

ON A CLEAR DAY 2023



On A Clear Day: Issue 833, 6 April 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.

DECARBONISING SOUTH AFRICA'S TRANSPORT SECTOR *Decarbonising South Africa's Transport Sector* is the latest report to be released as part of the series of publications from the Climate Pathways and Just Transition Project run by the National Business Initiative (NBI), in partnership with Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) and Boston Consulting Group (BCG). Globally, the transport sector is one of the significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, with most transport today running off internal combustion engines powered by fossil fuels. Global CO2 emissions from the transport sector grew by 8% year-on-year and rebounded to a 37% share of emissions in 2021 post-pandemic. In South Africa, transport is

the third largest emitting sector, with almost 55 Mt CO2 emissions contributing more than 10% to the country's national gross emissions. Read more, [here](#).

PARTNERING AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING AND CORRUPTION IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SUBREGION What is the role of business in reducing illicit financial flows in the Southern Africa subregion? How is it evolving? What can businesses do to address corruption and money laundering risks in order to boost market growth and development and to strengthen governance systems? To explore these questions, the National Business Initiative (NBI), Basel Institute on Governance the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) and Covington organised a multi-stakeholder Thought Leadership Dialogue on "Partnering Against Money Laundering and Corruption in South Africa and the Subregion". Read more, [here](#).

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO DEVELOP A PROJECT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE INSTALLATION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE (IRM) INITIATIVE The National Business Initiative (NBI) wishes to invest in an appropriate project management system (PMS) for the effective and consistent monitoring and management of the Installation Repair and Maintenance (IRM) Initiative (The Programme). As such, via this Request for Proposals, the NBI is inviting suppliers of off the-shelf (customizable) systems as well as qualified consultants who can build, implement, and maintain such systems, to submit proposals for consideration. To find out more about the submission process, click [here](#).

VACANCY | MEMBERSHIP LIAISON MANAGER The NBI's identity is embedded in our membership. Our work is made possible through our membership community whose contributions allow substance to be given to the role of business in shaping a sustainable future. This is achieved through member companies' support for the NBI and active involvement within our work. This position is within the Membership and Communications Unit to work with the Head of Membership and Communications in demonstrating and communicating the NBI's value proposition to retain and grow the NBI's membership community. To find out more about the vacancy, click [here](#).

NET-ZERO VEHICLES AND EFFICIENT TRANSPORT KEY TO DECARBONISING SECTOR BY 2050 *Decarbonising South Africa's Transport Sector* is the latest report to be released as part of the series of publications from the Climate Pathways and Just Transition Project. The report is run by the National Business Initiative (NBI), in partnership with Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) and Boston Consulting Group (BCG). Globally, the transport sector is one of the significant contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, with most transport today running off internal combustion engines powered by fossil fuels. Global CO2 emissions from the transport sector grew by 8% year-on-year and rebounded to a 37% share of emissions in 2021 post-pandemic. In South Africa, transport is the third largest emitting sector, with almost 55 Mt CO2 emissions contributing more than 10% to the country's national gross emissions. [Biz Community, 4 April 2023.](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS

FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE CENTRE ESTABLISHES FORENSIC UNIT TO SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT The Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) has established a state forensic capability (SFC) unit which will help deal with an increase in complex money laundering matters in the aftermath of greylisting. [Times Live, 4 April 2023.](#)

C40 RELEASES 2022 ANNUAL REPORT Against a backdrop of extreme climate events affecting every region of the planet, and geopolitical turbulence which has impacted global energy markets, 2022 did not see the level of climate action that these crises urgently demand. At the intergovernmental level, COP27 ended without meaningful progress on the necessary rapid phase out of fossil fuels. In sharp contrast, mayors continued to lead the way as the doers, not the delayers, with ambitious and science-based action to avert catastrophic climate breakdown. [C40 Cities, 31 March 2023.](#)

