

31 January 2019

Letter from the CEO

Dear Member,

I trust that you have had a blessed and restful festive season and are ready to take 2019 on with enthusiasm and a commitment to make a positive contribution to our country.

The period between the end of one year and beginning of another allows us to internalise many things - to reflect as well as look forward to a new year with renewed hope, vigour and optimism.

Having said that, and given the furious pace in which local and global events occur, thanks to a never-ending news cycle, 2019 seems to have kicked off on steroids.

It may, however, be symptomatic of the events we have become used to in the last few years in South Africa. This includes key issues such as good corporate governance - or the lack thereof - corruption, state capture, poverty eradication, the role of the state, a growing chasm between rich and poor, slow economic growth as well as an examination of our individual roles as professionals and citizens.

As a professional body, the IIA SA has faced unprecedented shifts in its reality in the last two years as a result of many of the above-mentioned issues. Internal audit is a key element of any society's social fabric and today many South Africans are cognisant that it is at the epicentre of a functioning and moral society.

Despite many negatives to have emerged around the broader auditing profession, South Africans are now more informed than ever before about the role of internal audit and how it differs from external audit.

In responding to the shifting realities, the IIA SA has taken a number of proactive steps to ensure that the credibility of the profession remains intact. For more information on the action taken by the Institute, [click here](#).

We currently have three presidential commissions of inquiry underway - into state capture, the Public Investment Corporation and on the fitness to hold office by two of our country's leading prosecutors.

These are likely to again bring the role of internal audit into the spotlight. That the spotlight is being shone on the conduct of our members in both the public and private sectors is not necessarily a bad thing, as it provides us with the opportunity to self-reflect and strengthen those elements crucial to our credibility. As professionals we must be held to a higher standard and each of us must do our utmost to uphold the integrity of our mandate.

Today we are faced with daily revelations emerging from these commissions. Thus far it has yet to be determined whether any of our members are implicated in any wrongdoing. As a professional body we will continue to monitor all these various commissions as well as ancillary investigations. As members of one of the leading professional bodies in the country we must carry out our duties with integrity and uphold the good standing of our profession. Holding our members accountable is key to this principle and we will continue to do so as part of the Institute's mandate to protect the credibility of the profession.

As such I urge all members to reacquaint yourselves with our Code of Ethics and our guiding principles. In addition, participate in key events such as the upcoming Public Sector Forum, the IIA SA National Conference and all other gatherings and forums.

Be part of a community that speaks with one voice and which has the capacity to influence legislative, regulatory and societal change - and make an actual difference in our world.

I wish you all a truly blessed 2019 and may you be guided by the principles that bind us all together.

Yours truly,

Dr. Claudelle von Eck