



Editor's Note

I'm an eternal optimist, but I have to admit that I'm having a hard time deciding whether or not the South African economy – and the automotive and related industries, for that matter – can and is recovering from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 lockdown.



On the one hand, the majority of NAAMSA CEOs seem to be pessimistic about the current situation and the immediate future regarding new vehicle sales and imports. On the other hand, they see both export volumes and manufacturing facility utilisation going up.

Then there's a recent Lightstone survey that seems to reflect positive sentiments regarding the impact COVID-19 has had and will continue to have on businesses. Some are even hailing the government for the quick and effective way in which it handled the outbreak of the pandemic. This while new vehicle sales in September were up from August, but still significantly lower than in the same month last year.

Experts are preaching that the "new normal" is with us already and that we had better adapt – not only in terms of how we work and do business, but also of how we live. A vast difference in how South Africans are spending their money and on what has already been noted.

The newly released AA-Kinsey Report reveals that parts prices have increased and are running above the government-stated inflation rate. In short, motoring has become more expensive.

And then there's the threat of cyberattacks on businesses, a phenomenon which has apparently been going on for years but is only now being reported on in the media.

I find it all rather confusing really, as I am sure many of you do.

Let there be no confusing regarding *AutoLive*, though. We continue to bring you the latest news – good and bad – from the automotive and related industries. This includes not only expert opinions, new model introductions and CSR programmes, but also sales figures, projections and plenty of points to ponder.

I trust that this issue of *AutoLive* will make for interesting reading and that you will continue to come back for more.

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Editor

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