ONCE IN A GENERATION GATHERING MOBILIZES WATER ACTION, HIGHLIGHTING NEED FOR STRONGER ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM FOR BUSINESS For the first time in nearly 50 years, the United Nations convened a conference dedicated to water that attracted thousands of attendees. While the UN Water Conference was not intended to have a negotiated outcome, representatives from member states, civil society, business and NGOs made over 700 voluntary

commitments to the Water Action Agenda aiming to accelerate progress toward Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 and other water-related SDGs. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 29 March 2023.](#)

42 YEARS NEEDED TO ACHIEVE 2030 AGENDA: ASIA-PACIFIC PROGRESS REPORT The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has published the 2023 edition of its annual flagship report that assesses regional progress towards the SDGs. The report finds that based on current trends, it will take another 42 years for Asia and the Pacific to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [SDG Knowledge Hub, 29 March 2023.](#)

EQUITY VS EQUALITY: WHY GENDER EQUITY IS THE WAY FORWARD As Women's History Month comes to a close, we are still celebrating the commendable strides women are making toward equality in the workplace. Women now hold a record 32% of senior leadership positions, and 90% of companies employ women at the C-suite level. However, to fully appreciate this progress, we must also recognize the obstacles professional women have faced and those that are still to come. Read more [here.](#)

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

INDEX INSURANCE PRODUCTS CAN ELEVATE EMERGING FARMERS TOWARDS FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN SOUTH AFRICA Biodiversity and economic issues have taken center stage in South African agriculture. Recently, Locust damage and Foot and Mouth Disease temporarily distorted trade. Additionally, the Ukraine-Russia conflict has increased input costs resulting in farmers switching from maize to soybeans. The prolonged rains have resulted in farmers planting late and some switching from maize to sunflower in certain geographic areas. These challenges highlight the risks and uncertainties in business, and agriculture is no different. The calamities pose a great risk to the agricultural value chain. [Santam, 5 April 2023.](#)

ANGLO SIGNS ANOTHER GREEN STEEL DEAL INVOLVING SOUTH AFRICAN IRON-ORE Mitigating climate change, the biggest challenge of our time, requires a new, clean industrial revolution, says H2 Green Steel of Sweden, which on Tuesday announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Anglo American to advance green steelmaking. [Engineering News, 4 April 2023.](#)

ABSA TO GIVE ITS SMALL BUSINESS CLIENTS AN ENERGY LIFEBOAT Absa said in a statement it would provide up to R50m in energy subsidy under its Green Asset Finance programme for qualifying SMEs, in a move to support and grow small- and medium-sized businesses. Absa's energy subsidy is the only grant of its kind providing some support to small business customers to finance solar installations and keep the lights on, the bank said. Eligible SMEs that had their commercial properties financed by Absa would be contacted by Absa and need not take any action to apply for the support. [IOL, 4 April 2023.](#)

FRITO-LAY AND QUAKER OPEN NEW INDUSTRY-LEADING GREENHOUSE LEARNING CENTER TO FAST-TRACK SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING INNOVATION Frito-Lay and Quaker today announced the opening of an industry-leading Greenhouse Learning Center at its R&D headquarters. The Learning Center will be used to field test, measure, and analyze compostable packaging with an aim to speed up the rate of innovation. This facility represents a key milestone to achieve the company's PepsiCo Positive (pep+) packaging goal to design 100 percent of packaging to be recyclable, compostable, biodegradable or reusable by 2025. [PepsiCo, 4 April 2023.](#)

OLD MUTUAL ANNOUNCES ITS NET ZERO ASSET OWNER ALLIANCE 2025 INTERMEDIATE TARGETS In 2022, Old Mutual joined the United Nations-convened Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance (NZAOA), a member-led initiative of institutional investors that are committed to transitioning their investment portfolios to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Our key objectives are to gain insights and knowledge, liaise with global peers, and contribute to and influence the broader African and emerging market decarbonisation pathway. Old Mutual is committed to transitioning its investment portfolios towards companies that are low emitters of greenhouse gas emissions and to those that are taking active steps to reducing their carbon emissions. [Old Mutual, 31 March 2023.](#)

SUN INTERNATIONAL TAKES A SEAT FOR CEO WHEELCHAIR CAMPAIGN 2023 Sun International CEO Anthony Leeming took a seat for the day - not at the boardroom table, but in a wheelchair, to create awareness for those with intellectual disabilities. The hospitality and gaming company has donated R55 000 towards the annual Little Eden Society CEO Wheelchair Campaign, which sees chief executives across the country spend a day in a wheelchair to raise awareness about challenges experienced by people with limited mobility. Read more, [here](#).

