registration link.](#)

GIBS: INFRASTRUCTURE AS A DRIVER TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND GROWTH - HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SANRAL | 30 September 2021 | 12:00 SAST | The Government's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan identified infrastructure development as critical in regenerating the economy. [Further information and Zoom registration link.](#)

VIRTUAL AFRICA STRATEGY EXECUTION CONFERENCE | 21 to 22 October 2021 | African Executives and Leaders will learn, network and achieve strategic results for their organisation with the latest frameworks and methodologies in Strategy Execution at Africa's 2nd Strategy Execution Conference. [Website and further details.](#)

VERGE 21 ONLINE: THE CLIMATE TECH EVENT | 25 to 28 October 2021 | Join more than 10,000 leaders online — from the private and public sectors, utilities, solution providers, investors and start-ups — advancing systemic solutions to address the climate crisis through five key markets: clean energy, sustainable mobility, carbon removal, regenerative food systems and — new this year — resilient infrastructure. [Register here.](#)

USB CONSCIOUS LEADERSHIP WEBINAR SERIES 2021: THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW OF ETHICAL LEADERSHIP | 28 October 2021 | 09:30 to 11:00 CAT | How conscious leaders create the most value for society, while still maintaining moral values. | [Zoom registration link.](#)

COP26 | UNITING THE WORLD TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE | 31 October to 12 November 2021 | Glasgow, UK | The 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is seen as a critical moment on the way to achieving the necessary level of climate action. COP26 will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. [UNFCCC official website for COP26.](#)

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