

ON A CLEAR DAY 2023



On A Clear Day: Issue 841, 27 July 2023

Dear Nabeelah

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

WHY JOIN THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE (NBI)? South Africa continues to face major challenges underpinned by the fact that we are one of the most unequal societies in the world, with more than half of our population living in poverty, accompanied by escalating unemployment levels. Additionally, climate change threatens to further exacerbate these pressing economic and social issues. The NBI's purpose is to effect change in South Africa in the areas of **Economic Inclusion, Social Transformation, Environmental Sustainability** and **Institutional Capacity**. We believe a thriving society, economy and environment are possible, through the collective action of business, government and civil society. Please contact: **Gillian Hutchings** - Head: Membership & Communications for further information about our work and how to become an NBI Member Company.

GAPS IN THE CLIMATE FINANCE INVESTMENT CHAIN The Climate Finance Accelerator's (CFA) updated report looks at each of the four stages of the project cycle - initiation, development, primary funding and secondary funding/ refinancing - and examines where the gaps lie for project developers looking to access different types of potential investors. The report analyses the projects that have applied to the CFA, including their sectors, their state of readiness for investment and the amount of investment they sought. Finally, it provides some specific recommendations for governments, grant providers, angel investors/ venture capital, private equity/ impact funds, corporate funders, projects developers/

entrepreneurs and later stage investors. The CFA team believes the implementation of these recommendations would help to close some of the gaps identified in the climate finance investment chain. Access the report [here](#).

WATCH: THE NBI'S ROAD TO COP28 CAMPAIGN Each year, NBI co-hosts the SA Pavilion at UNFCCC Climate Conferences with Government, through the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment This project represents, supports & encourages bold, ambitious collaboration between the Public & Private sectors in terms of climate action to address climate change and promote a Just Transition. COP28 is an opportunity for SA to share innovative solutions with the international community to attract further resources & investment through partnership & collaboration as we transition to net zero by 2050 & we invite South African Business to participate. If you would like to join us on the [Road to #COP28](#) then get in touch to find out more!

MEETING OF TOP MINDS TO PLOT LOGISTICS FUTURE The Road Freight Association's (RFA's) annual Convention provided an unforgettable three-day experience of great speakers, insightful industry updates, excellent entertainment and unsurpassed networking opportunities at the world-class Fancourt Resort in George. [Road Ahead Online, 17 July 2023.](#)

FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN ORDER RECEIVED TO BUILD, OWN AND OPERATE UP TO 30 GIGAWATTS OF GREEN ELECTRICITY BioPower Operations Corporation (OTC Pink: BOPO) d/b/a as HYFI Corp, today announced that their Joint Venture with POWGEX ENERGY SOUTH AFRICA, POWGEX-HYFI, has secured its first significant green electricity generating facilities order for up to 30 Gigawatts (GW). They were invited to build, own and operate an initial 1 GW facility with the potential to expand to up to 30 GW of solar power in the populous Municipalities of Mpumalanga, South Africa. [EIN Presswire, 13 July 2023.](#)

MOVING POLICIES TO ACTION: MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS ERADICATING GBVF AT WORK Employers can no longer afford to turn a blind eye and ignore GBVF in the world of work. Hence, they are in the process of identifying key players in corporate South Africa to form a Private Sector Coalition and move policies to action, says Sazini Mojapelo, CEO, GBVF Response Fund. [Automotive Business Review, 26 July 2023.](#)

SAPOA AND NBI PLACE 85 UNEMPLOYED LEARNERS THROUGH YOUTH EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE The South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA) and the National Business Initiative's (NBI) Youth Employment Initiative, which was launched in early 2023 in a bid to help unemployed technical and vocational education and training (TVET) college learners to develop skills within the installation, repair, and maintenance space in the real estate industry, has resulted in the placement of 85 unemployed learners across Gauteng and Cape Town. [Asset News Hub, 25 July 2023](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