AFRICA BUSINESS AGENDA: WORKFORCE PERSPECTIVE 2023 The African continent is a hub of economic activity with a growing business sector that is increasingly becoming globally competitive. When it comes to the continent's growing workforce, it can arguably be seen as one of the business sector's greatest assets as it boasts diverse people who possess varying skills sets and experiences, and who will continue to play a critical role in driving economic growth in the coming years. [PwC, 29 March 2023](#).

SHELL PUBLISHES REPORTS ON SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE & ENERGY TRANSITION LOBBYING AND PAYMENTS TO GOVERNMENTS Shell has been formally reporting on sustainability-related performance for more than 25 years, with the aim of being transparent about activities that are important to investors, governments, and civil society. The **Shell Sustainability Report** outlines our social, safety and environmental performance in 2022 and sets out our progress in transitioning our business to net-zero emissions. In his introduction to the report, Shell's Chief Executive Officer, Wael Sawan, writes: *"As we invest in the energy needed today, our target to become a net-zero emissions energy business by 2050 remains at the heart of our strategy. We are making good progress. By the end of 2022, we had reduced carbon emissions from our operations by 30% compared with 2016 on a net basis, more than halfway towards our target of a 50% reduction by 2030. This report shows what we have achieved so far in our work to be a sustainable business. We aim to do this work responsibly, with discipline and at pace to make a positive difference."* [Shell, 28 March 2023](#).

FNB DEBUTS 'ENERGY HOME LOAN' AS IT BEEFS UP SOLAR FINANCING Lender FNB has bolstered its residential solar financing solutions, with a new option that allows clients to add a loan facility to their existing bond to fund the installation of solar energy systems to their homes. The "energy home loan" utilises available funds in an existing mortgage bond, or can be added to a new home loan, Sizwe Nxedlana, FNB's private segment CEO said on Monday. [Moneyweb, 27 March 2023](#).

BCG NAMED A WORLDWIDE LEADER IN ESG/SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY CONSULTING SERVICES BY IDC MARKETSCAPE Boston Consulting Group (BCG) was named a Leader in the IDC MarketScape: Worldwide ESG/Sustainability Strategy Consulting Services 2023 Vendor Assessment (Doc # US49044922, February 2023). *"BCG's capabilities in addressing the intersections of environmental and societal issues allows the company to deploy solutions that will encompass the holistic nature of corporate sustainability,"* the report said. [Boston Consulting Group, 27 March 2023](#).

NOTICES/REPORTS/OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

DECARBONISATION IS KEY AS ECONOMIC GROWTH IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA SLOWS Growth across Sub-Saharan Africa remains sluggish, dragged down by uncertainty in the global economy, the underperformance of the continent's largest economies, high inflation, and a sharp deceleration of investment growth, a recent World Bank report says. [ESI Africa, 6 April 2023](#).

NASPERS, TAKEALOT AND MEDIA24 JOIN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PLASTICS PACT TO REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE ACROSS VALUE CHAIN Naspers, and its subsidiary businesses, Takealot and Media24, have joined the South African Plastics Pact, an industry collaboration of packaging producers, brand owners, retailers, recyclers, governments and NGOs to tackle plastic packaging waste by creating a circular economy for plastics. Read more, [here](#).

2023 ENERGY INVESTMENT VILLAGE OPEN FOR PITCHES The Green Energy Africa Summit (GEAS) has announced the launch of the 2023 Energy Investment Village (EIV), a deal-pitching event for African clean-tech start-ups and energy projects. The EIV is now open for entries from emerging African energy businesses and will culminate in a Lion's Den-type pitching event during the GEAS to be held in Cape Town on October 11, 2023. [Engineering News, 4 April 2023](#).

