

Retirement



Alexander Forbes Retirement Fund **newsletter**

Issue 3 for 2025



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insight • advice • impact

Smart steps for future security



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Welcome to the third issue of the AFRF newsletter for 2025

In this issue, we offer some ways on how to keep you safe from cyber-attacks and a reminder that financial advice is for everyone. We know that saving for retirement can sometimes feel complicated, so we're here to make things clearer and easier to understand. We aim to give you the right information at the right time so that you can feel confident about your decisions for your financial future.



Financial advice in action



Imagine a world where every household, regardless of income, has the financial confidence to face the future head-on. Sounds ideal, right? Yet in South Africa, it is estimated that only 9% of households use a professional financial adviser. That's just 1.8 million out of 20 million households! This gap is staggering, especially when you consider the life-changing benefits of financial advice.

Research shows that households that work with financial advisers have

9.5
times

more invested than those who don't.

And this isn't just about numbers – it's about transforming lives, building financial confidence, reducing stress and creating a more secure future for everyone, regardless of income level.

Professional financial advice comes in many forms because everyone's needs are different. It's not just about choosing the right investment portfolio. We spoke to a professional financial adviser about the kind of advice they've given over the years – advice that stood out and made a real difference in their clients' lives.



The power of patience

James wanted to retire at 55. His financial adviser showed him what that would mean in rands and cents, and it wasn't pretty. Instead of shutting the door on retirement altogether, they agreed to review his plan each year. James kept working, kept saving and by 63, he had enough to retire comfortably. Today, he's one of the few South Africans with true financial freedom.



Retired and thriving

After years of coaching, one client retired with more income than she had while working. Her adviser helped her save more, settle debt and secure a better annuity rate due to her health – something she wouldn't have known to ask for. She almost gave it all up to help a family member, but her adviser helped her stay the course. She's now financially secure for life.



Avoiding a costly panic

When the markets crashed in 2020, many people wanted to pull their money out, right at the worst time. One adviser convinced several clients to stay invested. Those who listened recovered and even grew their portfolios. Those who didn't missed out. Sometimes, the best advice is what not to do.



Contact your professional financial adviser or scan the QR code and request a call back from an Alexforbes adviser



Protecting your fund against cyber crime

Cybercrime comes in many forms, and it's getting smarter every day. The AFRF takes cybersecurity seriously because protecting your personal and retirement information is part of protecting your future. The fund has developed and maintains a comprehensive cyber risk management and resilience framework and strategy for the governance and management of information security and technology, as well as to define how the fund will identify cyber risks and determine the controls required to keep those risks within acceptable limits.



We need you as a member to also play your part in this process. Let's look at two of the most common online scams, told through the stories of everyday people.

The fake email that caught Sarah off guard

Sarah is a busy professional who enjoys online shopping. One morning, she gets an email that looks like it's from her favourite store. It says there's been a problem with her recent order, and she needs to confirm her account details to fix it. The email looks legit – it has the store's logo, a nice layout and even the right tone. Wanting to sort it out quickly, Sarah clicks the link and enters her username and password. Minutes later, her phone buzzes: there's a large transaction on her bank account that she never made.



What went wrong?

Sarah fell for a phishing scam. The email and website were fake, designed to steal her login details. Once the scammers had her password, they could access her account and make purchases using her saved payment information.



Pro tips

- Never click on links in emails if something feels off.
 - Check the sender's email address carefully.
 - Don't enter personal info on a site unless you're 100% sure it's real.
- When in doubt, type the website address directly into your browser instead of clicking a link.

John's free download came at a high price

John is a freelance designer who often downloads fonts and design tools online. One day, he stumbles across a site offering a 'free, premium-quality font pack'. Excited, he downloads and installs it. After that, strange things start happening. His computer slows down. Files disappear. A few days later, his bank contacts him about suspicious activity on his account. Even worse, some of his work files are locked, and there's a message demanding payment to get them back.



What happened?

John had unknowingly downloaded malware – a harmful program hidden in the font file. It gave hackers access to his personal and financial information, and installed ransomware that locked his files.