RENEWABLE ENERGY: SAWEA, CLIMATE COMMISSION SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY MASTERPLAN, INDUSTRIALISATION The South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA) and the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) have welcomed the release of the draft South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM), which was developed by the departments of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) and Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC). Stakeholders have been invited to review and comment on the draft masterplan. [Engineering News, 18 July 2023.](#)

CLIMATE ACTION: As South Africans remember and commemorate former President Nelson Mandela; the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) urged society and governments to use the day to encourage action against the impacts of climate change. July 18 marks Nelson Mandela International Day, to celebrate South Africa's former Statesman by encouraging acts of kindness, in the spirit of Madiba's values. [Engineering News, 18 July 2023.](#)

UAE'S COP28 PRESIDENT LAYS OUT PLAN FOR 'BRUTALLY HONEST' CLIMATE SUMMIT Countries at this year's U.N. climate summit must face up to how far behind they are lagging on climate change targets and agree a plan to get on track, the United Arab Emirates' incoming president of the event said on Thursday. In a speech laying out the country's plan for the COP28 summit, to be held in Dubai in November, Sultan al-Jaber said the event should also yield international goals to triple renewable energy, double energy savings and hydrogen production by 2030. [Reuters, 13 July 2023.](#)

THE NATIONAL SDG CHALLENGE The mission of the SDG-Challenge is to connect and mobilize students and organisations to work together on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN). These goals are set to combat climate change and to reduce the inequalities in the world. Organisations use the SDGs as a framework to enhance their social corporate responsibility (CSR) strategy. These goals help organisations to have their business to be more future-proof. By contributing to the SDGs, organisations respond to the increasing demand of customers for sustainable products/services. [Learn more here.](#)

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

BROADENING THE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION'S REACH IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR The public sector is the largest sector in the global economy, and with complex finances, competing demands on public resources, and the need for transparency and accountability in the management of public funds, the demand for accounting and finance professionals is high. However, many public sector entities, including at national and local government levels, struggle to find suitable candidates with the right skills to fill these positions. In collaboration with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) has published a case study on SAICA's activities in the public sector, highlighting how a focus on the public sector supports its mandate to contribute to South Africa's economic and social advancement. SAICA's priorities include increasing the professionalization of the public sector through multiple pathways to attract talent and grow its membership, as well as supporting members through professional development and by advocating on their behalf. [SAICA, 19 July 2023.](#)

RMB ADVISES SCATEC ON FUNDRAISING FOR ROLL-OUT OF INNOVATIVE SOLAR SOLUTION ACROSS AFRICA, RELEASE SOLAR Rand Merchant Bank (RMB) is proud to be the sole financial advisor to Scatec ASA (Scatec), a leading global renewable energy provider, on a US\$102 million investment from Climate Fund Managers (CFM) in Release by Scatec (Release). Release provides an innovative containerized solar and battery solution to address the rapidly growing energy demand and local power challenges across Africa. [RMB, 19 July 2023.](#)

EY HAS BEEN NAMED A LEADER IN CLIMATE CHANGE CONSULTING, BY INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FIRM VERDANTIX. Ranking above 15 other vendors, EY has been recognized as a good fit for firms looking to develop a digital-first approach to decarbonization. Read more, [here.](#)

STANDARD BANK HOSTS INAUGURAL UNIHACK EVENT Standard Bank will host its first ever UniHackathon event in Cape Town. The event is an extension of the previously held Global Kuunda Disrupt Hackathon, targeted at selected graduates, and designed to expose customer-centric, innovative solutions to everyday challenges. The event will run over two days and consist of ten teams with five members in each team. Each team will be asked to develop innovative ways to respond to various challenges that are applicable to financial services and broader society. They will be allocated 18 hours to develop their solutions and will be judged upon completion of the presenting their proof of concept to the judging panel. This is the first ever iteration of this type of event and forms part of the bank's regular focus on diversified recruitment, skills development and innovation. "At Standard Bank, we value the importance of learning and development, and we are excited to be hosting this event with specific focus on young graduates who are looking to enter the burgeoning innovation sector," says Jorg Fischer, Standard Bank Group Chief Information Officer. [Standard Bank, 17 July 2023.](#)

