University of South Africa
Retirement Fund

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

Dear Member

March 2025 represents the first month of the 2025/2026 tax year. The Minister of Finance, Mr Enoch Godongwana, is set to present the Budget Speech this month, setting a tone for South Africa's economy and certainly to touch on taxes. As we prepare for the Budget Speech it is important for retirement fund members to focus on the factors that are within their control and pay less attention to those that are not. In this newsletter we discuss what March 2025 means for members interested in two-pot withdrawals, the importance of registering for online access to your benefits, updating beneficiary nominations, and a short explanation on the National Budget.

From the Office of the Principal Officer.

How to maximise your tax benefits in a two-pot era

If you're one of the more than two million retirement fund members who has taken advantage of the two-pot withdrawal benefit, now is the time to consider topping up your retirement fund to restore your position and maximise your annual tax benefits. In the January 2025 edition of the newsletter we discussed how using additional voluntary contributions (AVC) can help increase your retirement outlook, especially if you have accessed your benefits through a two-pot withdrawal.

Since the two-pot system was introduced in September last year, more than R43 billion has been withdrawn, according to the South African Revenue Service (SARS). With the tax year ending on 28 February 2025, those who have already made withdrawals in the 2024/25 tax year will be able to access funds again from the savings component in March this year, because the system resets at the beginning of each tax year. However, withdrawing should not be viewed as an annual event that must happen. Even though the new system allows you to access the savings component of your retirement fund once every tax year, doesn't mean you should.

Remember that each time you dip into your savings pot, you are taxed at your marginal tax rate on the amount withdrawn, which can be as high as 45%. Furthermore, withdrawing before retirement reduces the amount available at retirement, and even if you do replace the amount withdrawn, you will lose out on any investment growth in the interim.

A reminder that two-pot withdrawals can only be done online through Alexforbes Connect (AF Connect) and members are encouraged to register for online access to make managing their retirement benefits easier.

If you would like to enquire more about the two-pot retirement system, please email unisarf_twopot@unisa.ac.za or visit the Fund's Two-Pot page on the website: https://unisarf.co.za/unisarf/how-to-make-a-savings-pot-withdrawal

How to Register on Alexforbes (AF) Connect

AF Connect is useful for members that require instant access to their retirement fund values or want to submit two-pot claims. AF Connect is a secure portal for accessing your retirement fund information anytime, anywhere. The portal also has financial planning tools available to meet your needs with convenience and security in mind. The AF Connect platform provides you with the following information pertaining to your benefit in the Fund:

a) Personal details
b) Benefit statements
c) Investment portfolios and balances
d) Investment product details
e) Personalised product and portfolio management
f) Claims submission, summary and status

Step 1
Visit mymoneymatters.alexforbes.com.

Select Register

Step 2
If you haven't registered, complete the relevant fields to link your profile and create a password.

Step 3
Once your profile has been linked (this can take up to 48 hours), you may log in using your username and password.

Here's how it works

- Visit **mymoneymatters.alexforbes.com** to log in.
- Select Register and follow the menu prompts.
- Once you've registered, you'll receive confirmation that your registration is complete.

Need help?

Telephone: 0860 100 333

The importance of updating beneficiary nominations

Updating your beneficiary nominations across your retirement and insurance benefits is a crucial estate planning activity to ensure that these benefits are distributed according to your wishes and life circumstances.

Over time, personal circumstances may change — such as marriage, divorce, the birth of children, or the death of a loved one, making an outdated nomination form potentially problematic. Without an up-to-date nomination form, there is a risk that benefits may not go to your intended beneficiaries, potentially causing financial hardship and family disputes.

Regularly reviewing and updating your beneficiary nominations ensures that your retirement fund assets and insured benefits are allocated correctly and efficiently, providing peace of mind for both you and your loved ones.

There are three different beneficiary nomination forms that must be completed whenever you are considering making changes:

1) UNISARF beneficiary nomination form
2) Momentum funeral benefit nomination form
3) Old Mutual life insurance nomination form

Once completed and signed, these forms must be submitted to your HR Representative to store in your staff file. Please note that your nominations are not updated on the Alexforbes Connect online system, so do not be alarmed if the information online is either blank or incorrect. The Fund relies solely on the forms that are with your HR department. If you are a paid-up member please submit your UNISARF beneficiary nomination form only to unisaret.admin@alexforbes.com.

The purpose of the National Budget

With the Minister of Finance set to table the 2025 National Budget in his much aniticpated budget speech, it is important for members to be aware of it's importance and impact on retirement savings, amongst other things. The National Budget reflects the country's socioeconomic policy priorities and political commitments into expenditures, making it one of the most important instruments of a government. Similar to your own budget, the national budget clearly demonstrates how much income (generated mostly through taxation) is received by Government and how that income will be spent within a given period of time. The main purpose of the National Budget is to ensure that the unlimited needs of the country are prioritised in order of importance.

The National Budget provides the government with the money it needs to deliver its policies and run vital services such as Health, Education and Defence. It is arguably the most important government document, affecting and impacting the economy at large and the everyday lives of South Africans such as yourself. If you are employed, you might be interested to know whether your taxes are going to be increased or decreased. This will be a point of interest for the working population in the country who are also contributing members to retirement funds. Other matters that affect retirement fund members are any changes in tax legislation, tax tables and policies regarding the contribution of and access to retirement fund monies. We encourage members to stay informed and take the time to listen to the budget speech when it is tabled.

Contact Details

If you require any further information regarding this communication or general Fund information, please contact the Fund's office of the Principal Officer, the Fund's Retirement Benefits Counsellor or the Benefit Consultants.

University of South Africa Retirement Fund

7th floor, O.R. Tambo Building, Preller Street, Muckleneuk, Pretoria

www.unisarf.co.za

Principal Officer's Assistant	Ms Lutho Dondashe	tdondals@unisa.ac.za	012 433 9474
Deputy Principal Officer	Mr Cedrick Pila	tpilamc@unisa.ac.za	012 433 9441
Principal Officer	Ms Lavinia Khangala	tkhangl@unisa.ac.za	012 429 9423
Retirement Benefits Counsellor	Ms Keabetswe Riet	kea@infund.co.za	012 880 5982
Principal Benefit Consultant	Mr Michael Eybers	Michael@simekaconsult.co.za	011 286 1192
Benefit Consultant	Ms Zama Nkwanyana	Zama@simekaconsult.co.za	011 286 1268
Associate Benefit Consultant	Ms Hlobisile Thango	Hlobisile@simekaconsult.co.za	012 369 8811