

THE AGENDA: Editorial Themes Calendar | January – December 2026

Annual Theme: Contested Progress – Transformation at the Tipping Point

This editorial calendar reflects the Black Management Forum's 2026 strategic lens: a year marked by fragile growth, political contestation, and a critical test of transformation resilience. Each month centres on a key dimension of South Africa's transformation landscape, anchored in BMF's priority sectors and mandate. Contributors are encouraged to offer bold insights, grounded narratives and visionary solutions that challenge the status quo.

February: Policy, Power and Priorities – A Transformation Lens on SONA and the Budget

With the State of the Nation Address and Budget Speech in focus, analyse the government's stated economic direction. What signals are being sent about transformation, inclusive growth, and state capacity?

March: Capital, Credit & Control – Financing Inclusive Growth

Interrogate the financial system: who holds power, and who gets access? Explore ownership dynamics in financial services, progress in asset management transformation, and barriers facing Black-owned enterprises.

April: Infrastructure as Economic Justice – Reclaiming the Logistics System

Port and rail reform are not just operational, they're transformational. Assess how logistics performance affects the ability of Black businesses to participate fully in mining, agriculture, and manufacturing value chains.

May: Agrarian Futures – Land, Rain and Black Commercial Farmers

Favourable agricultural conditions create new possibilities. Highlight the structural shifts needed to support Black farmers, from land reform and financing to export participation and agri-tech.

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June: Youth, Work and Reform – The Emerging Black Professional Class

What does it take for young Black professionals to thrive today? Focus on employment equity reform, access to training, and the mindset shifts required to lead in an evolving labour market.

July: Energy and Equity – Who Benefits from Stabilisation?

As the energy landscape shows signs of stabilising, explore who stands to benefit. Highlight opportunities in procurement, generation, and green jobs and who remains excluded from them.

August: Women Lead – Beyond Visibility, Toward Economic Agency

Celebrate the leadership of Black women in shaping inclusive economies. Move beyond symbolic representation to centre ownership, decision-making, and systemic influence across sectors.

September: Manufacturing Matters – Reclaiming Industrial Power

Manufacturing remains vulnerable—yet vital. Profile innovators, examine infrastructure gaps, and explore how to rebuild inclusive supply chains that centre Black industrialists.

October: [No Submissions – Conference Campaign]

Editorial pause to focus on the BMF Annual Conference and strategic content delivery.

November: Beyond the Ballot – Local Power and Economic Justice

Elections may signal intent, but delivery lives at the local level. Examine the post-election landscape: how are municipalities resourcing transformation, enabling infrastructure renewal, and unlocking procurement for Black-owned enterprises? Spotlight the leaders and communities refusing to wait for permission.

December: From Barometer to Breakthrough – A Year in Reflection

Was 2026 a year of real movement or stalled progress? Reflect on wins, lessons, and what must come next. Celebrate excellence while remaining clear-eyed about the work still ahead.