SAB AND ISANTI GLASS CELEBRATE LOCALISATION AND TRANSFORMATION The South African Breweries and Isanti Glass hosted the Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr Fikile Majola and the Premier of Gauteng, Mr Panyaza Lesufi at an event marking a successful three-year partnership. The event served to commemorate an economic growth initiative aimed at empowering the glass industry. Deputy Minister Majola said, "We believe that by promoting black industrialization we are changing the economic fortunes in the country - something that is very important to us. The Isanti Glass initiative is a strong example of a successful partnership that provides black-owned entities access to markets around the country." [SAB, 17 July 2023.](#)

SUN CITY INSTALLS SOLAR SYSTEM South Africa's most famous holiday resort, Sun City in the North West Province, has taken its name to heart and installed a R16-million solar plant to reduce electricity consumption from the national grid. Located along the border of the Pilanesberg National Park, with many sunny days throughout the year, the grid-tied solar photovoltaic system rated at 1.4 megawatts peak of installed capacity tying in at the Sun Central entertainment centre for use around Sun City. Read more, [here](#).

DOLPHIN BAY PUTS A HUMAN FACE TO AUTOMATION There's more to factory automation than robots and machines. There's a profoundly human aspect to it too. Cirvan Valentyn of Dolphin Bay says while he was uncertain about the new technology at first, he quickly came to see the benefits of a safer, quicker, more efficient and cleaner working environment. While the machines do the work in the background, there's an opportunity to reflect on the human side of it. "There's a lesson here," said Bertus. "People are capable of so much more than one might think. Sometimes when people are employed as manual labour, one doesn't recognize their hidden potential. Read more [here](#).

NOTICES/REPORTS/OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

DRAFT FOR COMMENT: CODE FOR ETHICAL LEADERSHIP IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT This Code for Ethical Leadership in Local Government was developed as part of the Local Government Ethical Leadership Initiative – a partnership between The Ethics Institute, the Department for Cooperative Governance, the South African Local Government Association, and the Moral Regeneration Movement. It is more than two years in the making, following on country-wide research and consultation. Focus groups and interviews were conducted in all of South Africa's provinces to ascertain the challenges around ethical leadership in local government, followed by a national survey. Subsequent to this a draft version of the Code was taken back for consultation in each of the provinces. This exposure draft brings together all comments to date and is the final opportunity for comments prior to the formal launch. We would appreciate your inputs and guidance as we move towards finalisation. We look forward to hearing from you. Please send comments and feedback by email to lgeli@tei.org.za by **31 July 2023**. Access the draft code [here](#).

TRIALOGUE: CSI AWARDS Entries are now open for the 2023 Trialogue Strategic CSI Award. If your company has a CSI project that creates positive developmental change while benefiting business, we would like to hear from you. Entries are judged by two independent judges and the winning company can look forward to a complimentary double-page feature in the upcoming edition of the Trialogue Business in Society Handbook, worth R97 000, as well as extensive media coverage. Apply today! Click [here](#).

UN CELEBRATES NELSON MANDELA, 'A COLOSSUS OF COURAGE AND CONVICTION' UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for action to build a better world in his message to mark Nelson Mandela International Day. The annual celebration pays tribute to Mr. Mandela's 67 years of service to humanity as a human rights lawyer, prisoner of conscience, international peacemaker and the first democratically elected President of post-apartheid South Africa. [United Nations, 18 July 2023](#).

