

The MIE Chronicle

November 2010

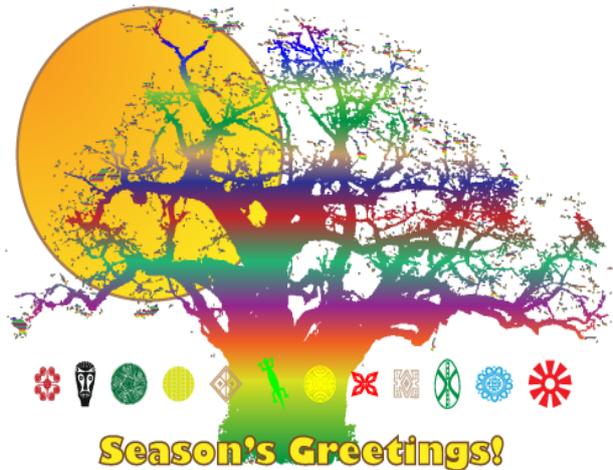
Welcome to the Chronicles at MIE Edition 2: 2010

CHANGES TO TURNAROUND TIMES/SLE

As always, **MIE will remain up and running for the duration of the Holiday Season.**

But please do keep in mind that turnaround times, particularly for qualifications, are affected by the traditional "holiday slowdown".

For this reason, MIE's published Service Level Expectations (SLE) are not applicable in the following circumstances:



- The SLE for all qualification verifications, with the exception of NQR® verifications, will be suspended between 22 November 2010 and 01 February 2011

- The SLE for all verifications will be suspended between 20 December 2010 and 03 January 2011

Please contact our marketing division should you have any questions.

OF COURSE I HAVE A DEGREE- I BOUGHT IT, IT'S MINE!

"Earn a Degree in 7 Days. Pay in Installments. Approval Guaranteed"

This is just one of thousands, if not millions, of online advertisements for degree and diploma mills. Bachelors, Masters, Doctoral and Medical qualifications – they are all on sale and if you can name it, you can frame it.

WHAT IS A DEGREE MILL?

In simple terms, it is an organization that awards academic qualifications with very little or no meaningful academic work. It is a bit of a challenge to discriminate between legitimate schools and degree mills but some of the latter's characteristics are as follows:

- Lack of accreditation by nationally recognized accreditation bodies. Some degree mills even claim accreditation from accreditation mills.
- Institute names that are similar to those of legitimate and often prestigious schools. This is used to deceive unassuming prospective employers.
- Extremely low coursework requirements in comparison to accredited institutions, with credentials awarded following very little to no studying.
- Academic legitimacy based on claims of affiliation with respected organizations that are not involved in academic accreditation.

- "Lecturers" who themselves have qualifications from the degree mill or have legitimate degrees that are not related to their area of lectureship.
- Academic credit that is based on "work or life experience".
- Marketing via unsolicited e-mail or spam as well as grammatical errors in marketing material.

Degree mills have been in operation for decades and they continue to flourish in leaps and bounds, fuelled primarily by the Internet. Yes, you can get an authentic looking academic degree – all you need is a few thousand Rand and a few days while you wait for your degree to be printed and shipped to you.

The question is, how do you tell the difference between an MBA from Harvard University and an MBA from the University of Harvard? With a database of over 10,000 institutes that have been identified as qualification mills, MIE offers a complementary institute verification service for each and every qualification verification request that we receive.

MIE remains your trusted background screener – we will continue separating the wheat from the chaff so that you don't have to.

ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION OF ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES (AARTO)

MIE has been inundated with queries about the new AARTO Demerit Points System. Officials at the Road Traffic Management Corporation assisted us with some information, which we are happy to share with you.

The Demerit Points System is currently only in its pilot phase in Tshwane and Johannesburg. No demerit points will be allocated to infringers yet - only an indication of how many points one would be allocated.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

Here is a brief extract from the AARTO website:

"Every person starts with 0 points and the maximum permissible number of points is 12. In other words, a person is allowed to drive until he/she has 12 points. Every point exceeding 12 points results in a three-month suspension of the license. One point is reduced every three months if no further contraventions occur within the three-month period. A license is cancelled when it has been suspended for the third time."

For further reading, please visit <http://aarto.co.za/dedi35.jnb2.host-h.net/public/demerit-points.html>

AFIS SERVICES UPDATE

MIE is pleased to announce the launch of **Fingerprint Hosting**, once again bringing a world first to your doorstep. Resubmit previously captured fingerprints for AFIS criminal record tests, instantly, without any inconvenience to your candidate. Several conditions apply.

For more information, browse www.mie.co.za or contact your MIE account manager.

MATRIC VERIFICATIONS UPDATE

For quicker feedback on requests for Matric qualifications, where the certificate was issued in 1992 or later, please make sure to send the **certificate numbers** through to MIE as part of the qualification details. The certificate number is located at the bottom of the certificate, above the bar-code:



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM EVERYONE AT MIE!



"For last year's words belong to last year's language

And next year's words await another voice

And to make an end is to make a beginning."

-T.S. Eliot, *Little Gidding*

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