

[View this email in your browser](#)

ON A CLEAR DAY

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

27 August 2026

Issue: 901



National Business Initiative



NBI membership connects your organisation to a powerful network of business leaders committed to building a more inclusive, sustainable and competitive economy. **For over 30 years, the National Business Initiative (NBI)** has brought business, government and civil society together to tackle South Africa's most pressing challenges and turn shared ambition into meaningful action.

As an **NBI member**, your organisation can contribute to influential national conversations, access leading insights, build strategic partnerships and participate in initiatives that deliver lasting value for business and society.

Ready to explore what NBI membership could unlock for your organisation?

Contact [Gillian Hutchings](#), **Head of Membership**, to learn more about the exclusive opportunities, connections and benefits available to NBI members.

WOMEN'S MONTH 2026

WOMEN'S MONTH 2026 | EQUITY IS AN ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Women's economic participation is often framed as a social outcome to pursue once growth has been achieved. The logic should be reversed. Greater participation is one of the conditions for stronger, more durable growth.

[Read more](#)



Exclusive NBI Member Opportunity: Trialogue Sustainability Symposium 2026 - Friday, 28 August 2026

The National Business Initiative (NBI) invites its member companies to attend the **Trialogue Sustainability Symposium 2026**, taking place tomorrow, **Friday 28 August 2026**. Join business and sustainability leaders for an engaging discussion on the state of corporate sustainability in South Africa and the actions required to accelerate meaningful progress.

NBI CEO, Shameela Soobramoney will be participating as a speaker alongside leading industry voices who are shaping the business and sustainability landscape. The **NBI** is a proud partner of the Symposium together with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), the Institute of Directors South Africa (IoDSA) and Primedia.

[Register](#)

TRIALOGUE SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM

In partnership with:

JSE
One Exchange Square
2 Owen Lane
Sandown

IoDSA
INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS
SOUTH AFRICA

NBI
National Business Initiative

PRIMEDIA
Ceres

Location: JSE
One Exchange Square
2 Owen Lane
Sandown

Date: Friday 26 August
09h30 to 13h30

Join us as we reveal the findings of the inaugural edition of our flagship research, the Trialogue Sustainable Business Tracker, and unpack where South African companies are gaining ground and where the hard work of embedding sustainability still lies ahead.

RSVP by Friday 21 August 2026
Limited seats available, first come first serve

NBI DRIVING CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION

EEPBIP Takes a Major Step Towards Its First Energy Performance Contract

The Energy Efficiency in Public Buildings and Infrastructure Programme (EEPBIP) has reached a major milestone with the publication of its first Energy Performance Contracting (EnPC) tender by the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) on 14 August 2026.



This first Smart Street Lighting EnPC project by ELIDZ is aimed at modernising approximately 415 conventional high-pressure sodium streetlights replaced with energy-efficient LED luminaires, supported by IoT-enabled controls and a Central Management System to enable smarter monitoring, management and optimisation of the lighting network. This milestone provides a blueprint that can be replicated across other public sector institutions for variety of energy efficiency retrofits for buildings, public lighting, water/wastewater facilities.

[Find out more](#)



[Find out more](#)

Facing the Challenge: Decisive Action for South Africa's Q2 2026 Labour Reality

The release of the [Quarterly Labour Force Survey \(QLFS\)](#) for the second quarter of 2026 by [Statistics South Africa](#) provides yet another clear look at the structural pressures remaining in the national job market. Landing in the midst of TVET College Month, these figures serve as a timely reminder of the urgent need to bridge the gap between technical skills development and real market absorption.

Through the [IYBA-SEED Project in South Africa](#), the [NBI](#) is working with entrepreneurs and ecosystem partners to explore how biomass can be transformed into commercially viable products while contributing to land restoration and rural economic development.

[IYBA SEED](#) supports entrepreneurship ecosystem development across 5 countries in Southern Africa through a long-term, holistic approach to strengthening organisations that help businesses grow.

Global Gateway

"Biomass opportunity: We are restoring land by removing alien invasive plants, unlocking opportunity for entrepreneurs with economically viable products."

Kussing Malaka
NBI Project Manager **NBI**

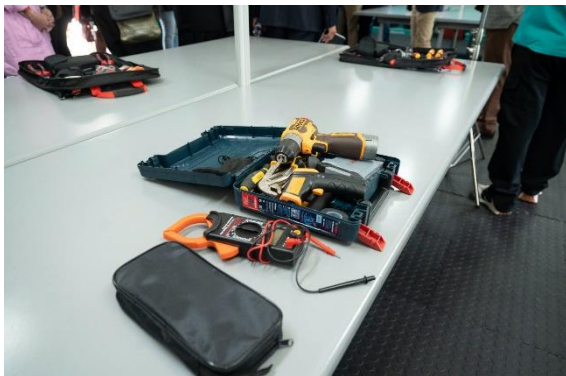
Implemented by:

[Read more](#)



Press Release: South Africa's alien and invasive plants are damaging ecosystems, reducing water security and limiting agricultural productivity. But they also represent an untapped economic opportunity. From 20 to 22 July 2026, the [National Business Initiative \(NBI\)](#), through its NBI4BIOMASS initiative, hosted a site visit in Limpopo to showcase how invasive plant biomass can be transformed into new business opportunities while restoring landscapes and supporting more resilient rural economies.