REPORT: MAJORITY OF WOMEN LIVE IN COUNTRIES WITH LARGE GENDER GAPS, UN REPORT REVEALS Out of 114 countries studied, none has achieved full gender parity, the report by UN Women and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) has revealed. Moreover, fewer than one per cent of women and girls globally live in a country with both high women's empowerment and a small gender gap in areas such as health and education. Meanwhile, 3.1 billion women and girls - more than 90 per cent of the world's female population - live in countries characterized by a large women's empowerment deficit and a large gender gap. [United Nations, 18 July 2023](#).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: LIMPOPO WATER PROJECT SERVES AS PPP MODEL FOR MUNICIPALITIES A multi-year public-private partnership (PPP) to upgrade the Masodi wastewater treatment works (WWTW), in Limpopo, serves as a model for other municipalities to embrace partnerships and collaborations with the private sector for socioeconomic development of their communities. The plant is being upgraded to produce ten-million litres a day by the Mogalakwena local municipality and Ivanplats Mine, with the latter fully funding and implementing the project. [Engineering News, 18 July 2023](#).

CLIMATE & GENDER: INTERSECTIONALITY CAN HELP US IDENTIFY THE WOMEN AT CLIMATE CHANGE'S SHARPEST EDGE

Women everywhere are disproportionately impacted by climate change, whether that means deepening existing inequalities or exposing them to the threat of gender-based violence. Intersectionality can help us understand better how and why some groups of women are more impacted than others. By understanding intersectionality, we can give women a place at the table and catalyse meaningful action on the climate crisis. [World Economic Forum, 17 July 2023.](#)

AWARDS: ENTER SA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND INFLUENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS The Eco-Logic Awards in partnership with Peoples Weather Channel as featured on DSTV, Openview and WildAid, showcase and support those who provide products, services and interventions that are 'Good for People and Planet'. The awards are opportunity for every one of us to support and participate in building a safer, kinder, and more sustainable society and environment to live in. By entering or nominating an Eco-Champion into South Africa's most prestigious and influential annual environmental award show, you can be a part of the Eco-Logical movement driving positive change and restoring our connection to nature and the planet. Come see how Going Green Fun, Fashionable and Financially Beneficial for all is! For more information and to enter, click [here](#).

EQUALITY & INCLUSION: HOW INCLUSION AND CARE POLICIES CAN TACKLE INEQUALITIES IN CITIES The world is urbanizing at an unprecedented pace, with over half the global population of 8 billion in cities. As urban areas continue to grow, inequalities are deepening. Caring policies that recognize citizens as agents of change and promote mutual support are essential to creating more inclusive, just and equitable cities. Placing communities at the core of these policies enables local governments and international development partners to bridge gaps and foster a more harmonious and compassionate society. [World Economic Forum, 17 July 2023.](#)

SA'S ICT INFRASTRUCTURE HOLDING US BACK FROM 4IR ADVANCEMENT IN EDUCATION South Africa's unequal distribution and roll-out of ICT infrastructure is hampering development in the education sector. Cape Town hosts AfricaCom annually, regarded as the largest networking platform focusing on infrastructure, disruptive technologies, digital services and ICT strategy, but the roll-out needs to reach the poor as well. [Read more here.](#)

IN PUSH TO TRANSFORM FOOD SYSTEMS, ACCELERATE SDGS ACTION, GUTERRES CONVENES LEADERS FOR UNFSS+2 The event highlights that food systems transformation is key to reducing CO2 emissions and keeping the 1.5C goal of the Paris Agreement alive, and that it requires cooperation with large food and agricultural companies. At the same time, cognisant of the worsening impacts of the climate crisis on agriculture and small farmers, leaders and key actors will discuss adaptation measures and investments. Read more about The UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) convened by the UN Secretary-General [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. In 2023, 7,000 companies have been requested to disclose on plastics for the first time through CDP's water security questionnaire. The new plastics module consists of five to nine unscored questions that cover plastics-related business risks, targets, value chain mapping, and raw material content, among other topics. Read more about The Business Case for Plastic Disclosure and resources companies can use [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 more about the UNGC [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. Read their "[Net Zero Transition – The Latest Signals Of Change: July 21, 2023](#)" [here](#).

WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD) WBCSD is an international, CEO-led organization of almost 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 recently published [Insight Article](#), entitled: "[CSR and Circular economy: Navigating sustainability reporting with the Circular Transition Indicators](#)" [here](#).

