



October 2025

Moving towards a better future **together**

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Welcome to the October 2025 issue of the TSTRF newsletter

As we celebrated Women's Month in August in South Africa, we take this opportunity to honour the incredible contributions of women. **Your passion, strength, and commitment shape not only our communities but also the future of our country.**

We reflect on the progress women have made, but also to recognise the challenges that remain, particularly when it comes to financial wellbeing.

Globally and locally, women continue to face a **savings and retirement gap**, often due to career breaks, longer life expectancy, and lower average earnings. Please read our interesting article on this topic, page 4.

Now more than ever, it's essential for women to be **proactive and informed** about their financial futures. The TSTRF celebrates women and thank them for their contributions to society and to the Fund.

Your Fund wins again and this time it's a Special Gold IRFA Luka Award

TSTRF was honoured with the 2025 Institute of Retirement Funds Africa (IRFA) Special Gold Award for its exceptional transformation and industry leadership, based on six outstanding submissions to the IRFA Best Practice Luka Awards. The Fund's approach to transformation is recognised sector-wide as a beacon of transparency, partnership, and gold-standard stewardship of members' savings and broader community development.

TSTRF's deep-seated commitment to proactive transformation, robust governance, and high-impact investing continues to set the Fund apart. Through continual engagement with stakeholders, pioneering digital solutions, and dedicated reporting to the FSTC, TSTRF actively shapes South Africa's financial services sector for an inclusive, prosperous future.



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By sharing best practices and lessons learned, TSTRF fosters resilience and continuous betterment for all members, employers, service providers, and the retirement fund industry as a whole.

Benefit Statements are available on the Member Portal


From 2 September 2025 your annual Benefit Statement became available on the member portal (TSRF Benefit Counsellor). **This statement gives you a clear and comprehensive view of your overall retirement portfolio within the Fund.** It includes your total fund credit, member contribution, investment growth and the benefits available to you including those for retirement, death and disability.

To access your Benefit Statement simply visit

 <https://transport.benefitcounsellor.com/login>

 or send a **WhatsApp** message on **087 240 7004**, then **navigate to the Benefit Statement tab**.

If you need any assistance please contact:

 Call: **087 405 6377**

 Email: benefitstatementqueries@salteb.co.za

Your Fund is in a sound financial position

The Fund's audit for 2025 was finalised in August 2025 and once again the Fund received a clean audit report from BDO, the external auditors of the Fund. The financial statements for the TSRF were approved by the Board and submitted to the Financial Sector Conduct Authority.

Anchored in our commitment to protecting members' retirement savings, the Fund continues to apply a disciplined investment strategy underpinned by prudent risk management and diversification. During the past financial year, the Fund recorded growth of 12.7%, reaching a total value of R10.3 billion. This steady performance reflects our focus on maintaining a balanced, adaptive investment approach that meets fiduciary responsibilities while supporting members' long-term financial security.

We have deepened our focus on **impact investments** that not only yield financial returns, but also support national priorities such as infrastructure development, economic recovery, and job creation within the transport sector and beyond.

As we look ahead, TSRF remains committed to its dual mandate which is to deliver **financial security** for our members and to **support the broader transformation and sustainability** of the transport industry. **We are more than a retirement fund: We are a partner in national development, a steward of long-term savings, and a pillar of support for our members' futures.**



Your Fund complies with the new Cybersecurity legislation

The Financial Sector Conduct Authority (the FSCA) is the authority responsible for overseeing financial institutions in South Africa, including retirement funds. The FSCA has recognised the increase in cyber risks in the financial services sector and has set requirements for all financial institutions to improve their cybersecurity awareness. This includes implementing, and maintaining, processes and procedures to prevent, limit and/or manage the impact of potential cyber incidents within its business.

Why it Matters for the Fund

The Fund handles members' sensitive personal and financial data. These new requirements shift cybersecurity from a purely technical concern to a strategic, governance-level priority, making it a regulatory and fiduciary obligation, and not optional.

