

Letter from the CEO



This newsletter keeps you informed of key highlights, important updates and actions you may wish to take this quarter.

Dear Members,

As we reach the mid-point of 2026, I want to share a few reflections and updates from across the Society. This has been a period that has asked something of us as a community, and one in which our members have given us a great deal to be proud of. We have successfully concluded the Annual General Meeting of the Society on 24 June, and I encourage members who have not done so to read through the Integrated [Annual Report](#).





Supporting our Community

I want to acknowledge, briefly and directly, the recent xenophobic incidents and related public tensions affecting foreign nationals in parts of the country. Some of our members, candidates, students, colleagues, and their families may be feeling unsettled or concerned about people close to them.

The actuarial profession in South Africa has always been connected to the wider world. Our first members qualified internationally, before a local route to qualification existed; a century later, many of our members come to South Africa from elsewhere to study, qualify, and build their careers. Likewise, many South African actuaries build careers and professional relationships across those same borders, into Africa and globally. That international character is one of the real strengths of our profession.

Within ASSA, the place of our members, candidates, students, and colleagues is not determined by nationality. It rests on a shared commitment to professionalism, integrity, respect, and service to the public interest, values that matter most in moments when people in our community may feel vulnerable or uncertain.

For our part, ASSA is committed to ensuring that our professional spaces, including our committees, forums, events, and educational platforms, remain respectful, collegial, and welcoming to everyone who participates.

We are here to listen, support, and ensure that concerns within the profession are not carried alone. If you or a colleague would value support, please feel free to contact me at ceo@actuarialsociety.org.za.

Urgent matters, including those affecting personal safety, employment, legal matters, or wellbeing, must be taken to the appropriate authorities or support structures. If you are unsure about where to turn for help, the ASSA team will help point you in the right direction. If it would help to talk to someone, organisations such as the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) offer free, confidential, and professional support.

I would ask that we look out for one another in the period ahead, checking in on colleagues affected by recent events, and continue to extend the collegiality, respect, and care that should define our profession.

More than actuaries

Frank Redington, one of the profession's great thinkers, famously remarked in 1968 that "an actuary who is only an actuary is not an actuary." Our members prove his point all the time, with lives and achievements that reach well beyond the technical work, and I would like the CEO update to start celebrating them.

So consider this an open invitation. If you know an ASSA member who has accomplished something special, in sport, the arts, community service, entrepreneurship, research, or anything else worth marking, please let me know at ceo@actuarialsociety.org.za, and I will look to recognise them in a future update.

To set us off, a fitting example. George Kusche, a TASSA member of the Society and a data scientist by profession, won the 2026 Comrades Marathon on Sunday, 14 June, in a record time of 5:15:56. He covered the 85.8 km "up run" from Durban to Pietermaritzburg and broke a

men's record that had stood for 18 years, and remarkably, it was only his second Comrades, having finished 12th on debut the year before. Fittingly for one of our own, George is self-coached and plans his training with the same analytical rigour he brings to his work. A truly outstanding feat, and exactly the kind of achievement we should celebrate as a community.





Thank you to our volunteers

So much of what ASSA achieves rests on the generosity of our volunteers, the members who give their time and expertise to our committees, panels, and working groups, very often alongside demanding day jobs. I want to record my sincere thanks to all of them.

I also want to be open about a related matter. The volume of honoraria payments and the associated administration has grown, and we expect to strengthen the supporting processes and systems in the years ahead to keep pace with this scale and complexity. In some cases, the need to obtain tax declarations, together with certain administrative challenges, delayed some payments, and we are grateful to those affected for their patience.

To every member who gives their time to the Society: thank you. Your willingness to serve is a large part of what makes this profession what it is, and we are committed to ensuring that the experience of volunteering with ASSA continues to improve.

