

BEE Deal of the Year 2026

This will be the 8th year in which the BEE Deal of the Year award is presented, recognising a transaction that demonstrates exceptional achievement in advancing meaningful and sustainable transformation through a corporate transaction.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Nominations will be assessed against the following criteria:

Transformational impact

The extent to which the transaction delivers meaningful and lasting transformation for the business, its ownership structure, employees, communities or wider industry.

The Panel will consider:

- the significance and quality of the BEE participation;
- the extent to which the transaction creates genuine economic participation and empowerment;
- whether the transaction changes the ownership, control or participation dynamics of the business or sector; and
- the potential for the transaction to establish a meaningful precedent or model for future transformation.

Quality and sustainability of the BEE structure

The strength, credibility and sustainability of the BEE structure implemented through the transaction. Consideration will be given to the level of participation, the role and influence of the BEE participants, the economic benefits accruing to them, and the extent to which the structure provides a meaningful and sustainable opportunity rather than simply satisfying a regulatory or compliance requirement.

Complexity and execution

The degree of complexity involved in structuring and executing the transaction, including, where relevant:

- multiple or inter-related transaction steps;
- complex ownership or financing structures;
- significant funding or debt/equity requirements;
- regulatory, competition or other approvals;
- multiple stakeholders or counterparties;
- innovative approaches to structuring the BEE participation; and
- significant execution or time constraints.

Scale and significance

The size and significance of the transaction, including its value, the scale of the business affected and its importance to the relevant sector or economy. Deal size is an important consideration but will not be an overriding determinant of the award.

Sustainable value creation and broader impact

The extent to which the transaction is expected to create lasting economic and strategic value for the BEE participants, shareholders, employees and other stakeholders.

The Panel will consider the durability of the benefits created, the potential for further economic participation and growth, and the broader impact of the transaction on the business, sector or economy.

Overall distinction

The extent to which the transaction stands out as an exceptional example of BEE-led deal-making, considering the quality of the transformation achieved, the ingenuity and difficulty of the execution, its scale and its broader economic and social impact.





DEALMAKERS SUBJECTIVE ANNUAL AWARDS 2026

The awards will be unveiled at the Ansarada DealMakers Annual Awards on 18 February 2027.

Each year, Deal**Makers** recognises outstanding achievement through five subjective awards:

- Individual Deal**Maker** of the Year
- Deal of the Year
- Catalyst Private Equity Deal of the Year
- BEE Deal of the Year
- Business Rescue Transaction of the Year

Each award has its own specific judging criteria, designed to reflect the qualities and achievements that distinguish an exceptional individual or transaction in that category. These criteria will be used by the Independent Panel to assess submissions, determine the shortlist and select the eventual winner in each category.

ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATION PROCESS

Transactions may be nominated by the advisory firms involved through a detailed submission setting out the nature of the transaction, its strategic rationale, the challenges encountered, the individual's or firm's contribution where relevant, and the anticipated or realised outcomes.

Unless otherwise specified a qualifying transaction must have been announced during the 2026 calendar year. The transaction does not need to have reached financial close.

Deal**Makers**, in consultation with the Independent Panel, will determine a shortlist of qualifying nominations for each category.

The winning individual or transaction in each category will receive a framed certificate and an inscribed floating trophy.

Where a qualifying transaction is announced after the nomination deadline, DealMakers must be informed in advance, with full details submitted no later than **18 December 2026**.

Nominations close at **12h00 on Friday, 27 November 2026**.

No extensions will be granted. Please submit all nominations to **marylou@gleason.co.za**.