

**PRESS RELEASE**

**TO: NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The National Business Initiative (NBI) Joins Operation Vulindlela Implementation Drive to Strengthen Municipal Services and Local Government Reform**

**Johannesburg, 24 February 2026** - As South Africa enters the implementation phase of its most ambitious economic reform programme, the [National Business Initiative \(NBI\)](#) confirms that its [Technical Assistance and Mentorship Development \(TAMDEV\)](#) unit will play an important role in the implementation of Operation Vulindlela Phase 2, focusing on strengthening municipal electricity, water and trading services - long recognised as binding constraints on economic growth, investment and service delivery.

Operation Vulindlela, reinforced in President Cyril Ramaphosa's 2026 State of the Nation Address, has become a central mechanism through which government is moving from policy intent to execution. Its second phase places local government reform at the centre of the growth agenda, recognising that failing municipal systems undermine infrastructure investment, private sector participation and household livelihoods.

*"South Africa's reform challenge is no longer a lack of policy - it is institutional capability and execution,"* said Ruth Troskie, Head of TAMDEV at the NBI. *"Operation Vulindlela creates the reform mandate to ensure that municipalities operate in a conducive environment that lends itself to effective governance, leadership stability and have the institutional capability to actually deliver."*

**Fixing the Local Government Bottleneck**

TAMDEV, furthermore, provides technical support, governance strengthening and leadership mentorship to municipalities as they modernise and reform municipal trading services in electricity and water.

These reforms are critical to removing the service delivery bottlenecks that continue to constrain economic growth and investment at local level.

TAMDEV's work focuses on:

- Reforming municipal trading services, particularly in electricity and water
- Strengthening governance and promoting professionalisation in municipalities

- Enhancing institutional leadership and stability
- Supporting modernisation of municipal systems
- Improving service delivery, directly addressing persistent challenges that have constrained economic growth and investment

### **Anchoring Reform in Policy and Institutions**

In a critical additional role, TAMDEV will host and support the final review process of South Africa's White Paper on Local Government, framing the input of business into the institutional and policy reforms required to modernise local government. The review will inform the development of a new White Paper, ensuring that service delivery reform is embedded within a coherent, forward-looking national framework.

### **Addressing Spatial Inequality and Unlocking Investment**

Operation Vulindlela Phase 2 also intends to address spatial inequality and, support reforms that enable private sector participation in:

- Low-income housing
- Catalytic urban development
- Infrastructure delivery linked to household and property market value

As these reforms move toward implementation from April 2026, sustained institutional strengthening will be essential to ensure continuity, credibility and measurable impact. *"Local government is where reform either succeeds or fails,"* Troskie added. *"By strengthening institutions at this level, we are not only improving services, but we are unlocking growth, investment and inclusion."*

Beyond the Operation Vulindlela reform agenda, NBI's contribution lies in translating structural reforms into real economic outcomes by strengthening the institutional foundations that make reform durable and investable.

The NBI's involvement reflects a growing recognition that public-private collaboration will be essential to delivering structural reform at scale.

**-END-**

**Issued by the National Business Initiative (NBI).**

**For any enquiries, please contact: Nabeelah Khan, Communications Manager, NBI | +27 73 528 6614 | [NabeelahK@nbi.org.za](mailto:NabeelahK@nbi.org.za) | [www.nbi.org.za](http://www.nbi.org.za)**

### ***About NBI***

*The National Business Initiative (NBI) is a leading South African business network committed to driving sustainable economic growth, social development and inclusive prosperity. NBI brings together the private sector, government and civil society to support initiatives that strengthen institutions, create jobs and improve lives.*