Pro tips

- Be careful where you download files from.
- Use trusted websites and always run downloads through antivirus software.
- Back up your files often so you're not left helpless if something goes wrong.



Protect yourself online, protect your future

These stories are reminders that cyberattacks don't just happen to other people. They can happen to anyone who uses email, shops online or downloads files. And when they do, the consequences can be serious.

Your personal and financial information – including your retirement savings – is valuable. That's why it's worth taking small steps to stay safe online.

- 1 Think twice before clicking links or opening attachments.
- 2 Keep your devices and software updated.
- 3 Use strong, unique passwords and two-factor authentication when available.
- 4 And if something feels wrong, trust your instincts.

**Stay smart.
Stay safe.**



Quick links

AF +

Are you ready to start your journey to find the perfect home? AF+ is here to assist you!

Follow these 3 simple steps:

- Step 1:** Get a pre-approval certificate to understand your budget – this can be done via ooba homeloans or through your bank
- Step 2:** Search for your dream home, with the knowledge of your affordability
- Step 3:** Get multiple bank quotes with one application form. Click here and start your home ownership journey with AF+



Note: Registration may take a few days to process.



AF Connect

Check in on your retirement savings

With **AF Connect**, it's easy to view your balance, update your beneficiary nomination forms (each benefit needs its own) and access your savings pot – all in one place. You'll also find helpful tools to grow your savings and plan ahead with confidence.



Click here to register.

My Money Matters

Looking for clear, helpful financial guidance?

My Money Matters has you covered. From your first job to your final working day, it's packed with expert tips and practical tools to help you make confident money decisions – whether you're switching jobs, saving for retirement or just planning ahead. It's everything you need to take control of your financial future.



My Money Matters Centre: 0860 000 381
Email: mymoneymatters@alexforbes.com
Website: <https://mymoneymatters.alexforbes.com/>



Our noticeboard

Tax season: get your certificates the easy way

Tax season is around the corner! From 21 July 2025, the filing period officially opens, and if you made a withdrawal or accessed your savings through the two-pot system this past year, you'll likely need a tax certificate. We've made it as simple as possible for you to get yours.

Two easy ways to get your tax certificate

1 AF Connect member portal

Log in via your computer or phone and head straight to the "Tax certificates and documents" section on the landing page. You can download your certificate quickly and securely.

2 WhatsApp self-service

Need it on the go? You can also request your certificate via our WhatsApp channel. It's fast, secure and also gives you access to other helpful info, like your fund balance or benefit statement.



Need help? we've got you covered

If you can't use the online tools, don't worry. You can still request your tax certificates the traditional way:

Call us: 0860 100 333 or +27 11 324 3461

Email us: admin@alexforbes.com



Pro tips

Save it somewhere safe

- Once you've got your certificate, store it safely so you're ready when it's time to file.
- If you need any help or have questions, just reach out.

Do you have any questions relating to the articles in this newsletter?



You can contact the fund using these contact details:

Alexander Forbes Retirement Fund

0860 100 333

admin@alexforbes.com

contactus@alexforbes.com (if there's something you feel the fund can improve on)

Investments

Investing responsibly: making every rand count for more

The AFRF believes that investing isn't just about growing your money - it's also about doing the right thing. That's why we follow a responsible investment approach, which means we look at more than just profits. We also consider the impact on people, the planet and how companies are run.

What is responsible investment?

It's an investment strategy that looks at:

- ⊕ Environmental issues - like climate change and sustainability
- ⊕ Social impact - such as fair labour practices and community support
- ⊕ Governance - how companies are run and whether they act ethically

We believe combining financial returns with responsible choices leads to better long-term results for our members and a stronger, more inclusive South Africa.

How we put it into practice

The trustee default applies these practices, and it's expected that bespoke portfolios embrace these principles too.

3

Teamwork makes progress possible

We work with other organisations in the investment industry to push ESG forward. Our multi-manager aligns with international guidelines like the PRI and CRISA 2, and we regularly discuss ESG concerns and feedback with them.

