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## ON A CLEAR DAY

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

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## CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF NBI'S IMPACT!

For 30 years, the [National Business Initiative \(NBI\)](#) 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 [Gillian Hutchings](#), 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 of former President 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](mailto:brandonm@nbi.org.za) before 12:00pm on 31 July 2025.*

**EXPLORE GROUNDBREAKING INNOVATIONS FROM NBI MEMBER  
COMPANIES**

## Nedbank awarded Best SME Bank in South Africa



NEDBANK

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.

[Read more](#)

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 **Pick n Pay** and **Capitec** 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.

[Read more](#)



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 micro-enterprises 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.

[Read more](#)



## STAY UPDATED AND BE INSPIRED WITH THE LATEST INDUSTRY NEWS

Navigating the investment case for co-located long-duration energy storage (LDES)

→ Delivering 3x Renewables by 2030



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 co-located 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 are 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.



[Read more](#)

## 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



[Register](#)

## NBI INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