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2023

CO-CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT DECARBONISATION IN THE HEAVY MANUFACTURING SECTOR WORKSHOPS | 2 August, 1 September and 5 October 2023 | The Just Transition and Climate Pathways study, which was run collectively with South African business, and in partnership with Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) and Boston Consulting Group (BCG), highlighted 10 key findings that, if implemented, could put South Africa on a path to decarbonise to net zero emissions by 2050. The National Business Initiative (NBI) aims to work collectively with member companies and key stakeholders in the heavy manufacturing sectors, as well as with local government, to scope and identify mitigation and Just Transition implementation opportunities. From August to October, we plan to run three interactive workshops per sector to map, scope and prioritise a set of collective action areas and opportunities to capture these in concept notes for further development. It is our ambition that we create a catalogue of these ideas and potential projects, enable stakeholders and together mobilise further support, locally and internationally, for the scale of implementation required to reach net-zero. For further detail please contact [Alexa Brown-Robinson](#).

ONLINE & HYBRID EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKHOPS/CONFERENCES | 2023

59TH SESSION OF THE IPCC (IPCC 59) | 25-28 July 2023 | The 59th session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 59) will convene from 25-28 July 2023. The meeting will be the first meeting of the seventh assessment cycle. The IPCC was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to "assess, in a comprehensive, objective, open, and transparent manner, the scientific, technical, and socio-economic information relevant to understanding human-induced climate change, its potential impacts, and adaptation and mitigation options." The IPCC does not undertake new research or monitor climate-related data. Instead, it conducts assessments of the state of climate change knowledge based on published, peer reviewed scientific and technical literature. The Panel's reports are intended to be policy relevant but not policy prescriptive. They provide key inputs into international climate change negotiations. | [Website & further details](#).

38TH UN-WATER MEETING | 18-19 August 2023 | The 38th UN-Water Meeting will convene in August 2023 under the theme, 'Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-wise World'. It will bring together UN-Water Members and Partners to advance progress on SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation). UN-Water meetings gather UN-Water Members and Partners to coordinate the UN's approach to water and sanitation issues. | [Website & further details](#).

WORLD WATER WEEK 2023 | 20-24 August 2023 | World Water Week 2023 will plant seeds of change. Join online and in Stockholm, at the Waterfront Congress Center with 14,000m² on-site space, for a programme full of sessions on topics like innovation, behavioural change, technology, and governance. Drawing on the latest scientific knowledge and experiences from around the world, we will explore how water can be a powerful tool to address the water crisis, global heating, biodiversity loss, poverty, and many other water-related challenges. | [Website & further details](#).

NET ZERO FESTIVAL 2023 | 31 October- 1 November 2023 | London, UK | Hosted by BusinessGreen, the UK's leading green business media brand and a source of news and analysis for the green business community that reaches over a million readers a year, the Net Zero Festival will bring together over 1,000 senior business executives, investors, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and campaigners over two days to explore how to navigate the defining economic,

political, and technological trend of the age and work together to accelerate the net zero transition. This year's Festival will build on the success of last year's event, which brought together a host of leading experts in the net zero transition, including Chris Skidmore (who used the event to formally launch the Net Zero Review), head of the UN's High Level Expert Group on Net Zero Catherine McKenna, the CBI's Rain Newton-Smith, and the CCC's Chris Stark, among many others. | [Website & further details](#).

ESG AFRICA CONFERENCE | 04 – 05 October 2023 | Sandton, South Africa | ESG Africa Conference has partnered with the NBI to convene the most impactful and forward-thinking minds across Africa, as we empower leaders to drive a more sustainable future at the ESG Africa Conference. This highly anticipated event provides an unparalleled platform for industry pioneers and experts to come together and tackle the common challenges associated with embedding ESG practices within organisations. Don't miss out on this extraordinary opportunity to reshape the future and become a catalyst for change. Early bird tickets are available until 30 July 2023: [Website & further details](#).

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