



ASISA ACADEMY NEWSFLASH – JUNE 2023

Dear Stakeholder

"Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future" is the theme under which the month of June should have been celebrated ([Youth Month 2023 | South African Government \(www.gov.za\)](https://www.gov.za)), but for the majority of our youth, there was little to celebrate. Figures released by Statistics South Africa show that in the first quarter of 2023, the number of young unemployed South Africans increased by 241 000, bringing the total number of unemployed youth to 4.9 million. With youth unemployment at 46.5%, South Africa has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the world.

This means that almost half of South Africans aged 15 to 34 have little to no prospect of employment, even if they somehow manage to achieve a tertiary education. When faced with unemployment numbers reaching the millions, it is easy to allow the sheer volume of the problem to result in paralysing despair. The alternative is to collectively tackle the problem, one job at a time.

Over the past 15 years, the ASISA Academy, with the support of the ASISA members, has done just that. Together, we have provided hundreds of young people with hope, either by enhancing their skills or by creating new job opportunities for graduates interested in building a career in financial services. With the ongoing support of ASISA members and several other stakeholders, the ASISA Academy is well-positioned to scale its graduate programmes to create more jobs, thereby creating hope for more graduates and their families.

The ASISA Academy now offers four [graduate programmes](#) designed to create desperately needed employment opportunities for black graduates by bridging the divide between university theory and workplace reality and facilitating access to internships and learnerships. Every employer and corporate sponsor who comes on board to support these programmes enables us to add another job, thereby giving hope to another young South African.

I therefore appeal to all employers: Invest in youth! With your support, we can create more jobs, more opportunities and more hope.

NEWS FROM OUR GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Fezeka Graduate Programme

The eight young women in the [Fezeka](#) programme participate in regular work readiness training sessions with business consultancy Joint Prosperity, our partner in delivering the Fezeka Graduate Programme. These sessions are designed to help prepare these graduates for the professional world.

The June session was followed by a networking session in Cape Town, hosted at Ninety One, where sponsors, mentors and hosts could get to know the eight graduates. Hopefully, some valuable connections were made that will lead to employment opportunities for the Fezeka ladies at the end of the 15-month programme.

Fezeka is an exciting industry collaboration aimed at helping the South African asset management industry improve the representation of Black women on investment teams. I invite you to [contact me](#) to discuss how your company can get involved and what the benefits are. Alternatively, please [click here](#) if your company would like to host a graduate or [here](#) if you would like to make a financial contribution.



The young women who are currently participating in the Fezeka Graduate Programme attended the work readiness programme that Joint Prosperity presented.

IMACS@TSIBA

In last month's Newsflash, we outlined the new structure of the ASISA Academy [IMACS@TSIBA Internship](#), which will allow us to scale this internship significantly. We explained that ASISA members can now opt to sponsor students' participation in the academic component only or fund a group of students for the academic portion and then select only one or two for the internship.

I am beyond pleased to report that the support received from ASISA members has been overwhelming. As a result, we have almost reached our target of funding the academic component for 40 TSIBA students who elected to add the investment management administration component to their degree, starting in July 2023.

While the drastic increase in student numbers for this programme has enabled us to radically reduce the cost per student, we still require funding for two students. The cost of funding the academic component for one student is R17 500 (excl VAT), and this programme aligns with categories B & D on the Learning Programme Matrix. If your company is willing to help, please sign up [here](#).

IFA Internship

Now in its eighth year, the 2023/24 [Independent Financial Advisor \(IFA\) Internship](#) has 31 graduates interning with IFA host practices in Bloemfontein, Cape Town, Durban, East London, Johannesburg, and Gqeberha.

Considering that these graduates have only just completed their fourth month in the formal workplace, it is quite an achievement that five have already passed their RE5 exams. The RE5 exams test candidates' knowledge of the FAIS and FICA Acts.

We would like to congratulate the following IFA interns on passing the RE5 exams:

- Lusanda Tshazo interning at Naviganti Financial Planning in Durban
- Nangamso Majeke interning at NFB Private Wealth Management in East London
- Kirsten Ferguson interning at Private Client Holdings in Cape Town
- Teboho Mosala interning at GCI in Johannesburg
- Mamorena Ndaba interning at Villic Wealth in Johannesburg



IFA interns who passed their RE5 exams. From the left: Lusanda Tshazo, Nangamso Majeke, Mamorena Ndaba, Teboho Mosala, and Kirsten Ferguson.

RETIREMENT FUND TRUSTEE EDUCATION

In June, we presented bespoke [Retirement Fund Trustee Education](#) (RFTE) workshops for the following retirement funds:

- MEU Retirement Fund – Trustee Governance & Ethics
- KZN Clothing Industry Provident Fund – Investment Fundamentals Part 1 & 2
- KZN Municipal Pension Fund – Masterclass in Death Benefits & Section 37C

In the first half of 2023, we presented 34 single-fund workshops reaching 370 delegates, 25 public workshops for 287 delegates, five Batseta workshops for 29 delegates, and two Institute of Retirement Funds Africa (IRFA) workshops for seven delegates. We are also pleased to see an eagerness to return to the physical classroom setting, with 20 of the 66 workshops presented in person.

The ASISA Academy RFTE workshops are funded by the ASISA Foundation from generous donations made by ASISA members. The workshops are professionally recognised for CPD points by Batseta - Council of Retirement Funds for South Africa. A third trusted partner is [Atleha-edu](#) - a publication providing quality and digestible financial learning bits for free to trustees and principal officers.

Representatives from the above partners joined the ASISA Academy RFTE programme champion, Anel Bodill, at the Batseta Winter Conference held at Sun City from 12 to 13 June 2023.



From the left: Anel Bodill (ASISA Academy), Namarsha Singh (ASISA Foundation), and Adrian Bertrand (Atleha-edu).

OTHER COURSES PRESENTED IN JUNE

- **Sanlam Investment Induction:** The ASISA Academy presents induction courses to Sanlam Investment employees four times a year. Presented in person over four days, employees from various departments within Sanlam Investments are introduced to the savings and investment environment, investment governance, investment products, running an investment business, the major asset classes, pricing, and performance.
- **Sanlam Graduate Development Programme:** Close to 100 Sanlam Chartered Accountant graduates attended four full-day online sessions, covering topics such as the South African financial landscape and its role players, ethics in financial services, the investment management and life insurance business models, thinking skills, and financial services career planning.
- **First National Bank inhouse courses:** The [UCT Collective Investment Schemes \(CIS\) Short Course](#) and the [UCT Investment Management Administration & Client Servicing Short Course](#) were delivered as in-house courses for FNB employees in Johannesburg.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

- The next [UCT Life Insurance Claims Assessors Short Course](#) kicks off on 24 July. The course will be delivered face-to-face in Johannesburg over five consecutive days for four months. There are only a few spots left. Please enrol [here](#).
- An online 2-hour [Consumer Financial Education \(CFE\) Practitioner Sprint](#) has been scheduled for 19 July 2023, covering "Coaching, financial planning and CFE". Please enrol [here](#).

For a complete overview of learning opportunities, please visit the [ASISA Academy Learning Calendar](#).

LEARN WITH US

The ASISA Academy is recognised as a Level 1 B-BBEE contributor, with more than 75% of the Academy's beneficiaries being black South Africans. This means employers can claim 135% of their skills development spend with the ASISA Academy. Please [get in touch](#) with us to discuss how we can support your skills development requirements.

Please visit our [website](#) for more information on our many learning opportunities. We also invite you to interact with us on [LinkedIn](#).

Best wishes

Alicia Davids
ASISA Academy CEO