

Workers have spoken against tax hikes



South African workers achieved their first victory over persistent tax hikes when Cabinet decided to postpone Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana's budget speech after a massive revolt against the proposed increase of VAT (value added tax) from 15% to 17%.

Godongwana said in his undelivered budget speech this was needed to fund the public servants' wage bill after the parties agreed to a 5,5% wage increase, 2,5% more than the current consumer inflation of 3%.

The backlash came after Godongwana decided to impose this heavy burden on all consumers, and in essence on struggling households, without consulting parties within the Government of National Unity who had to sign off on his proposed budget.

The VAT hike from 1 April would have ensured an additional R191 billion for the fiscus over three years. Without this injection the Minister warns that the country's debt will become "unsustainable". This suggested VAT increase being the first since 2018 when the decision to increase VAT from 14% to 15% was met with an extensive backlash from civil society, trade unions and the public.

According to the *Daily Maverick* VAT is widely considered a regressive form of taxation. It does not discriminate based on income, meaning lower-income households pay the same percentage on goods and services as wealthier individuals. While higher-income earners contribute more in absolute rand terms, the proportion of income that lower-income earners lose to VAT is significantly greater.

For the South African working class and unemployed, every percentage increase in

VAT means fewer basic goods in shopping baskets, more difficult decisions at the till and ultimately a rising cost of living crisis that pushes families deeper into financial distress.

The data is clear: the poorer you are, the more a VAT increase affects you.

South Africa's income distribution is highly unequal and when breaking down VAT paid per household income decile, the disparities become evident. Godongwana only informed the majority that the hike would be 2% hours before the budget speech was set to be delivered.

Treasury says increasing taxes on consumption through VAT will have the least-detrimental effect on economic growth and employment. The unemployment rate fell by 0.2% to 31,9% in the fourth quarter of 2024.

According to Treasury higher taxes on companies would erode their competitiveness. Government owing a net of R5.5 trillion and interest payments consuming 22% of all revenue collected.

Martlé Keyter, MISA's Chief Executive Officer: Operations, says for the first time since democracy in 1994 South African's is not prepared to pay more taxes for less, wanting to know what Government is doing about the corruption that resulted in its debt burden of billions.

"Workers in the retail motor industry cannot afford to pay more on VAT. The industry has been in a slump, struggling to cope with a significant decline in the sales of new and used vehicles at dealerships. The market is weak and consumers are already buying fewer cars due to factors like economic hardship and high

interest rates, leading to reduced revenue for car retailers. This has a ripple effect across the industry with less consumers taking their vehicles in for a service or replacing important components such as breaks and tyres because they cannot afford it," says Keyter.

The Minister is set to deliver his revised budget speech on 12 March.

MISA also called on President Ramaphosa to restore South Africa's diplomatic relationship with the United States to prevent the country from being excluded from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) due for renewal in September 2025. This comes after US President, Donald Trump, signed an executive order stopping all aid to South Africa with immediate effect causing fear that the suspension of AGOA might follow.

AGOA allows South Africa to export more than 1 800 goods and minerals, between R150 billion and R200 billion annually, to the US duty-free. The US serves as a major market for vehicles, tyres, equipment and parts produced in South Africa. Two out of every three vehicles manufactured in South Africa are exported.

Prof André Roux, head of Future Studies at the University of Stellenbosch, warned that South Africa must not follow in the footsteps of Kenya. Since 18 June, Kenya has been engulfed in deadly unrest by young demonstrators, self-identifying as Generation Z, against the controversial 2024 Finance Bill. The bill initially proposed to introduce a 16% sales tax on bread and 25% duty on cooking oil. The Government had to scrap some of these proposals.



Message from *Martlé Keyter*

MISA CEO: OPERATIONS

The race is on for the wage- and substantive negotiations at MIBCO (Motor Industry Bargaining Council) that will determine what agreement the Minister of Employment and Labour will promulgate in the Government Gazette.

MISA's negotiation team is due to commence with pre-bargaining meetings on 11 March 2025. With the current wage- and substantive agreement lapsing on 31 August 2025, MISA will endeavour to have a new agreement in place with effect from 1 September 2025.

MISA foresees a difficult round of negotiations due to the country's ongoing dire economic situation, together with consumer inflation recently rising to 3%.

The industry is under severe strain.

In 2024 vehicle exports in general declined with 22,8% to 308 830 units compared to the record performance of 2023 when the industry exported 399 594 units.

New vehicle sales in South Africa experiencing a 3 % decline in 2024 when only 515 712 units were sold, down from 531 775 in 2023.