EU COUNTRIES APPROVE 2035 PHASEOUT OF CO2-EMITTING CARS, AND THE OTHER NATURE AND CLIMATE NEWS YOU NEED TO READ THIS WEEK Top nature and climate news: EU countries approve 2035 phaseout of CO2-emitting cars; Antarctic ice melt slows global ocean flows; India's heatwaves approaching limits of human survival. [World Economic Forum, 4 April 2023.](#)

AFRICAN YOUTH AT THE FRONTLINES OF ADDRESSING CLIMATE ISSUES During the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 58th session in Switzerland UN secretary general Antonio Guterres appealed to young climate leaders worldwide to step up their efforts and push for more action on climate change in 2023. He also stressed that the steadfast belief of young individuals is crucial in achieving climate objectives, breaking the world's dependence on fossil fuels and ensuring fairness in addressing climate change. [ESI Africa, 4 April 2023.](#)

THE ENERGY TRANSITION MOONSHOT: 4 CEOS EXPLAIN INNOVATIONS THAT WILL TRANSFORM OUR WORLD The latest IPCC report says we need a substantial reduction in fossil-fuel use to keep temperature rises below 1.5°C. More than \$35 trillion investment in transition technologies is required by 2030 to make this possible. Four CEOs at the forefront of the energy transition spoke to the World Economic Forum about the innovative work their companies are doing. [World Economic Forum, 3 April 2023.](#)

WBCSD UPDATES THE CLIMATE SCENARIO ANALYSIS TOOL FOR COMPANIES TO LEVERAGE IN THEIR CLIMATE-RELATED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES On 31 March 2023, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) released the Energy Climate Scenario Catalogue version 2.0. The Catalogue enables businesses to conduct strategic climate resilience assessments and explore transition pathways. It outlines the dependencies and uncertainties across various possible temperature and energy system outcomes. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 31 March 2023.](#)

IPCC SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT SYNTHESIS REPORT: BUSINESS BRIEF The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has published its Synthesis Report of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), highlighting the urgent need for action to prevent global temperatures from exceeding the 1.5°C threshold. To limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, deep, rapid, and sustained greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions are required in all sectors, with emissions peaking by 2025 at the latest and being cut by almost half by 2030. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 29 March 2023.](#)

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. Since their inception in 2000, CDP has played a transformational role in driving climate disclosure and action from businesses, investors, cities, and governments around the world. Read their latest **Press Release**, entitled: **"Research reveals building sector is dangerously behind on climate progress and planning for net-zero"** [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 2023 Newsletter**, [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: March 24, 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: “**The Soft Commodities Forum’s Farmer First Clusters explores deforestation-free production transition with the UK Government**” [here](#).

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2023

No events to share.

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

NATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON ELECTRICITY PLANNING AND THE JUST TRANSITION | 14 April 2023 | CSIR International Convention Centre, in Brummeria, Pretoria. | The Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) will host the National Colloquium on long term electricity planning and the Just transition. The colloquium will review the PCC’s recommendations to government on national electricity planning as South Africa reviews its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) amidst a national state of disaster in response to the perennial electricity shortages in the country. The Colloquium follows a series of information and consultation sessions that the PCC has been facilitating with South Africa’s social partners – business, civil society, government and labour – as well as youth and the faith community. The outcomes of these dialogue events will underpin the Colloquium, which in turn will provide stakeholders with the opportunity to interrogate and inform the PCC’s consolidated recommendations. The recommendations being prepared by the PCC are in support of the ongoing national Just Transition process and seek to align with the Just Transition Framework approved by Cabinet in 2022. | [Website & further details.](#)

GLOBAL HYDROGEN CONFERENCE 2023 | 20 April 2023 | Virtual | Global Hydrogen Conference 2023 is an interactive virtual conference from Global Hydrogen Review, focusing on innovative technology and solutions that will help to accelerate the hydrogen revolution. You can expect a range of presentations from leading companies in the hydrogen sector, and live Q&As with industry experts on key topics. | [Website & further details.](#)

