

[View this email in your browser](#)



NEWSFLASH

03 JUNE 2026

## Skills Revolution Breakfast Highlights Need for Greater Coordination



The [National Business Initiative \(NBI\)](#) recently participated in the Skills Revolution Breakfast, which brought together government, business and skills development stakeholders, including the **Minister of Higher Education and Training, Buti Manamela**, to reflect on South Africa's evolving labour market needs and the urgent actions required to strengthen pathways into economic participation for young people.

A key message emerging from the engagement was clear: accelerating South Africa's skills agenda will require stronger coordination across the ecosystem to ensure skills investments are responsive to labour market demand, better aligned across sectors and able to respond to the changing needs of the economy.

Discussions focused on five key priorities for strengthening the country's skills system: reimagining public-private partnerships in the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector; improving alignment between skills development and industry demand; scaling apprenticeships, learnerships and work-integrated learning opportunities; strengthening the enabling environment for business participation; and establishing a shared accountability framework between government and industry.



The engagement also reinforced the important role of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in South Africa's skills ecosystem, reflecting the NBI's ongoing work to strengthen the participation of township enterprises in economic opportunities. The discussion highlighted that, beyond their role in driving growth, MSMEs should be recognised as important sites of learning and work experience for young people, providing pathways to skills development and economic participation.

Equally important was the call to strengthen support for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges to improve responsiveness to changing labour market needs. The discussion highlighted the importance of stronger collaboration between industry and TVET institutions to ensure training remains relevant, demand-led and aligned to emerging sectors and occupations, an approach demonstrated through our **Installation, Repair and Maintenance (IRM) Initiative**.

*The NBI also highlighted at the breakfast the role of the **Just Energy Transition Skilling for Employment Programme (JET SEP)**, which coordinates private sector support towards skilling for the Just transition. Through this work, the NBI continues to strengthen collaboration between business, training institutions and implementation partners to better align skills development with emerging labour market opportunities.*