It's a tough world out there.

MISA's success story of having more than doubled our membership in the last decade, to be acknowledged as not only the fastest growing trade union, but the majority trade union in the retail motor industry, does not sit well with everyone.

MISA's members are being targeted daily by political party individuals and even companies spreading lies about our unique union and making empty promises about what they will receive should they jump ship.

I just need to set the record straight. MISA is a non-politically affiliated trade union.

This Union does not concern itself with your vote choice or political support as these are unrelated to your workplace.

No political party or politician will help you or represent you when you face trouble at work.



Martlé Keyter

It is a mammoth task to serve the best interest of MISA's more than 69 000 members, but our Legal Department is considered the best in the industry.

MISA prides itself on maintaining honest relationships with our members, utilising the Union's resources and the energy of its staff on cases with merit. The Legal Department has gone as far as the Constitutional Court, the highest court in our country, to represent our members, based on these principles.

There will always be disgruntled members who hoped for a different outcome. That is part of human nature.

Unfortunately there has been an increase in recent months of opportunists abusing the names of political parties and companies to try to gain the favour of members.

Only trade unions represented at MIBCO can negotiate on your behalf. It is a waste

of money to belong to wannabe companies claiming to be in the process of registering with the Department of Employment and Labour to become trade unions.

MISA's business does not end with excellent representation of its Legal Department. This Union defeats the odds by growing and setting a trend for other trade unions to follow.

MISA had to reinvent the wheel, very carefully considering what value the union can add to its members.

MISA does not only focus on the death and funeral benefits, but pays out unique financial benefits to assist our members adding value to their monthly contributions. These include the Healthy MISA Member, Healthy MISA Women, Loyalty, School Support, Maternity, Paternal, Short Time and Retrenchment benefits.

To MISA continued learning is key in our evolving industry that is why we provide our members with various training programs to help them better equip themselves in the working environment and for their own personal growth. This is done through Soft Skills Training, Webinars, opportunities for lower grade workers to complete their matric certificates and bursaries to study at tertiary institutions, not only for our members, but also for their children.

Don't be fooled by the wannabe's. Stick with MISA. We won't disappoint you.



Annual Reports

for the year ended 31 March 2024

These reports highlight our unwavering commitment to continuous improvement and collaboration, as well as the significant progress we have made in enhancing the benefits available to both members and employers.

A key focus over the past year has been the development and implementation of innovative initiatives tailored for both members and employers.

[MIRF Annual Report](#)

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[Copartes Annual Report](#)

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Murder case gone cold



Palesa Malatji



Lerato Kale



Allison Botha

It has been twenty months since the brutal rape and murder of Palesa Malatji (17) with no suspects arrested.

“Not a day goes by that we don’t think whoever did this to her, is still walking around amongst us. There has been no contact from the South African Police Service (SAPS) since.”

“I believe the police closed this case. Perhaps if we had money, her case would have gotten more attention.”

These are the words of a broken Thabiso Malatji, Palesa’s uncle who has been the spokesperson for the family since her body was found in an open field in May 2023.

Palesa was on her way home after attending an extra class to improve her matric marks.

“Back then the police informed us that the DNA of possible suspects did not match. Nothing happened since.

“It is horrible to be left without any closure. We also want the police to leave no stone unturned to crack this case, but that is not going to happen,” says Malatji.

Nkosinathi Martine Metu, the former boyfriend of Lerato Kale (19) who was accused in the Tsakane Magistrate Court in Brakpan of tracking her down and strangling her, was released on a R 1 500 bail after more than a year in custody.

This is a bitter pill to swallow for Tumelo Motaung, her brother, who is still haunted by the sight of her lifeless body.

He found his sister on 10 August at his grandmother’s house with her hands and

legs tied together, strangled with a sleeve of the sweater she was wearing, buried under a heap of clothes.

Martlé Keyter, MISA’s Chief Executive Officer: Operations, says the Union appeals to the role players in the criminal justice system to give equal attention to each case of gender-based violence to get perpetrators behind bars.

The murders of Palesa and Lerato are some of the cases the Union followed closely to monitor progress being made.

“During the current financial year MISA enabled the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit (SOCA) of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), through numerous initiatives, to empower prosecutors working with these cases and to raise awareness about the rights of victims and new legislation.

MISA expressed the Union’s gratitude when parole was revoked of the pair responsible for the brutal attack on Allison Botha, one of the most horrific crimes in South African history.