Why Compliance is Crucial

- **Protect members' and pensioners' savings:** Strong controls help prevent data breaches, fraud, or disruptions.
- **Maintain trust:** Demonstrating proactive cybersecurity builds confidence.
- **Avoid liability:** Trustees may be held personally or civilly liable for negligence.
- **Demonstrate regulatory alignment:** Early compliance shows good governance and prepares the Fund for future regulatory developments.

In Summary

Joint Standard 2 of 2024 places **cybersecurity and resilience at the heart of Fund governance. It demands a structured, documented, risk-based approach** that encompasses technical controls, governance, response plans, third-party assurance, training, and timely regulatory reporting. The Fund, led by its Board of Trustees, has taken steps to comply with these requirements.

You can start an Emergency fund even with Limited Cash Flow and this is how you can make it happen:

Life is unpredictable. Whether it's a sudden medical bill, car repair, or loss of income, unexpected expenses can strike at any time. That's why having an emergency fund is one of the most important steps in building long-term financial security — especially for members of a retirement fund who are steadily working toward financial independence.

What is an Emergency Fund?

An emergency fund is a financial safety net usually in the form of a savings account. It is a dedicated pool of money set aside specifically to cover unexpected expenses. It helps you avoid turning to high-interest debt, dipping into retirement savings, or making rushed financial decisions when life throws you a curveball.

But what if you have debt?

It's a common belief that you should pay off all your debt before saving anything. But the truth is, even if you're managing loans or credit card balances, starting a small emergency fund is still crucial. Without it, any new financial shock could push you further into debt.

Think of it this way:

If you can set aside just a few hundred rands over time, you're less likely to need a loan or credit card the next time a surprise expense pops up.

How to start, even with Limited Cash Flow

1. **Start small and stay consistent:** Begin by aiming for R500 to R1000 but even R50 per month adds up over time.
2. **Set a monthly savings goal:** Reaching monthly milestones can give you positive momentum and encourage you to keep saving. This can help you keep the habit of saving regularly and make the overall task less daunting.
3. **Automate your savings:** Set up a monthly debit order to a separate savings account; one that's easy to access in an emergency, but not so convenient that you're tempted to spend it.
4. **Cut small expenses:** Look at your monthly budget and find small areas to trim such as takeaways, subscriptions, or impulse buys. Redirect that money to your emergency fund.
5. **Save your tax refund:** You get a shot at this once a year and only if you expect a refund. Saving it can be an easy way to boost your emergency fund.
6. **Celebrate progress:** Each step is a win. Once you reach your initial goal, aim for the next one to help you reach greater milestones.



Good to know

English

If you start an emergency fund today, you are building a buffer to protect your present and safeguard your future. ***Start small, stay consistent, and give your money time to grow.***

Ngiyathokoza ukwazi

Zulu

Uma uqala isikhwama sezimo eziphuthumayo namuhla, wakha isivikelo ukuze uvikele imanje lakho futhi uvikele ikusasa lakho. ***Qala kancane, hlala ungaguquguquki, futhi unikeze imali yakho isikhathi sokukhula.***

Ho monate ho tseba

Sesotho

Haeba u qala letlole la ts'ohanyetso kajeno, u ntse u theha tsireletso ho sireletsa hona joale le ho sireletsa bokamoso ba hau. ***Qala hanyane, lula u tsitsitse, 'me u fe chelete ea hau nako ea ho hola.***

I swinene ku swi tiva

Tsonga


Loko u sungula nkwama wa xihatla namuntlha, u aka xisirhelelo xo sirhelela nkarhi wa wena wa sweswi na ku hlayisa vumundzuku bya wena. ***Sungula hi switsongo, tshama u nga cinci naswona u nyika mali ya wena nkarhi wo kula.***

Ensure you are a registered taxpayer

In terms of South African law, every person who earns taxable income must be registered with SARS (South African Revenue Service) and have a tax reference number.

This is important not just for paying tax, but also for pension fund administration, withdrawals, and other financial transactions.

- **Your benefits** from the Fund **CANNOT** be paid without a valid tax reference number!
- **ALL members** who earn more than R95 750 (annual income) or R7979 per month, must register for tax.
- **Even if you earn below** this threshold, **your employer must still report you to SARS**, and you may be required to have a tax number for fund and financial purposes (e.g. retirement benefit payouts, property transfer, investments).



