

From the desk of Marc – August 2015

Do I detect a chill breeze blowing? No, I am not skilled in matters of the weather and with winter drawing towards its close, do not comment on it.

Max du Preez recently wrote an article in News 24 titled: *“Prepare for the coming storm”*. He goes on to point to the slow down and turmoil currently being experienced in the Chinese economy and its effect on SA as well as the devaluation in the rand against international currencies. He then gives some rather good general advice, of a non-economic nature as well as some of the more economic ilk. I am no economist, although I do have a basic level of understanding and an appreciation for such matters.

Do I share his views and what are mine? Broadly he must be right. If we accept that in some ways our, and every other country, is in some ways like a human body, if we abuse our body and manage its well-being poorly, it is generally to be expected that it will limit its functioning and potentially, its life. Can we objectively say that SA is being well managed? You decide, but in doing so look at the electricity supply and Eskom, the other SOE's, the rampant corruption, nepotism, lack of accountability and labour problems we see all around us. Can and must we be positive? My view is that, Yes, we must! At the same time, we must manage carefully and skillfully and be flexible and adaptable, expecting a tough road ahead. Just this week Stats SA released statistics which revealed that Q1 growth was matched by Q2 negative growth. That means no growth for 2015 year to date and a low outlook for 2015. What could labour unrest in the mining and other sectors do to that? As the old Chinese saying goes *“may you live in interesting times”*. We do indeed. I am of the firm belief that those who are disciplined survive tough times so the message I leave with you is *“be disciplined”*.

Till next time

Marc