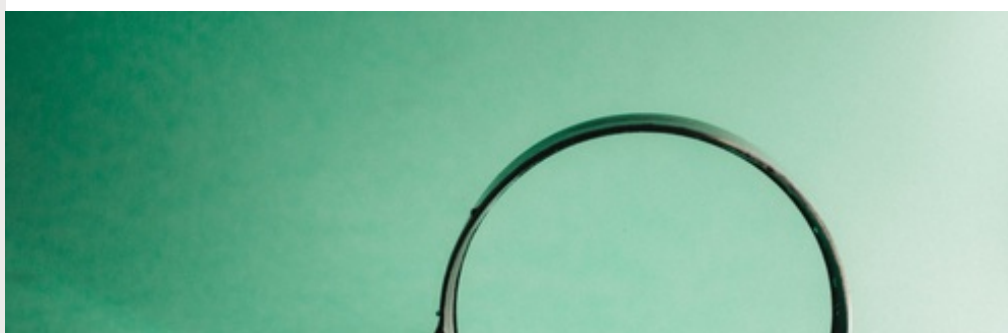
Research opportunities

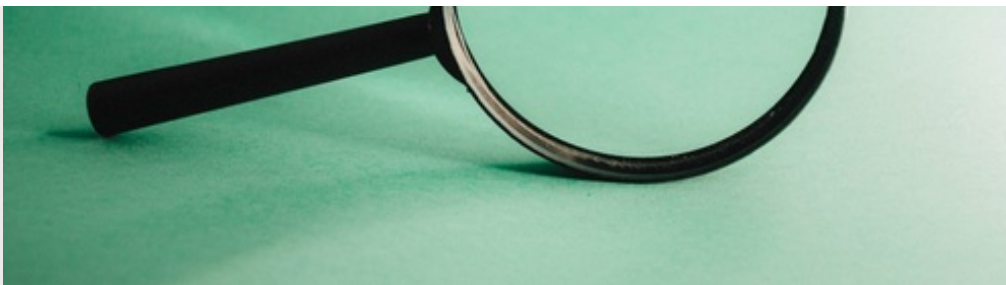
We are looking for researchers to tackle some of South Africa's most pressing challenges. ASSA's current call for Expressions of Interest offers an opportunity to undertake funded research on topics ranging from climate risk and the value for money of funeral insurance to measuring South Africa's informal economy. If you have the expertise, a research idea, or know of colleagues, academics, or organisations who may be interested, I encourage you to engage with this opportunity. The insights generated through this work have the potential to inform industry practice, public policy, and the future direction of the actuarial profession.

ASSA-SAMF joint research initiative. ASSA and the South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) have released a joint Call for Expressions of Interest for a landmark research initiative. South Africa faces a critical, persistent mismatch between the graduation rates of mathematical sciences students and the high-level quantitative needs of its most intensive economic sectors. This project aims to deploy advanced actuarial modelling techniques to simulate, quantify, and forecast these supply-demand dynamics, generating a vital tool for national policy, educational planning, and economic competitiveness in the era of 4IR and AI. Submissions close on 31 July 2026. You can view the full details [here](#).

Inaugural essay competition — AI and the future of the profession. Artificial intelligence is already reshaping the way we work, make decisions, and manage risk. As actuaries, we have a unique perspective on how these changes will affect our profession, our industries, and society more broadly. I encourage all ASSA members, whether you are a student member, Associate, Fellow, academic, consultant, or practitioner, to consider participating in our inaugural essay competition. You do not need to be a researcher or academic writer to contribute: we are looking for thoughtful ideas, practical insights, and diverse perspectives on how artificial intelligence may shape the future of the actuarial profession in South Africa over the next decade. You can read the full call for essays [here](#).

This is an opportunity to share your views, challenge conventional thinking, and contribute to an important conversation about the future of our profession. I look forward to reading the innovative ideas and insights that emerge from our membership.





ASSA Winter Programme - Mid-Year Induction | 30 July 2026 | Virtual

For members who are new to the Society, joining through the mid-year intake, or simply ready to commit in earnest to the qualification journey, the ASSA Winter Programme offers a timely and practical starting point. This virtual induction goes beyond the technical; it maps the qualification roadmap clearly, shares practical guidance on Work-Based Learning, and draws on the experience of ASSA leadership to offer some perspective on what the journey ahead looks like in practice.

Members who work alongside student members are also encouraged to join. A team that understands the qualification journey is better placed to provide the kind of support that makes a real difference to the next generation of actuaries. Register [here](#).

ASSA 2026 Convention: Registrations now open

Registration for the 2026 Convention is now open. The Convention takes place on **7 and 8 October in Cape Town**, and we look forward to welcoming the actuarial community together once again for another engaging and thought-provoking event. Early registration fees are available until **9 July 2026**, so I encourage you to secure your place early. Register [here](#).



Warm regards,
Imran Mahomed | CEO

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