



**25 March 2020**

Dear members

**COVID-19 Update – Nation-wide Lockdown**

Since the Coronavirus pandemic has been declared a national disaster, it has been spreading with rapid speed in South Africa with the number continuing to rise daily. Further to my last communication, President Cyril Ramaphosa on the evening of 23 March 2020 confirmed what most of us have feared but at the same time, understand. To “flatten the curve”, the President announced a nation-wide lockdown which will take effect from midnight on Thursday, 26 March until midnight on Thursday, 16 April 2020. All individuals will need to stay at home during this period and will only be able to leave their homes under strictly controlled circumstances such as to seek medical care, buy food, medicine or household groceries and supplies or to provide services classified to be essential.

This is a swift and decisive response by our government to containing COVID-19 in our country and as the President has rightfully said, while this has a considerably adverse impact on our livelihoods, the life of our society and on our economy the human cost of delaying this decision is greater by far.

On behalf of the ISACA South Africa Board of Directors, we are united and we stand by the decisions taken by the President and the National Coronavirus Command Council. We encourage members to do the same and remain compliant with the escalated measures to combat COVID-19 in South Africa and in the global community.

I am sure that you are anxious to know how this nation-wide lockdown will affect you. I wish you all the best as you embark on preparations for the lockdown period. I want to reiterate my previous message which is to approach this situation and lockdown with a sense of calm while being careful, responsible and standing by each other.

Our position as a Chapter on our events and activities has not changed from my previous letter.

***The safety of our members, directors, staff, volunteers and business partners remains our top priority.***

Furthermore:

- We will continue to explore avenues to offer online events to members as an alternative to in-person regional meetings. The first event has been planned for 25 March 2020. Please continue to check our website for further details.
- We will be closing the ISACA SA office to members from 27 March 2020 until 16 April 2020. Please expect a delayed response to enquiries sent to [info@isaca.org.za](mailto:info@isaca.org.za) during this period. All telephonic queries will also be sent to voicemail during this period and our physical chapter offices in Cape Town and Johannesburg will be closed for visitors.



- We encourage you to continue to process your 2020 member renewals to receive valuable membership benefits – the final grace period allowed is until 31 March 2020 and we are currently sitting at a renewal percentage of 70.66% (2019: 80.08%). We rely on you as members to renew your membership to ensure the financial sustainability of the Chapter and continue our work.
- As an active Chapter, we will do our best to continue to communicate with you throughout the lockdown period.

The ISACA South Africa Chapter Board will monitor the situation and I will keep you updated should further decisions unfold. In the event of the lockdown continuing beyond 16 April 2020, an assessment will be made by the Board with the support of the Social & Ethics Committee and we will advise members accordingly.

#### How can you support the Chapter?

##### By responding to our Call for Volunteers:

- We are calling on members to volunteer their time to speak on various webinar topics throughout the year.
- We are also calling on members for support to help us navigate and setup Zoom software for webinars. We are also open to other innovative ideas that we can explore to increase engagement with one another during this time.

*Each member has an opportunity to help the Chapter further its purpose of inspiring the positive potential of technology in South Africa; and in this manner contribute to both the Chapter and the South African economy.*

We realise that this nationwide lockdown may be emotionally trying for many of our members and our Social & Ethics Committee have kindly extended an offer for support and assistance. We encourage you to contact our Social & Ethics Committee at [sec@isaca.org.za](mailto:sec@isaca.org.za) for questions or suggestions related to COVID-19. This email address will remain active during the lockdown period.

A dear friend of mine sent me an inspiring quote today – it said “fear is contagious, but so is faith, hope and love”. This is a very challenging period for us as individuals and for our country. Let’s be kind to each other and to ourselves as we charter through this season. Hold onto what is dear to you and spend time (albeit virtual) with fellow members and those you love.

To echo the words of the President as he ended his address:

May God protect our people.

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso.

God seën Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa.

Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika. Hosi katekisa Afrika.

Sincerely

**Arlene-Lynn Volmink**  
President | ISACA South Africa Chapter