At the same time acknowledging that Correctional Services Minister, Pieter Groenewald, had no option but to correct a wrong decision to grant parole, faced with pending litigation from Botha.

“MISA wants to remind Government of its constitutional obligation to keep every woman and child in South Africa safe.

As many as 75 people were murdered in SA per day in the third quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year, according to the latest crime statistics. 961 women, 273 children were

reported murdered; while 128 rape cases were recorded daily.

We must be reminded about the horrific fate of women and children in South Africa every day and not just on special days, like the upcoming International Women’s Day on 8 March,” says Keyter.

According to Adv. Bonnie Currie-Gambo, Special Director of Public Prosecutions: SOCA, South Africa has one of the highest rates of gender-based-violence in the world. “It is therefor especially commendable that MISA has heeded to the call by President Cyril Ramaphosa for the private sector to join the fight against GBV.”



Doors open with Study Assistance Benefit

#PROUDLYMISA member Antonia Moodley (27) can further her studies after MISA granted her Study Assistance of R12 500 for the third year.

The Service Advisor at Lenasia Volkswagen is doing her final year towards a Bachelor of Business Administration at Mancosa's distance learning.

“MISA has assisted me a lot and I am grateful. I salute their professionalism because within days, the amount of R12 500 was paid directly to the institution.

Thank you MISA”, says Moodley.

Moodley joined MISA in 2019 after Thulani Maseko, one of the Recruitment and Liaison Officers, explained the benefits.

“I wanted to study but did not know how to manage without finances, when a colleague of mine said I should reach out to MISA. I was over the moon being able to finally study.”

In the next five years, she sees herself having grown in her career.

For more information on MISA's Study Assistance, please e-mail Training@ms.org.za or call MISA's Training Department directly on 011 476 3920.



Antonia Moodley

Healthy MISA Women Benefit saved her life

Having not qualified for the Healthy MISA Benefit Santie Scott (41), a Vehicle Administrator at Eastern Cape Motors in East London, applied for the Healthy MISA Women Benefit, which required her to go for a mammogram.

This saved her life.

“I am currently recovering from an operation after a lump was discovered in my left breast. I was scared and feared the worst. Although the lump has been removed, this experience served as a wake-up call; it could have been too late, I cannot thank MISA enough for these benefits and the requirements they have in place.” says Scott.

The Cancer Association of South Africa confirms that breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer among women of all races. A mammogram is a specialized X-ray imaging technique used to examine breast tissue. This procedure is crucial for the early detection of breast cancer and other abnormalities. Regular mammograms and early detection can reduce breast cancer mortality (deaths caused by cancer) by 20% to 60%.

Raising awareness, preventing and detecting

cancer early are crucial in the fight against the disease.

Scott has been working in the retail motor industry for nearly 21 years and joined MISA in 2010. Since 2020, she has claimed benefits for School Support, the Healthy MISA Member Benefit twice, the Loyalty Benefit three times, and the Healthy Women Benefit for the first time this year.

In 2023, she received a MISA Bursary for her daughter, a first-year student studying at Fort Hare University.

“MISA benefits are not only financial, they help our children go to school. I am grateful to be part of such a union.

“I encourage women to go for check-ups, it is not painful and doable. Early detection is key, the claim from MISA is just a bonus.

“MISA is always there to support you. With regular communication and updates, you will never miss valuable information. I will remain a member of MISA until I retire.



Santie Scott

Gratitude for MISA Funeral Benefit

MISA helped Jors Noko when he needed it most. Noko from Karoo Ford in Graaff-Reinet in the Eastern Cape lost his wife, Wendy, to cancer on 27 December.

“It was a very difficult time for us as a family. After a few days, I remembered that my wife was covered under my MISA Benefit and Funeral Fund. I submitted my claim on 2 January and was paid R 12 000.”

“I was so grateful for MISA’s fast assistance. I would not have been able to cover so many of the hidden costs if I did not get this money from MISA.”

According to Noko he is very grateful to Monique Dalhouzie, MISA’s Recruitment and Liaison Officer assigned to his dealership.

“She always takes the time to explain the benefits to me and direct me if I need help. I am very grateful to her and MISA.”



Jors Noko and Monique Dalhouzie

MISA is there in time of loss

Amos Chauke (45) thanks MISA for the R8 000 Funeral benefit after losing his 5 day old son.

This Polisher at Great South Autobody in Booyens, Johannesburg joined the Union in 2023 after Neo Makgeledisa, one of the Recruitment and Liaison Officers explained the benefits available to him.

