

DATA STORY | 10 SEPTEMBER 2026

# Reform continues but implementation binds

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Electricity, visas and digital infrastructure reforms progressed in the second quarter. Water, logistics and local government saw movement on policy and institutional reform, but implementation remained uneven and operational constraints persisted. Spatial integration remains the clear laggard.

Weak local government capacity and governance are increasingly emerging as bottlenecks to progress in both electricity and water reform, highlighting the need for better coordination across national, provincial and local government. This comes as economic momentum has weakened: real GDP contracted by 0.2% in Q2, ending six consecutive quarters of growth, while investment remained subdued, having contracted by 1.1% in Q1. Business confidence also remains weak, with the RMB/BER Business Confidence Index edging down by one point to 38 in Q3, following an 8-point decline in Q2.

Full analysis can be viewed here: <https://dashboard.ber.ac.za/datastories/>

## REFORM BAROMETER Q2 2026 PROGRESS SUMMARY

| Reform                      | Status     | 2026 Q2                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Electricity                 | ▲ Positive | NERSA Private generation pipeline keeps growing; IPPs are reaching commercial operation, and Phase 2 of Eskom's transmission unbundling is in progress |
| Freight logistics system    | — Neutral  | The Durban Gateway Terminal released its volume data for the first time, but congestion and vessel backlogs continue                                   |
| Water and sanitation        | — Neutral  | National Water Action Plan launched, but implementation is still under way                                                                             |
| Visa and immigration reform | ▲ Positive | Trusted Employer Scheme (TES) Phase I cut processing from ~22 weeks to ~20 days; Phase II gazetted with a clearer scorecard framework                  |

| Reform                          | Status          | 2026 Q2                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Local government                | — Neutral       | White Paper to launch on 15 September 2026, but the implementation horizon spans two election cycles |
| Spatial integration and housing | ▼ Slow progress | Housing pilots, deeds analysis and land registry all missed their Q2 targets by 3–12 months          |
| Digital public infrastructure   | ▲ Positive      | Multiple platforms (MyMzansi and Gov.za) are moving into testing/rollout this quarter.               |