



CELEBRATING AFRICA MONTH: A CALL TO ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES

In commemoration of Africa Month, Sharon Beulich, Director of Business Development and Sustainability at ATS, a subsidiary of Tsebo Solutions Group, emphasises the imperative for businesses to adopt sustainable practices. Reflecting on the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (now the African Union) on May 25, 1963, Beulich underscores the continent's progress and the critical importance of ecological and economic strategies to drive Africa toward a sustainable future.

Tsebo Solutions Group, with over 50 years of experience, is a leading pan-African provider of workplace management solutions, employing 32,000 people. As one of Africa's largest employers, 97% of its workforce comprises frontline employees. Tsebo is known for its sustainable and transformational stewardship.

ATS is Tsebo's specialist Remote Site business, focusing on turning remote locations with limited resources into sustainable collaboration and development hubs.

ATS is one of the most significant contributors to Tsebo's sustainability efforts, especially in the mining sector. As experts in uplifting local communities where Tsebo operates, the business is uniquely positioned to drive discussions as an example of sustainable and community-driven practices across 26 African countries.



As we mark Africa Month, it's an opportune time to reflect on the continent's progress and the urgent need for sustainable business practices. This annual observance not only honours African unity and cultural richness but also underscores the importance of ecological and economic strategies that can drive the continent into a sustainable future.

Sharon Beulich,
Director of Business Development
and Sustainability at ATS



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We have invested over **\$195 million** in local communities, engaging over **350 certified** local suppliers, **60%** of which are **women's groups**, in 2023 alone. Remarkably, **79%** of ATS's workforce comes from these local communities, and **98%** from the host countries. Additionally, ATS has launched over **250 agricultural mega** projects in collaboration with **300 local cooperatives**.

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A cornerstone of ATS's approach is robust agricultural development initiatives, with over 50 of its largest mega projects yielding **15-25 tons of fruits and vegetables** annually. Over **80%** of this produce is sourced directly from local farmers, assisting their transition from subsistence to commercial operations through training, modern techniques, and market linkages.

From the earliest exploration phases, ATS engages extensively with local traditional leaders, conducts soil analyses, identifies potential farmers and suppliers, and facilitates cooperative development. Comprehensive training equips these local partners with expertise in areas like invoicing, pricing, quality control, health, safety, and business processes.

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ATS's deep roots in local communities across Africa, facilitating truly sustainable supply chains and economic empowerment, is a model worthy of emulation. Their holistic approach encompasses robust environmental management systems, water access programmes, crop irrigation, gender inclusion, transparency, and skills transfer.

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In Africa, there is an urgent need for businesses to adopt sustainable practices to alleviate environmental impacts. The UN Global Compact, which includes Tsebo as a signatory, spearheads this initiative through the Africa Business Leaders Coalition (ABLC). As members of the ABLC, the CEOs of the Group actively participate in a call to action for business leaders to collaborate towards a sustainable and thriving Africa.



By cutting carbon emissions, expanding green areas, and optimising resource utilisation, companies can significantly contribute to addressing these environmental challenges together.

Key sectors like mining, agriculture, and forestry, crucial to economic activity in Africa, often face substantial environmental degradation. Beulich advocates for the application of green technologies, waste reduction, and strict environmental compliance to revolutionise these industries into models of sustainability.

Moreover, Beulich stresses the importance of empowering local communities through sustainable development initiatives. Companies can foster inclusive economic models by ensuring that community members benefit from local resources, investing in education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

As Africa Month is celebrated, Beulich calls on businesses across the continent to embrace renewable energy solutions, sustainable agricultural practices, and eco-friendly manufacturing and the upliftment of local communities. She emphasises the need for resilient infrastructures and urges African governments to enact and enforce stringent environmental regulations to promote sustainable practices.

Beulich concludes by highlighting the significance of education in underpinning the sustainability agenda, preparing future leaders and innovators equipped to tackle Africa's environmental challenges. She calls for a reaffirmation of dedication to sustainability, not just as a fundamental pursuit but as a strategic opportunity to shape Africa's future for the better.



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