Action required:
Check if you have a tax number.
If not then apply online at www.sars.gov.za or visit your nearest SARS branch.



Dear TSRF Members.

Your Annual Benefit Statement is Now Available

To access your statement, simply visit
<https://transport.benefitcounselor.com/loginor>
 or send us a WhatsApp message on 087 240 7004, then navigate to the Benefit Statement tab.



ASSETS

Something you own that can be sold for cash or exchanged for another item of value. Your house, car, furniture, jewellery, savings and other investments are all assets. However, in terms of investments, assets mainly refer to equities, bonds and cash.



EQUITIES

Equities are shares on the stock market. Investment in equities gives you the opportunity to achieve high returns over the long term, but your investments are affected by short-term market and currency fluctuations. Capital profits and losses can be made based on these market fluctuations.

See the latest when you visit The Fund's social media pages

The Fund has a **Facebook page** with more than 9600 followers.

<https://www.facebook.com/TransportSectorRetirementFund>

The Fund also launched an Instagram page, for younger members in April 2025.

The Fund produces regular informative Reels for Instagram on all the important aspects of the Fund.

Make sure you don't miss out! Visit Instagram today!

<https://www.instagram.com/transportsectorretirementfund>

Make sure you visit these pages and follow us!



MEMBERS and EMPLOYERS NEWSFLASH

September 2025

What does this mean for Employers?

Practical Procedure

Action required

Enforcement

Fund contact details



salt

PAY

SHIFT

Even small amounts help.



TSRF MEMBER NEWSFLASH

AUGUST 2025

BENEFITS of the TSRF FUNERAL BENEFIT

Who is covered for the funeral benefit?

Benefits schedule

Funeral Claims

Documents required

Repatriation of mortal remains

Nomination form for funeral benefits

Additional Links

Contact info



TSRF MEMBER NEWSFLASH

SEPTEMBER 2025

NOMINATION OF BENEFICIARIES

Why you should nominate a beneficiary.

What is debt?

Realising the Power of Women's Financial Independence

South African women are remarkable. They are holding down demanding jobs, providing for their families, and taking on the responsibility of caregiving for children and elderly relatives - all while facing systemic inequalities such as the 30% wage gap and single parenthood.

Despite these challenges, women are increasingly recognising the importance of financial independence as a key indicator of success. In fact, over 60% of South African women view financial security as a top priority, according to Momentum's research.

South African women are natural planners and multitaskers, qualities that serve them well when it comes to long-term financial security. Many are already taking proactive steps to secure their futures, with 45% of women reported to be debt-free, according to Momentum's 'The Success Women Want 2025' report.

Given the increasing cost of living, it's no wonder that women may be feeling overstretched financially and looking for ways to cut corners. But if you've been tempted to skimp on your long-term savings in order to provide for the here-and-now, this is why you should think twice.

The pension gap: a hidden vulnerability

Women's lower wages and overall worse financial position mean that at retirement men are significantly better off. If you've been unemployed or taken career breaks to raise children, you may have even less money saved. In fact, on average, women have 26% less savings at retirement age. In this situation, you may have to delay retirement, carry on working part-time, or have to live on a smaller pension.

This makes it even more important that women think ahead and do proactive financial planning while still working - and preferably, while you're in your career peak.

Leveraging your "Power Decades" of your 30s and 40s

Your 30s and 40s are your "power decades" - a time when you're likely at the peak of your earning potential and hitting major life milestones - like having children and buying a home. These years also present a prime opportunity to get intentional about your long-term financial health. By making strategic choices now, you can set yourself up for greater independence and security down the road.

Under these circumstances, it might seem impossible to plan for what will happen in 20 years' time. Yet the decisions you take now will have an outsized impact later on.

Taking Control of your Financial journey

South African women are striving for autonomy, and financial independence is a key indicator of true success. But at the same time, most South Africans - women included - hesitate to seek expert advice when it comes to money. Momentum's Financial Advice Research Report found that 77% of South Africans rely on their own skills and expertise for financial decisions, and 12% ask friends and family. Only 9% worked with a financial adviser, and those who did were wealthier and more secure. Households that were self-reliant had the lowest wealth levels, while those who worked with an adviser had almost 10 times the amount invested as their peers.