4

Keeping it accountable

A range of experts - from our trustees to investment consultants - are involved in making sure ESG stays front and centre in how the fund is managed. Everyone has a clear role in holding the process to a high standard.

5

Clear and open communication

Transparency matters. Our responsible investment policy is available to members, and we report on our ESG efforts through annual reports. You can also request details on voting results and engagement activities.

2

Taking action, not just watching

We don't just invest, we also influence. Our fund uses its voting rights to support shareholder decisions that align with ESG principles. Through our multi-manager, we track how fund managers vote and how they engage with companies to encourage positive change.

1

ESG is built into every decision

We expect all our asset managers to consider ESG factors when they invest. It helps reduce risk and improve outcomes. We monitor their progress closely and use a ratings system to choose the best-performing managers.



Important reminder: why it matters

Responsible investing helps protect your money from long-term risks, supports positive change in the world and contributes to a more sustainable future. It's how we make sure your retirement savings work for you and for generations to come.



Investment returns

Performance of investment portfolios to 30 June 2025

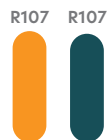
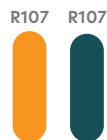
Let's take AF Balanced High Growth as an example

The value of R100 invested over various periods to the end of June 2025

1

AF Balanced High Growth and Performer
Benchmark

We measure how well a portfolio is performing by comparing it to a benchmark¹. We can see that the portfolio is **better than** its benchmark over **most** periods.



3 months

1 year

3 years

5 years

10 years

4

Source: Alexforbes

Keep in mind that the value of your investments go up and down.

5

Invest over long periods for your money to grow - the longer the better.

3

Over a period of 10 years you would have R26 more for every R100 you saved in this investment portfolio instead of its benchmark.

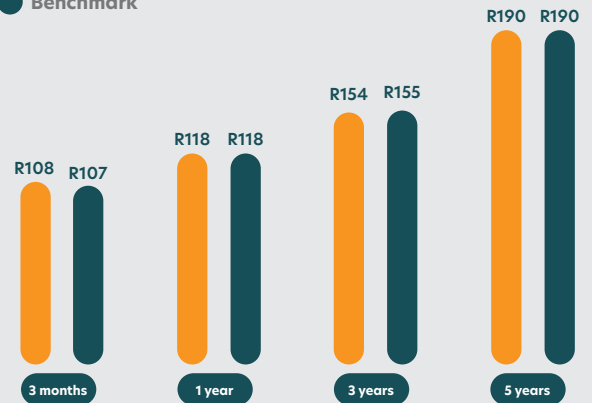
Over long periods, we expect the value of investments to grow in line with its target, which may not be the case in shorter periods. For this reason, it's better to focus on long periods like **five or ten years** when you look at retirement savings.



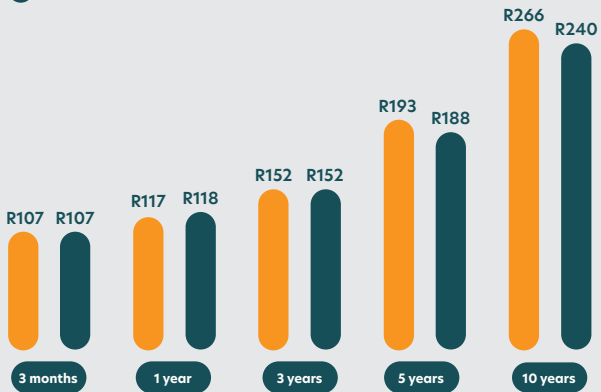
AF High Growth
Benchmark



AF Passive Bold
Benchmark



AF Balanced High Growth and Performer
Benchmark



AFRF Houseview Income Target
Benchmark



AFRF Passive Houseview Income Target
Benchmark



AF Retirement Navigator
Benchmark



Clarity Performer
Benchmark



[Click here](#) to view the full list of investment returns



Contact us

0860 100 333

Monday to Friday between 08:30 and 17:30

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