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NBI Joins Launch of National JET Skills Desk and Advisory Forum



The National Business Initiative (NBI) joined the official launch of the Just Energy Transition (JET) Skills Desk and the National JET Skills Advisory Forum on Friday, 29 August, an event that marked a key step toward advancing skills for a Just and Inclusive Transition.

Housed in the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the JET Skills Desk serves as a national coordination hub, driving strategic planning, policy coherence and labour market intelligence for JET-related skills.

Higher Education and Training Minister **Mr. Buti Manamela** delivered the opening and keynote address at the launch, officially unveiling the National JET Skills Advisory Forum, where Gugu McLaren -

Ushewokunze, NBI's Head of Economic Inclusion and Social Transformation, was announced as one of the Forum's [members](#).

In his address, the Minister emphasised that in South Africa's push towards a sustainable energy future, **skills development must be at the centre of the transition**. He explained that this is not only about shifting to cleaner energy sources, but also about **ensuring fairness and equity for all stakeholders, especially for communities whose livelihoods have long depended on traditional energy sources**.



Highlighting the link between energy transition and skills development, **Dr. Kgosientsho Ramokgopa**, Minister of Electricity and Energy, delivered a presentation on the JET Partnership (JETP). **He underscored the urgency of preparing South Africa's workforce for the transition, noting that:**

- A coordinated national, just, and inclusive skilling programme is critical for the country
- Skilling efforts must both support the JET and help mitigate job losses
- Preparation of the workforce must begin urgently

The NBI remains committed to advancing a Just and Inclusive energy transition in South Africa. Through our [JET Skilling for Employment Programme](#) (JET SEP), we continue to work alongside government, the private sector, training institutions and key partners to ensure that emerging opportunities are accessible, equitable and provide meaningful employment for South African youth. *"I am honoured to join the National JET Skills Advisory Forum,"* said Gugu McLaren-Ushewokunze. *"This appointment recognises NBI's work in advancing economic inclusion and provides a key opportunity to contribute to shaping a skilled, inclusive, and future-ready workforce that supports South Africa's transition to a sustainable energy future."*

[Contact us to learn more about JET SEP](#)