THE SOLAR SHOW AFRICA | 25-26 April 2023 | Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg | Built on 25 years of history, The Solar Show Africa is about innovation, investment, and infrastructure – energy for the people! We are accelerating Africa’s cleaner sustainable energy future. It is about the big ideas, new technologies and market disruptions that are enabling Africa’s energy transition and bringing solar energy generation, battery, storage solutions and clean energy innovations to the forefront. Our event is a multi-branded vibrant exhibition, intentionally designed to seamlessly represents the convergence between conventional generation, lower-carbon innovations, and renewable energy solutions. | [Website & further details.](#)

MOZAMBIQUE MINING & ENERGY CONFERENCE (MMEC) | 26-27 April 2023 | Chissano Joachim Conference Centre in Maputo, Mozambique | Organized by AME Mocambique, in partnership with ENH, the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy, and Ametrade UK, this event has earned a reputation as the premier gathering for stakeholders in the energy, mining, oil, and gas industries in Mozambique and the entire southern African sub-region. Over the past 15 years, MMEC has been a key platform for exploring critical developments, policies, and projects in Mozambique’s extractive industries. The conference provides a unique opportunity for networking among all stakeholders and offers insights into the vast opportunities available in these important sectors of the economy. | [Website & further details.](#)

WBCSD LIAISON DELEGATE MEETING 2023 | 2-4 May 2023 | Hybrid- Montreux, Switzerland | WBCSD Liaison Delegate Meeting is the proud winner of Event Tech’s best hybrid event production and bronze medallist of Field Marketing & Brand Experience Awards in 2022. Don’t miss this opportunity to live this unique experience and join sustainability leaders from the world’s most innovative companies. | [Website & further details.](#)

TRIALOGUE BUSINESS IN SOCIETY CONFERENCE| 9-10 May 2023 | Hybrid- The Wanderers Club in Illovo, Johannesburg

| The Trialogue Business in Society Conference is the premier annual conference in South Africa showcasing important developments across the corporate responsibility sector, with a focus on the 'S' in ESG. The target audience is corporates and non-profit organisations, and the aim is to enhance knowledge and collaborations to help businesses perform more sustainably in society. In 2023, Trialogue is planning another hybrid conference (in-person in Johannesburg and online) under the overarching theme inclusive and purposeful business. Some of the confirmed and potential topics are the just energy transition, digital inclusivity, catalysing impact in the green economy and inclusive philanthropy. | [Website & further details.](#)

ENLIT AFRICA| 16-18 May 2023 | Virtual | Enlit Africa hosts Africa's entire power & energy industry in this premier conference and exhibition space. As the leading platform, we gather Africa's energy community for three days to meet and inspire each other in Cape Town from 16 - 18 May 2023. Enlit Africa includes live and digital events, exhibitions, and exclusive one-on-one interviews with leaders in the energy sector. Our host publication - ESI Africa - supplies compelling energy news & media content. In addition, there's product launches, innovative technology showcases, and more | [Website & further details.](#)

ANNUAL AFRICA ESG /IMPACT INVESTING & SUSTAINABLE FINANCE SUMMIT- SOUTHERN AFRICA FORUM 2023| 25-26 May 2023 | Cape Town, South Africa | The Annual Africa ESG / Impact Investing & Sustainable Finance Summit Forums are premium events hosted annually across the Africa continent with regional forums in Southern, East and central and West and North Africa bringing together local, continental and global thought leaders, experts, policy makers, institutional investors, researchers, impact investors, financial institutions, philanthropists, activists, DFI's, governments, private sector and various NGO's to address issues related to ESG, Impact Investing, sustainable finance, and climate change. | [Website & further details.](#)

AFRICA ENERGY FORUM 2023| 20-23 June 2023 | Nairobi, Kenya | Once again, we will unite governments, utilities and regulators with development finance institutions, commercial banks, power developers, technology providers, EPCs and professional services. Over the last 24 years, the Forum has earned a reputation as the most meaningful gathering of decision-makers in African energy to form partnerships, identify opportunities and move the industry forward. We hand-pick the most credible organisations in the sector, delivering an intensive networking experience. | [Website & further details.](#)

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