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ON A CLEAR DAY

Bringing you stories that inspire, actions that ignite, and initiatives that empower.

National Business Initiative

03 July 2025

Issue: 875



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF NBI'S IMPACT!

For 30 years, the <u>National Business Initiative (NBI)</u> has been more than a champion of sustainability, we have been catalysts for resilient businesses, inclusive growth, and thriving economies. As a valued member, you are part of a forward-thinking network driving real change through collaboration, innovation, and leadership. Together, we have embedded sustainability at the heart of business strategy.

To learn more about membership, contact <u>Gillian Hutchings</u>, Head of Membership & Communications.

Join us as we invest in the next generation of leaders, innovators, and changemakers.

NBI DRIVING CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION

On the Final Day of Youth Month: Reflecting on Impact, Partnerships, and Youth-Led Change

At the National Business Initiative (NBI), this month was an opportunity to reflect on our ongoing work in economic inclusion, particularly in areas of skills development, youth employability and support for township economies. Our work recognises that meaningful economic inclusion requires practical and innovative pathways that connect young people to opportunities, not only as job seekers, but also as job creators.



Read more

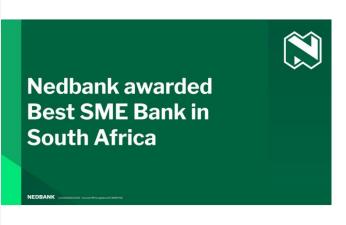


CoGTA-led dialogue bridges sectors to boost municipal performance. The session was convened by the National Business Initiative (NBI), which is playing a pivotal role in the campaign by facilitating dialogue between government and the private sector. As a proud founding member of the NBI, established in 1995 under the leadership former President of Nelson Mandela, Sappi was pleased to support this vital initiative by hosting the event and reaffirming its commitment to collaborative, solution-driven engagement.

Read more

Please note the submission deadline for commentary on the White Paper on Local Government Review has been extended to **31 July 2025**. We encourage all business stakeholders to take this opportunity to contribute further to the discussion on local government reform. Please forward any additional comments to Brandon Mtshaulana at brandonm@nbi.org.za before 12:00pm on 31 July 2025.

EXPLORE GROUNDBREAKING INNOVATIONS FROM NBI MEMBER COMPANIES



Following a series of international award wins in 2024, Nedbank has, once again, reinforced its position as the leading bank for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) after securing international recognition as the Best Bank for SMEs by a number of awards including The Global Finance Magazine Awards 2025, The Digital Banker, Global SME Banking Innovation Awards 2025 and, for the fourth consecutive year, The Asian Banker, Global Middle East & Africa Awards.

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Despite being the country's biggest source of employment, small South African businesses face an uphill battle when it comes to getting funding.

However, with major companies like <u>Pick n Pay</u> and <u>Capitec</u> now moving into the space, opportunities are increasing for these businesses.

Read more





Old Mutual SMEgo has launched its second edition of the SMEGo Pitchathon, for businesses in the ICT and Financial Services offering a prize money of R4,2m, an increase of over R1m from the 2024 edition. Fourteen businesses will be awarded R300,000 each towards their business needs. The launch was held at an event in Rosebank attended by various stakeholders.

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Investing in Africa's future: Standard Bank champions climate-smart agriculture. The bank is helping to build a future where agriculture not only feeds the world, but also serves as a robust buffer against climate change

Read more





South Africa's rural and peri-urban areas are home to a vibrant informal economy—an enterprising ecosystem of spaza shops, street vendors, barbers, mechanics, and countless microenterprises that shape daily life in the townships. It's a space defined not only by survival, but by creativity and community-rooted resilience.

And there's a name for it: kasinomics. Coined by South African marketer and author GG Alcock, kasinomics speaks to a R1 trillion economy built on grit, trust, hustle, and lived experience.

On International Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day (27 June), Sappi Southern Africa is proud not just to acknowledge the impact of kasinomics—but to be an active partner in sustaining its momentum and unlocking its true potential.

Read more

Speaking at the handover of the new library to Ethelbert Child and Youth Care Centre, Vivian Reddy, Founder and Chairman of Sibaya Community Trust said this was the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of the children symbolised through the opening of this library.

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STAY UPDATED AND BE INSPIRED WITH THE LATEST INDUSTRY NEWS



At London Climate Action Week, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), in partnership with ERM and leading energy companies, launched a new brief: "Navigating the investment case for colocated long-duration energy storage: Delivering 3x Renewables by 2030".

Read more

Recognised as the CSI Manager of the Year through the CSI Legacy Awards, Vovo Ngcwabe has become a leading figure in Corporate Social Investment in South Africa. Her innovative leadership and passion for sustainable development have played a central role in the success of the Mbewu Social Fund, a pioneering initiative she helped design while serving at Barloworld.

Today, as Non-Executive Director of the fund, her influence continues to shape the way corporates engage with social change.

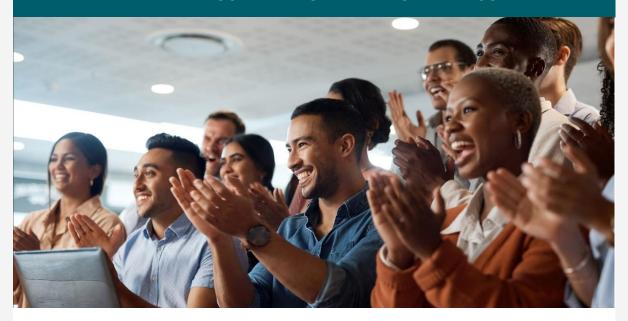
Read more





South African companies navigating a complex sustainability reporting landscape, marked by diverse frameworks and voluntary practices. In the absence of a legal mandate, reporting varies significantly across sectors. The International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) offers a potential solution: a globally consistent baseline for sustainability disclosures. Aligning with these standards could enhance South Africa's access to international capital, attract foreign investment and drive innovation.

NBI IN PERSON EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS



NBI events unite leaders and visionaries to drive bold climate action, inclusive economic growth, innovative capacity building and transformative solutions for South Africa's greatest challenges.



Launch of the RE100-NBI South African Policy Recommendations on Renewable Electricity

Date: Tuesday, 8 July

2025

Time: 09:30 – 12:00 (SAST) followed by a networking lunch

RSVP

Save the Date:

NBI Membership Council

Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 06 August

2025



GLOBAL EVENTS/MEETINGS/CONFERENCE/WEBINAR 2025

Achieving Africa's Energy

Transition

Date: 09 July 2025

Webinar

Register





Women in POWER Breakfast 2025

Date: 09 July 2025

Venue: GIBS - Illovo, Johannesburg

Register

Beyond Green:

Driving Real Impact in ESG

Date: 24 July 2025

Venue: Modderfontein

Lethabong,

Sandton, Gauteng

Register



NBI's dynamic CEO, Shameela Soobramoney will be participating on a panel at the upcoming conference, giving an ESG perspective.



World Water Week 2025

Date: 24 - 28 August 2025

Venue: Online and in Stockholm,

Sweden

Find out more

2nd International Conference on
Net-Zero Built Environment:
Innovations in Materials, Structures,
and Management Practices

Date: 05 - 07 November 2025

Location: Cape Town, South Africa





NBI INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

