

When Pigs fly...

The view that the world is a difficult place due to the world economic crisis is a silly thing to say. Kabelo Binns says the world is a *different* place that is not any more difficult than we are accustomed to.

This new place that the world has arrived at proudly declares, "anything goes". And yes the pigs get wings and they fly, the cows finally come home and Michael Jackson does a concert that does not have children in it...

The world IS a very different place no doubt. What is most evident is that the world economic playing field has been leveled for a New York minute. Suddenly Africa is a proper economic frontier with wave after wave of failed businessmen coming out to Africa to "share their valuable experience". Let us not forget that it was this "experience" that got us into the trouble we are in now in the first place.

So what to do Africa? Do we drive them back into the sea from *whence* they came from? As romantic as this may sound to some this view is also silly. There is value in all experience. There are lessons we can learn to avoid getting the royal shafting the rest of the world has got. Africa for the most part has had a slightly softer ride through the crisis. We have heard many views on why this has been the case such. The view that this author likes is that we have always had less so losing a little is not something new. Africa has been suffering an economic crisis for centuries!

As soon as we hear economic crisis we panic. What to do? What not to do. Should we save or should we spend? Spend on what? When? Lots of questions and unfortunately lots of answers... In his annual New Year's message infamous investor Warren Buffet made four declarations. First: All hard work brings profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. Secondly: Never depend on a single source of income. Thirdly: If you buy things you don't need, you'll soon sell things you need. Finally: Don't save what is left after spending; Spend what is left after saving.

So there you have it less talking, work hard, spend what you actually have, do not buy things that you do not really need... Yah right!

This is where the different versus difficult argument comes in. During difficult economic times we behave differently. We do all the things Mr. Buffet suggests, save, work hard etc. It is when things are good that we do all the opposites. We do not work as hard; we do not plan our purchases. We do not save...

Africa we need to do things differently. We need to do the things that will allow us to take advantage of the opportunities that the current world situation presents. Why do you think we have so many folks 'pushing into Africa' these days? It is simply the recognition that there is money to be made in Africa. Let me say that again... There is money to be made in Africa. Surely dear African we the residents should be playing our part in making this money. Do I hear the skeptics saying "that will be the day when pigs fly?"

Well, welcome to a different world, a different Africa, a different continent a different Botswana that has the opportunities, resources and most importantly the ability to create its own wealth. We say if the pigs do not fly lets throw them off a cliff... they will learn quickly! Africa is ready to accommodate its own Warren Buffet's.