“I became aware of the Union after assisting former colleagues with Legal Assistance. That’s where I saw that it is a Union that protects and fights for workers’ rights.

“I realized that it is more than a Union with the number of benefits available to us. I knew that should the unfortunate happen, my wife can reach out and be assisted”, says Chauke.

Chauke commends MISA’s excellent service and rates it 5 stars. He encourages those working in the retail motor industry to join the Union and not miss out on any MISA benefits.

“The claim took two days to be paid out. MISA is not just a Union, it is the future.”

All paid up members and dependants, as stipulated in the Fund Rules, qualify for this funeral benefit, subject to 4 weeks’ contributions.

BENEFIT AND FUNERAL FUND

Death Benefit:

Subject to 26 weeks’ consecutive contributions, all paid-up members will automatically qualify for this death benefit. In the event of suicide, 104 weeks’ consecutive contributions must have been received. Payments are made directly to the nominated beneficiary upon the death of a member and the benefits do not become assets in the deceased member’s estate.

Funeral Benefit:

All paid-up members and dependants, as stipulated in the Fund Rules, qualify for this funeral benefit, subject to 4 weeks’ contributions.

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Death Benefit (Member only)	90 000	70 000	30 000
Funeral Benefit (Member & Spouse)	16 500	12 000	11 000
*Member’s Children over 18	16 500	12 000	11 000
Member’s Children 14 - 18	16 500	12 000	11 000
Member’s Child/dren under 14	11 000	9 000	8 000

*Only applicable to children who are registered as full time students and/or who are physically and/or mentally disabled.

If you make use of AVBOB (a preferred provider), funeral claims will be guaranteed subject to specified conditions.

Additional Death and Funeral Benefit for MISA Members who belong to the Sick, Accident and Maternity Pay Fund

Subject to 8 consecutive weeks’ contributions, MISA members and dependants, as stipulated in the Fund Rules, at RMI establishments, qualify for an additional death and funeral benefit.

Death Benefit for the member: R25 000

T’s and C’s apply. This benefit is not available to Affiliate members.

The following **Funeral Benefit(s)** will be paid:

- The member: R10 000
- The member’s spouse: R10 000
- Children over the age of 18 who are registered as full-time students: R10 000
- Children 14 to 18 years of age: R10 000
- Children under 14 years of age: R7 000

MISA rewards you for taking care of your health

Michelle Marx (53) is always reminded annually of why she should always take good care of herself.

The Stock Controller at the Nissan Eastern Cape in Gqeberha received the Healthy MISA Women claim of R 3 000. 00 for the third year in a row.

"I advise women to go for a pap smear and mammograms as often as possible. Receiving the claim of R 3 000 is just the bonus. As women, we should go for checkups and look after ourselves, because if we do not, who will?"

Cancer screening helps find cancer before it spreads when it is easier to treat. The earlier cancer is detected, the better your chance of survival. My sister is proof of this as a cancer survivor," says Marx.

According to Bonitas Medical Aid South Africa, over 100 000 new cases of cancer are diagnosed annually, resulting in over 60 000 deaths due to cancer.

The most diagnosed cancers in South Africa are breast, cervical and prostate cancer.

However, if caught early, the survival rate for these cancers can be over 90%.

Marx is also part of the MISA Women's Forum and loves helping those in need.

Having joined MISA 10 years ago, she loves how it always looks out for its members with benefits and giving back to the needy people across the country.

"It satisfies the heart to help those in need and make a difference in someone's life," she shares. Balancing work with charitable activities can be challenging, but with a supportive work environment and family involvement, she finds it manageable.

"It is beautiful to be part of such a union," says Marx.

MISA rewards 600 members who take precaution by going for a pap smear or mammogram annually to prevent cancer.

The Healthy MISA Women Benefit was introduced to motivate women to be preventative and have regular check-ups.

To claim the Healthy MISA Women benefit all you need to do is a pap smear or mammogram during 2025 and attend any of the follow up appointments or treatments if required to do so by the Health Care Practitioner.



Michelle Marx

The Healthy MISA Women Benefit will reopen on 1 January 2026.

First time mom gets maternity benefit

Egnatia Alinah Mabuza (29) thanks MISA for the exceptional service in receiving her maternity claim as a first time mom to her baby girl.

She received R3 000 one day after submitting all the required documents.

Mabuza is an Invoicing Clerk at Mercedes Benz in Midrand, Gauteng.

The responsibility of being a mother comes with a lot of extra bills. Mothers with 26 weeks' consecutive contributions, can enjoy the MISA's Maternity Benefit of R3 000 per annum.

