

BRICS

RESEARCH INSTITUTE

CALL FOR SHORT POEMS

EDITED POETRY BOOK

THEME: LIBERATION, MEMORY, AND THE SPIRIT OF BANDUNG

We invite submissions of short poems for inclusion in an edited poetry book to be published ahead of the April 2026 conference marking The Spirit of Bandung at 71. The collection will accompany the conference and form part of its intellectual and cultural programme.

The book seeks poetic contributions with liberation, anti-colonial struggle, memory, solidarity, and freedom, particularly as they relate to Africa and the Global South. Contributors are encouraged to reflect on Bandung not only as a historical event, but as an idea that continues to shape struggles for dignity, justice, and self-determination.

1. THEMES OF INTEREST

Poems may engage with, but are not limited to:

- Liberation and resistance
- Anti-colonial and post-colonial experiences
- Memory, history, and remembrance
- Solidarity across Africa and the Global South
- Identity, belonging, and displacement
- Freedom, sovereignty, and hope
- Bandung as symbol, moment, or metaphor
- Neo-colonialism and warnings from Bandung

Both literal and imaginative interpretations are welcome.

2. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Poems should be short (maximum 2 pages or about 700 words)
- Contributors may submit up to two poems
- Poems must be original and unpublished
- Language: English
- Please include a short author bio (50–80 words)



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3. IMPORTANT DATES

- Submission deadline: 28 February 2026
- Notification of acceptance: 15 March 2026
- Publication of the poetry book: Before 21 April 2026

Submissions must be sent by email to aifani.tahulela@bricsri.co.za

Cc: paballon@dut.ac.za

Use the subject line: SPIRIT OF BANDUNG – Edited Poetry Book

4. Publication

Selected poems will be published in a peer-reviewed edited poetry book, which will be launched and circulated prior to the “The Spirit of Bandung at 71: African Liberation and Anti-Colonial Solidarities in Contemporary Perspective” conference.



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