[Read more](#)



Press Release: The [National Business Initiative \(NBI\)](#), [Hisense SA](#) and [Northlink TVET College](#) launched the Hisense-Northlink Technical Academy on 26 August 2026 at the Belhar Campus of the Northlink TVET College in Cape Town, establishing a dedicated training and workplace development initiative for technical skills in the domestic appliance repair sector.

[Read more](#)

The [NBI](#) attended the [Danish Industry \(DI\)](#) Africa Partners Summit from 18 to 20 August 2026 in Nairobi Kenya. The objective of the Summit was for partners to prepare new programmes for the next phase of the partnership, that will run from 2027 to 2031. DI's partnerships with African organisations supports labour market reform, just green transitions, diversity and inclusion. DI implements this work through its strategic partnership with [Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#).



[Read more](#)

EXPLORE GROUNDBREAKING INNOVATIONS FROM NBI MEMBER COMPANIES

JSE is excited to introduce the **JSE Enterprise Acceleration Programme**, a new platform designed to support high-growth South African SMEs with expert mentoring, education and networks to scale their businesses, attract funding and prepare for capital raising. SME Solutions that will be provided under the programme includes an interactive environment of one-on-one mentoring for high impact, high growth companies, combined with Master Classes and webinars.



[Read more](#)

PWC: Deals have the power to reshape organisations. They can accelerate growth, unlock new capabilities, open doors to new markets, and create opportunities for long-term value creation.

For CEOs, CFOs, boards and investors, the challenge is no longer simply whether to do a deal. It is how to pursue the right deal, at the right price, for the right reasons while ensuring it delivers the value it was intended to create.



[Read more](#)

Anthesis Group: This month, the global water community converges on Stockholm for **World Water Week 2026** under the theme “*Water for People and Progress.*” The topic captures a tension frequently at the centre of water-based decisions: growth depends on water, but so do households, farms, communities, ecosystems, and the local systems already under pressure to serve them.



[Read more](#)

Shell seeks small automotive businesses for a new growth programme targeting entrepreneurs looking to grow their businesses, particularly those operating in township and rural areas. Such businesses in the Western Cape can apply for an opportunity to receive business support and a branded retail unit through the Shell Powershops Programme.



[Read more](#)

STAY UPDATED AND BE INSPIRED WITH THE LATEST INDUSTRY NEWS/OPPORTUNITIES/AWARDS/REPORTS

ILO Global Employment Trends for Youth 2026 Back to the Future Report

This edition of the Global Employment Trends for Youth (GET for Youth) reflects that slowing global economic growth, diminished job creation, geopolitical tensions and rapid technological change are combining to make the transition from school to decent work increasingly difficult for many young people.

[Download Report](#)



SBTi issues call for input to inform revision of Forest, Land and Agriculture Standard (FLAG) companies to continue setting targets under the current guidance, using the innovations available in the [Corporate Net-Zero Standard V2](#) such as the updated absolute contraction approach and the best efforts framework.

[Further Information](#)

NBI MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING 2026



SAVE THE DATE

NBI Membership Council Meeting 2026

Date: Friday, 02 October 2026

Time: 09:30 for 10:00 to 12:00

For further information, please contact: [Thabi Mathole](#)

NBI IN PERSON EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS 2026



NBI Webinar: Nature-Based Solutions for Addressing Business Risks

Friday, 11 September 2026 | 11:00 to 12:45

[Register](#)

Climate Talk: South Africa's Industrial Development Strategy 2026 Opportunities for German and South African Businesses to Advance Industrial Decarbonisation

Tuesday, 22 September 2026 | Sandton | 08:30 for 09:00 to 13:00

[Register](#)



Green Livelihoods Summit

Tuesday, 13 October 2026 | Johannesburg | 08:00 for 09:00 to 17:00

[Register](#)



COP31: South Africa Pavilion

Monday, 09 to Friday, 20 November 2026 | Antalya, Türkiye

[Webpage Coming Soon](#)



NATIONAL/GLOBAL EVENTS/MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/WEBINARS 2026

Africa Climate and Sustainability Leadership Conference 2026

Applications open between:
20 Jan 2026 - 24 Aug 2026

Delivery mode:
Campus

To start by:
01 Sept 2026

Ending date:
01 Sept 2026

Cost:
R 5,500

Venue:
GIBS - Illovo

For enquiries
boxallb@gibs.co.za

Contact Number
+27 11 771 4318

Book Now

Call me to discuss

Share this

Africa Climate and Sustainability Leadership Conference 2026

Tuesday, 01 September 2026 |
Illovo, Gauteng | 08:30 to 16:30

Register

CILTSA Women Empowerment Conference 2026

Discounted Rate for NBI Members

Friday, 18 September | Boksburg,
Gauteng | 07:00 to 16:30

Register



Climate Week NYC

Sunday, 20 to Sunday, 27 September 2026 |
New York, USA

Register

Energy Water Waste Forum

Energy Analytics for Better
Decision-Making

Monday, 21 September 2026 | City of
Cape Town | 08:30 for 09:00 to 13:00



Register



Register

Sustainability & ESG Africa Conference & Expo | NBI is an Official Partner

Wednesday, 30 September to Thursday, 01
October 2026 | Sandton, Gauteng

NBI INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