She made the decision to join the unique union within the retail motor industry in 2021.

"I joined MISA in April 2021 and I thought to myself, why not? I learned of the MISA Maternity benefit at work while I was pregnant at the time and made an enquiry about it. I thank how their service was excellent months later when I made the claim. Thank you MISA, it was quick.

"I would recommend MISA to anyone within the retail motor industry, it helped me so much with baby essentials", says Mabuza.

Applications must be made within 17 weeks from the date of birth.

To apply for this benefit, please contact the Claims Department via e-mail claims@ms.org.za.

Breast Cancer
IS THE MOST COMMON CANCER AFFECTING WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA

WARNING SIGNS

- A puckering of the skin of the breast
- A lump in the breast or armpit
- A change in the skin around the nipple or nipple discharge
- Dimpling of the nipple or nipple retraction
- An enlargement of the glands
- An unusual increase or shrinkage in the size of one breast or recent asymmetry of the breasts
- One breast unusually lower than the other. Nipples at different levels
- An unusual swelling in the armpit

MYTH vs FACT

- Myth:** I am too young to get breast cancer. **Fact:** Many women who are under 40 are diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Myth:** It doesn't matter if I'm overweight/obese and don't exercise. **Fact:** Being overweight & having low levels of physical activity adds to breast cancer risk, esp after menopause.
- Myth:** Alcohol & smoking is not linked to breast cancer. **Fact:** Alcohol and tobacco use increases the risk of breast cancer.
- Myth:** Only women with a family history of breast cancer are at risk. **Fact:** All women are at risk; but family history increases the risk.
- Myth:** I have never had children, so I can't get breast cancer. **Fact:** Women who have never had children, or only had them after 30, have increased risk of breast cancer.

EARLY DETECTION IS KEY

- Do monthly breast self-examinations
- Go for regular screening (clinical breast examinations) at CANSA Care Centres
- Symptom-free women aged 40 to 54 should go for a mammogram every year (women 55 years & older should change to every 2 years)

Everything a parent should know



Whilst the search for the missing Okuhle Rethabile Vilakazi (6) continues, in Mkhondo Mpumalanga, the safety of children remains a challenge in our country.

Vilakazi went missing on 28 January 2025. She left for school on morning. She was last seen leaving school.

As the school year is midswing into the first semester, parents and communities step into the important role of guarding the safety of children both within school walls and the world beyond.

The National Institute of Health confirmed that the majority (53.4%) of girls are transported to school by car compared to boys (46.5%). About 58.5% spent less than 15 minutes walking to school, 34% between 15 to 30 minutes, 3.2% between 30 to 45 minutes while a few spend between 45 minutes, to an hour walking to school.

Children can be taught what to do and what the dangers are. Parents should also lead by example.

When walking to and from school:

- Only walk on pavements and crosswalks, looking both ways before crossing the road.
- Never accept lifts from strangers or those who claim to be sent by parent/s.
- Don't use electronic devices or earphones while walking to and from school.
- Always walk with a friend or friends.
- Stick to streets you know and never take shortcuts through unfamiliar or quiet areas.

The following was issued by the South African Police Services (SAPS) to warn parents and to educate children on safety measures, as there are persons impersonating police officers:

- SAPS Requests: No legitimate SAPS officer will ask children for their phones in public.
- Phone Usage: Advise children to use their phones only within school grounds, making arrangements before leaving.
- Safety Outside School Premises: Teach children not to walk with phones in their hands or headphones on when outside school premises, making them less of a target for phone snatchers and impersonators.

Additionally:

Vehicle Awareness: Encourage children to learn different cars and models. Make it a fun game.

License Plate Recognition: Teach children to remember at least four consecutive digits from a license plate, as this can be helpful in emergencies.

Parents should have regular conversations about school safety, driving practices and road traffic laws to ensure their child understands the road rules.

The Road Accident Fund (RAF) recently raised concerns over the devastating toll of road accidents involving school children, showing approximately four children dying daily due to road incidents.

School going children between the ages of 5 and 19 have been part of the road fatalities

on a five year average, approximating to 4 deaths per day, approximating to 100 fatalities per month. From 2019 to 2023, 60% of fatalities involved children as pedestrians.

10 Safety Tips When Walking Alone

1. Plan your route in advance
2. Keep Your Phone Accessible
3. Stay Aware of Your Surroundings
4. Avoid walking alone at night
5. Carry personal safety devices
6. Trust your instincts
7. Avoid dark or isolated areas
8. Let Someone Know Your Plans
9. Walk with self-confidence
10. Avoid Carrying Valuables Openly

To study locally or internationally “...that is the question”



With online learning, you can study from anywhere, allowing you to fit your education around your work and family responsibilities. You can choose to study either part-time or full-time, giving you the flexibility you need. Online programs offer opportunities to connect with fellow students from around the globe.

