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ON A CLEAR DAY
Bringing you stories that inspire, actions that ignite, and initiatives that empower.

30 October 2026
Issue: 905

National Business Initiative

JOIN THE BUSINESSES SHAPING SOUTH AFRICA'S FUTURE



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.

SOUTH AFRICA PAVILION AT COP31
Antalya, Türkiye | 09 to 20 November 2026

From **9-20 November 2026,** the global climate community will gather in **Antalya, Türkiye,** against a growing imperative to translate climate commitments into practical action.

For South Africa, COP31 presents an opportunity to demonstrate how climate action can support economic competitiveness, strengthen resilience and advance a just and inclusive transition.
The **National Business Initiative (NBI)**, in partnership with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), will bring the South African Pavilion at COP31 to life as a platform to showcase South Africa's climate action.



View the official South African Pavilion webpage

View COP31 Events

SOUTH AFRICA PAVILION AT COP31 SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT





Follow the COP31 Social Media Campaign

AEE Africa Energy Conference 2026

AEE Africa Energy Conference 2026: As co-host of the conference, **EEPBIP** showcased how energy efficiency can drive economic growth, sustainability and improved public services through a series of workshops, panel discussions and technical sessions. Key themes included inclusive energy transitions, Energy Performance Contracting (EnPC), innovative financing, measurement and verification, and the importance of collaboration between government, industry and financiers to unlock investment, scale implementation and deliver measurable energy-saving impacts across South Africa and the continent.





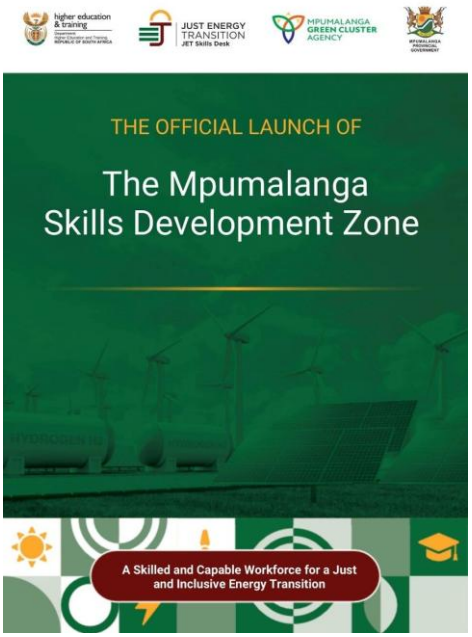


Future of Sustainability Reporting in South Africa

Building on the first Preparers Cluster engagement held in September 2026, the National Business Initiative (NBI), in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry (dtic) and the CIPC - Companies and Intellectual Property Commission, convened a second public consultation under the Adoption Readiness Working Group (ARWG). The session highlighted the importance of a balanced approach to implementation that takes into account varying levels of organisational readiness, capacity and reporting costs.

Learn more about the ARWG

Mpumalanga Skills Development Zone Launched to Support Just Transition Workforce Needs



The NBI's Head of **Economic Inclusion Gugu McLaren-Ushewokunze** participated in a high-level business panel on industry's role in advancing skills development through the Just Energy Transition. This important engagement took place at the launch of the **Mpumalanga Skills Development Zone (SDZ)**, a collaborative initiative between the Department of Higher Education and Training, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government and the Human Resource Development Council.

Read more about the SDZ

C-SUITE ROUNDTABLE JOHANNESBURG SESSION 2



The National Business Initiative (NBI) facilitated its second exclusive **C-Suite Roundtable, Degrees of Disruption: Climate Change and South Africa's Future**, bringing business leaders together to examine the risks posed by climate change and the current super El Niño. The engagement reinforced the importance of turning scientific evidence into practical, coordinated action that supports South Africa's long-term economic competitiveness and resilience.

Read more

NBI ACES CO-CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENT



The National Business Initiative (NBI) is pleased to welcome **Makhegu Mabunda** of the Clicks Group as the incoming Co-Chair of our Advisory Council on Environment and Society (ACES).

Makhegu brings extensive experience in sustainability and environmental management, as well as a strong understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing businesses as they navigate a rapidly evolving Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) landscape.

Read more

EXPLORE GROUNDBREAKING INNOVATIONS FROM NBI MEMBER COMPANIES

Standard Bank secured R3.8 million in German development funding to expand free sustainability training for African businesses, following its programme reaching 10,000 entrepreneurs across 15 markets though its Sustainability Academy.



Read more

2026 KPMG Africa CEO Outlook highlights that long-term success depends on how organisations navigate economic uncertainty, geopolitical shifts, technological change, and structural challenges. The Report explores growth strategies, risk management, AI adoption, talent development, and sustainability.

DP World, Motus Community Trust opens 100th Library at Katlehong Primary School. This literacy initiative has been recognised as a strong example of collaborative action to address education challenges.



Read more

ERM's 2026 Investor Edition examines how global investment professionals use ESG ratings, ESG data, and other sustainability information in investment decisions, highlighting where investor and corporate perspectives align, where they differ, and the implications for the future of ESG ratings.



Report



Report

NBI IN PERSON EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS 2026



JUST SA Business Symposium: Enhancing Private Sector Contributions toward the Just Transition in Mpumalanga

Wednesday, 02 December 2026
09:00 to 16:00
Sandton | Gauteng

Information



NATIONAL/GLOBAL EVENTS/MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/WEBINARS 2026

Rate the Raters 2026 Webinars

Beyond the Score - Investor Views on ESG Ratings
5 November 2026

09:00 CET / 16:00 CST / 13:30 IST

Register



ENERGY WATER WASTE FORUM
A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE CAPE TOWN COMMERCIAL SECTOR

RSVP

Energy Water Waste Forum Meeting

19 November 2026
08:30 for 09:00 to 13:00
Cape Town

NBI INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

WBCSD Global Network

CDP

WE MEAN BUSINESS COALITION

UN GLOBAL COMPACT CEO WATER MANDATE