Extract from an article by Momentum

Good to know

English

The Fund provides free Retirement Benefit Counselling through the Member portal. If you prefer to speak with a financial adviser you can go to the Financial Planning Institute (FPI) to find an adviser near you.



[click here](#) to access the FPI

Ngiyathokoza ukwazi

Zulu

IsiKhwama sihlinzeka Ngokwelulekwa Kwamahlala Ngezinzuzo Zomhlalaphansi ngokusebenzisa iphothali Yelungu. Uma ukhetha ukukhuluma nomeluleki wezezimali ungaya e-Financial Planning Institute (FPI) ukuze uthole umeluleki eduze nawe.



[click here](#) ukufinyelela i-FPI

Ho monate ho tseba

Sesotho

Letlole le fana ka tllhabollo ea mahala ea Retirement Benefit ka portal ea Litho. Haeba u khetha ho bua le moelets'i oa lichelete u ka ea Setsing sa Meralo ea Lichelete (FPI) ho fumana moelets'i haufi le uena.



[click here](#) ho fihlella FPI

I swinene ku swi tiva

Tsonga

Nkwama wu nyika Vutsundzuxi bya mahala bya Mimbuyelo ya Mudende hi ku tirhisa portal ya Swirho. Loko u tsakela ku vulavula na mutsundzuxi wa swa timali u nga ya eka Financial Planning Institute (FPI) ku ya kuma mutsundzuxi ekusuhi na wena.



[click here](#) ukufikelela kwi-FPI



Wellness tips for truck drivers

Working as a truck driver on long routes can be very stressful. You can improve your health by staying connected with friends and family, making healthy choices and driving safely.

Physical Health

- **Stay hydrated:** Drink plenty of water throughout the day, keeping a reusable water bottle in your truck.
- **Eat well:** Prepare healthy meals at home, pack healthy snacks, and choose healthier options at truck stops, such as fruits, vegetables, and lean proteins.
- **Incorporate movement:** Take breaks to stretch and walk around your truck. Get out of the cab for short walks at rest stops or plan for longer walks when you have time.
- **Exercise regularly:** Do equipment-free exercises like push-ups, squats, lunges and planks. Use portable equipment like resistance bands, dumbbells, or a jump rope for cardio and strength training.
- **Prioritise sleep:** Aim for 7 to 9 hours of quality sleep and try to maintain a regular sleep schedule.

Mental and Emotional Health

- **Stay connected:** Talk to friends and family frequently using video calls or phone calls.
- **Manage stress:** Practice deep breathing and meditation.
- **Seek support:** Use employer EAPs for counseling services.
- **Consider a companion:** If your company policy allows, bring a traveling companion or even a pet to provide company and emotional support.
- **Listen to music or podcasts:** Find calming music or engaging podcasts to listen to while driving or during breaks.

Routine and Prevention

- **Schedule regular health check-ups:** Monitor your health by scheduling routine medical visits.
- **Take short breaks:** Even a short break to do simple stretches can improve circulation and reduce muscle tension.
- **Maintain good posture:** Sit with good posture to help prevent back and neck pain from sitting for long periods.

Your Fund's contact information



087 405 6377

for Member enquiries



087 405 6376

for Two-Pot System enquiries



members@tsrf.salteb.co.za



www.tsrf.co.za



[@TransportSectorRetirementFund](https://www.facebook.com/TransportSectorRetirementFund)



[transportsectorretirementfund](https://www.instagram.com/transportsectorretirementfund)



WhatsApp "Hi" to: 087 240 7004

TSRF Benefit Counselling Tool



TSRF Client Contact Centres:



Johannesburg

Samro Place, 8th Floor
20 De Korte Street, Braamfontein



Cape Town/Bellville

Suite 2, Edward building 1,
116 Edward Street, Oakdale, Bellville



Durban

1 Dorothy Nyembe Street,
The Marine, Durban Central, Durban

Fund no: 12/8/37811

Disclaimer: In cases where communication and Fund rules differ, the TSRF rules will apply.