Many institutions offer online degrees that consist of separate courses or modules, which you can take one at a time. Some programs also provide extra support, either online or at local recognized teaching centers.

These short courses are perfect for continuing your professional development, updating your knowledge, or exploring new areas of interest.

Prior to registering for online studies, one needs to ensure that they:

- Meet the specific rules for online studies as an international student.
- Have a stable internet connection and a device with a keyboard and large screen to complete assessments.

Online degrees from international universities that are accredited are typically recognized worldwide, but students may need to have their credentials evaluated after graduation.

Given the variety of international and online qualifications, some of which may lack accreditation, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has provided guidelines for those looking to study at international institutions.

Students are requested to:

- Verify the institution with SAQA for the accreditation status of the host university abroad and the local equivalence of the qualification before the registration and enrolling at a foreign university.
- Verify the status of pursued programmes with the relevant professional bodies.
- Research institutions as well as specific requirements set by the institutions of interest.
- Understand fully the implications of studies outside of South Africa, especially if you want to practice in South Africa upon qualification.

Both studying locally and internationally are valid choices that can be reassuring for university students. MISA offers bursaries to support the tertiary education of its members and their dependents who meet specific eligibility criteria.

These bursaries are available only for programs at institutions registered with the DHET or accredited by a SETA. For more information about these educational benefits, please contact Training@ms.org.za.

Article by Thandeka Phiri, National Training and HR Manager

After the excitement of passing exams, many matric students are faced with questions about their future studies, especially where to register.

The decision of where to study involves not only personal preference and admission requirements but also limited university capacities, leading some students to consider alternatives like international studies.

Students may choose to study abroad to enhance their qualifications, build business networks, or seek permanent residency.

This decision requires thorough research and preparation, as it goes beyond just selecting a country and institution.

The final decision will also be impacted by:

- Current qualification/s.
- Ensuring that the presented course content aligns with career ambitions.
- Post graduation job opportunities.
- The ability to meet the student visa requirements, or possible citizenship.
- Costs of studying which are inclusive of university application fees, student visa application fees, health insurance for international students, tuition fees, travel, accommodation and living costs, amongst others.

Advantages of studying internationally:

- A chance to experience new cultures to expanding knowledge and awareness.
- Exposure to different education systems.
- Language development and adaptability.
- Independence.
- Ability to access academically top-ranked universities, distinctive programs and cutting-edge teaching methods not available locally.
- Boost your CV, as employers consider cross-cultural and communication skills as highly beneficial.
- A broad professional network flowing from international exposure.

Disadvantages of studying internationally:

- High costs of studies with funding for overseas studies being limited.
- Financial strain.
- Language barriers and culture shock may pose difficulties and can bar one from participating in activities or learning effectively.
- Experiencing homesickness and missing out on family events or milestones
- Difficulties re-integrating upon return.

If you're interested in pursuing international studies without the high costs, online or distance learning could be a great option for you.

Meet the MISA Recruitment and Liaison Team



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Trump and Musk: A Potential Clash over Climate Policy

Article by the Strategy and Development Department.

The President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, and the founder of SpaceX and Tesla Motors, Elon Musk, have shared a notably good relationship, often aligning on certain economic priorities despite their differences on climate change.

While Musk has championed electric vehicles (EVs) and the transitioning to renewable energy to combat climate change, Trump has dismissed it, focusing on economic growth and energy independence through traditional fossil fuels.

Trump and Musk shared contrasting views on climate policy which could have created some complex dynamics between the two, especially with Musk at the helm of the new Department of Government Efficiency (Doge) - Doge created by Trump via an executive order. It now appears that Musk has changed his view on climate change initiatives.

Since taking office, Trump signed a series of executive orders which include favouring oil and gas over renewable energy and electric vehicles, halting federal support for clean energy projects. While this could provide short-term economic benefits, experts warn it could leave the U.S. lagging in the development of essential green technologies, giving China a competitive edge.

Green Tech experts warn that if Trump genuinely reduces EV support, the U.S. risks falling further behind China in the global green tech race, potentially resulting in a future dominated by outdated technology. While Trump remains sceptical about green energy, China is making significant strides toward a greener economy.

China, the world's largest producer of coal, is already leading the renewable energy transition, generating 31% of its electricity from renewable sources, compared to the U.S.'s 22%. In 2023, China accounted for half of global renewable installations, doubling its solar capacity from the previous year.

According to sources, the U.S. is reluctant to increase investment in green energy, citing the strategic benefit of relying on its abundant domestic oil reserves to ensure energy security and providing economic advantages for its people.

Trump's recent withdrawal from the Paris Agreement aimed at global cooperation on climate change, alongside his executive orders reversing Biden's clean energy initiatives, sent shockwaves through the clean energy sector. By declaring a national energy emergency, Trump granted his administration broader powers to approve fossil fuel, biofuel, nuclear and critical mineral projects, but notably excluded wind and solar. His decision to stop leasing federal land for wind farms and consider cutting subsidies for electric vehicles



further signalled a shift away from clean energy.

Musk has often highlighted the economic opportunities that come with investing in green technologies, and he sees addressing climate change not just as an environmental necessity, but also an economic opportunity.

In a Tesla investor conference call held on 29 January 2025, Musk responded to concerns about Trump's stance on electric vehicles, specifically his move to revoke Biden's plan to have 50% of car sales be electric by 2030. Musk said, "At this point, I think that sustainable transport is inevitable. I'm highly confident that all transport will be autonomous electric, including aircraft, and that simply, it can't be stopped any more than one could have stopped the advent of the internal combustion engine."

Despite concerns over Trump's policies potentially harming Tesla's growth, Musk has

maintained a pragmatic stance, particularly regarding subsidies for EVs. Trump has proposed eliminating tax credits, such as the \$7,500 subsidy for new electric cars, but Musk has previously stated that removing subsidies would not harm Tesla, as the company is better positioned to accommodate such changes compared to competitors. Musk has also expressed that Tesla's true advantage lies in its self-driving technology, battery technology and robotics - not just electric vehicles.

Musk's remarks come at a time when the electric car boom in the U.S. appears to be slowing, with electric car sales rising only 7.3% in 2024, accounting for 8.1% of all vehicle sales.

It is unclear as to whether the U.S. halting support for clean energy projects may have any impact on South Africa.

Only time will tell.

Below, you'll see that Tesla is more than five times the size of Toyota, the world's top-selling automaker in vehicle sales.

The 10 most valuable auto companies by market capitalisation in 2025:

Car Company	Market capitalisation
1. Tesla Inc.	\$1.37 trillion
2. Toyota Motor Corp.	\$237 billion
3. Xiaomi Corp.	\$116 billion
4. BYD Co. Ltd.	\$104 billion
5. Ferrari NV	\$78 billion
6. Porsche Automobil Holding SE	\$57 billion
7. General Motors Co.	\$56 billion
8. Mercedes-Benz Group AG	\$55 billion
9. Bayerische Motoren Werke AG	\$49.2 billion
10. Volkswagen AG	\$48.8 billion

Source: US News, 19 January 2025

switch



MISA's Annual Golf Day



MISA invites you to sponsor a hole in the Union's fundraising Golf Day to raise awareness for the Prostate Cancer Foundation on 16 May 2025, hosted at the Kyalami Country Club in Midrand.

Hole Sponsors

Sponsors who wish to bring their own beverages for the watering holes are welcome to do so. A corkage fee of R 3 500 will be payable to the club. Sponsor can make arrangements directly with the club.

Most holes can accommodate vehicle displays, except for those indicated (refer to the course layout for prices and availability). Also the putting green is available at R 8 500 for displaying vehicles.

Entering your team:

A four ball amounting R 8 000.00 includes the following:

- Green Fee
- Pace of Play Referee
- Scorer
- Driving Range (unlimited balls)
- Prize Giving Dinner
- 3 Drink Vouchers
- R 150.00 Halfway Voucher
- Morning Coffee & Snacks
- Welcome Pack
- Goodie Bag

Caddies and Golf Carts:

Please note that the cost of Caddies and Golf Carts are excluded. Bookings are essential and must be made at least 2 weeks prior to the event. You may contact the club directly at 010 594 0034.

Costs applicable for:

- Caddies R 300.00 (excluding Halfway Voucher)
- Golf Cart R 480.00

Course Etiquette:

- Be mindful of the pace of play, keep up to the group in front. Allow quicker players to play through;
- Call the players behind through in case of lost ball;
- Pick up if you cannot score.

Cashless Club:

Kyalami Country Club is a cashless facility. Payments can be done via debit or credit cards or vouchers.



*Nearest to the Pin: Par 3 | Longest Drive: Par 5

MOTOR INDUSTRY STAFF ASSOCIATION

MISA

THE INTELLIGENT ALTERNATIVE | WWW.MISA.ORG.ZA

GOLF DAY 2025



SAVE THE DATE

16 May 2025 | Starts at 08:00

The annual MISA Golf Day is held to raise awareness for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of South Africa

KYALAMI COUNTRY CLUB

433 MAPLE RD, Midrand

Registration - 08:00

Prize Ceremony - 17:00

Prizes up for Grabs!

Contact Us:

Braam.Cilliers@ms.org.za

More Info at:

011 476 3920

HELP US FIND THE 2025 MISA WOMAN OF THE YEAR

The annual MISA Woman of the Year Award is one of the most important development initiatives of the MISA Women's Forum.

As a campaigner for equal rights of women in the retail motor industry, the MISA Women's Forum instituted this Award in 2010 to pay homage to the role that women play in this vital industry.

The Award aims to do more than that: it is an important opportunity for the winner to grow and develop personally and professionally during her tenure as the MISA Woman of the Year.

We are not necessarily looking for the most senior, most successful woman in the retail motor industry, but we are looking for someone who has the potential to develop far beyond their current job title and role.

Another important criterion is also the difference the person makes in the lives of others, whether it's through community involvement, or by simply touching and enriching the lives of people at work or in the community.

We all know someone or perhaps you are that person who is selfless and has a passion for serving people from all walks of life. This is the kind of person the MISA Women's Forum is looking to find and develop further through this annual Award.

REGIONAL WINNERS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE

The Award is structured in such a way that a Regional Finalist is selected in each MISA Region. They compete for the national title. There can only be one national winner, but the Regional Finalists also play an important role.

THE 2025 MISA WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER WINS AN OVERSEAS EDUCATIONAL TRIP IN 2026.

CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS: 16 MAY 2025

Please email the forms to misa.womensforum@ms.org.za
For further information contact Karen Gouws on (041) 364 0102.



MISA WOMEN'S FORUM

MISA
YOUNG
WORKERS' FORUM

NOMINATOR'S DETAIL

(The detail of the person, male or female, making the nomination. If you are nominating yourself, kindly complete this section as well.)

By completing this form, I give MISA permission to process my personal information provided below for the sole purpose of recording my nomination/entry.

Name and surname: _____

I.D. number: _____

Company of employment: _____

Position at company: _____

Tel.: (work) _____ Tel.: (home) _____ Cell: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

NOMINEE'S DETAIL

(The detail of the person that is being nominated for the Award. Kindly complete this section if different from the above.)

Name and surname: _____

I.D. number: _____

Company of employment: _____

Position at company: _____

Tel.: (work) _____ Tel.: (home) _____ Cell: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

I hereby confirm that I do have the nominee's consent to provide the personal information as set out above and that MISA may process the information for the sole purpose of the nominee's participation in the 2025 MISA Woman of the Year Award.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Nominator's signature – person (male or female) making the nomination)

RULES

- All nominees/entrants have to be nominated by themselves/person employed in the retail motor industry to become nominees.
- All nominees/entrants will be contacted by MISA to confirm their participation.
- On accepting to participate in the Award, participants will receive an official entry form. This form will contain all the relevant POPIA compliance information.
- Entry form must be signed by all specified people therein.
- Entry form must be submitted to MISA on/before 18 June 2025. No late submissions will be accepted.
- Entry form and documentation (additional documentation may be requested).
- Only participants who are registered female MISA members at the time of their entry will be eligible to participate.
- The judges shall select 1(one) finalist per region: Eastern Cape | Free State/Northern Cape | KwaZulu-Natal | Northern/Highveld | Western Province.
- The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Finalists will be notified in writing by 18 July 2025 and will be officially announced per region in August 2025.
- All finalists will be interviewed during September/October 2025.
- All finalists will attend the MISA Woman of the Year Award Ceremony in Johannesburg in November 2025, where the winner will be announced.
- Previous finalists may be nominated again.
- Previous and current winners may not be nominated for 3 (three) years.
- The prize for the winner will be determined by the MISA National Executive Committee and is not transferable.
- If you are the first person to nominate the 2025 winner, you stand a chance of winning R1 000! This prize does not apply to self-nominations.

2025 Benefits



These benefits are included in your monthly contributions.

Terms and Conditions apply to all benefits.

For more information, contact MISA on (011) 476 3920 or email info@ms.org.za

JOIN #MISA, the majority trade union in the retail motor industry, today!