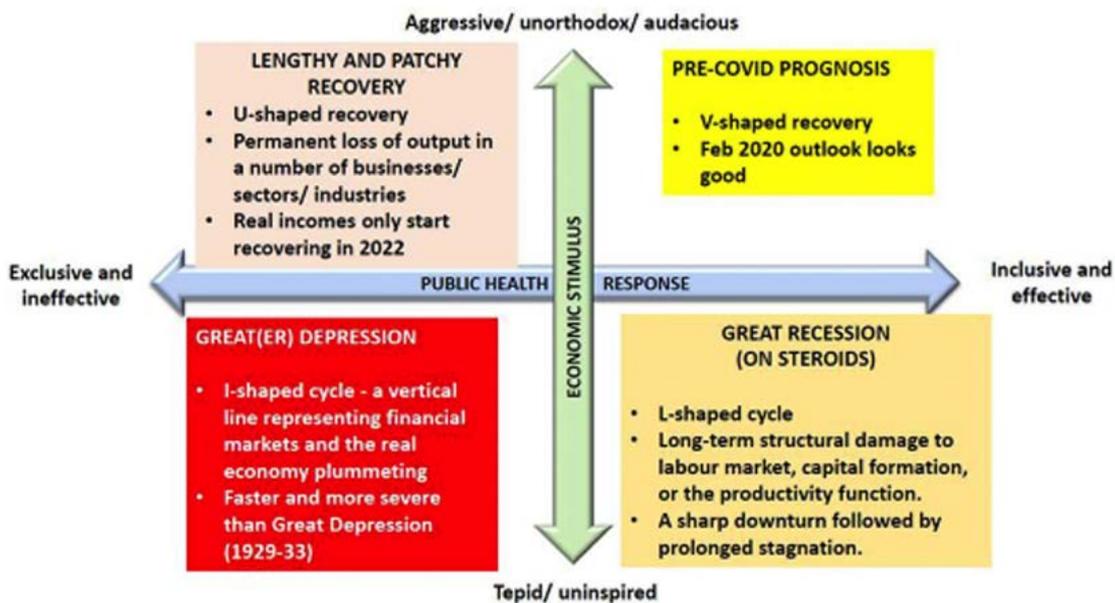


A WORD FROM OUR CEO

I'm sure many of you have read the various papers and articles doing the rounds at the moment depicting the economic situation in South Africa after the lockdown and after Covid-19. They all paint a rather bleak picture of South Africa's medium term economic future. The following slide from Professor Andre Roux, Head of the Futures Studies programmes at the University of Stellenbosch Business School, depicts how the combination of

the government's public health response and economic stimulus packages could potentially impact the economy. The best case scenario is that we return to the economic conditions of February 2020, which we thought were challenging enough at the time.



If ever there was a call to action for the work that we do, **THIS IS IT!** Our current and potential clients need us more than ever. We have to be strong as individuals. We have to be strong together as a team. We have to find new ways of doing things and make every action count.

entrepreneurship programme, beautifully summarises the positive actions we can all embrace:

“Rise to the challenge.

The following extract from an article by CO.STARTERS, an American

If there was ever a time for entrepreneurial thinking, this is it. If there was

Black Umbrellas
Developing Africa's Future
Black Businesses Together

COVID-19 INSIGHTS

News & Resource portal

0861 UMBRELLA | blackumbrellas.org |

For all official information and updates regarding COVID-19, visit the South African Department of Health's website at www.sacoronavirus.co.za

Online Resource & News Portal: SAcoronavirus.co.za | Emergency Hotline: 0800 029 999 | WhatsApp Support Line: 0600-123456



ever an event that highlighted the importance of ecosystems, we are in it. We are the makers and doers, the connectors and supporters—this is our time and the world needs us. Remember that advice about putting on your oxygen mask on first? Now is the time to take care of yourself so that you can in turn, help others.

Practice positivity.

There is always a way forward. There is always something that can be done. Adversity comes in many shapes and sizes, but look anywhere in history or in the present, and you can find someone with a positive mindset taking positive action in any situation, no matter how small. There is still good news if you look for it. Might take some practice, but it makes all the difference.

Embrace being human.

That's the single biggest thing that connects us right now, and it's the very thing that will bring us closer, even when we can't be close. A lot of us are working out of our bedrooms with our kids in the next room. All of us are concerned for our loved ones and our livelihoods. Turn off the filters and news feeds for a bit and make the extra effort to connect with each other as regular people, trying to figure things out. Don't be afraid to be human—just be a good one.

Find your neighbours.

Nothing eliminates differences and unifies our similarities like fighting something together. Ecosystem building work always requires us to look past barriers and seek common ground. If you feel alone in the situation you are facing, reach out through any channel you can, and find someone. You will find someone. Make virtual a reality.

In such a time as this, connectivity is currency. Nothing is more valuable than your support system. We're already used to taking care of business remotely from our devices, but it's possible to keep your life going in other ways too. Never before has the world had so many options to keep

us virtually connected, whether for work or for self care. FaceTime with isolated friends. Stream a workout or a learning session. Host a virtual happy hour. Put your technology to everyday use.

Use your imagination.

Nothing solves a problem like a little collective creativity. History holds countless examples proving the adage "necessity is the mother of invention." No solution would be created without first, a problem. Challenges, especially the seemingly impossible ones, sharpen our senses and help us make the decisions needed to survive. Panic and fear, on the other hand, stifle creativity. Guide your instincts to a productive place by taking a deep breath, collecting your thoughts and some fellow minds, and follow the creative process to see where it leads.

Start small and share big.

Start by tackling the problems closest to you. You don't have to solve everything at once. You won't be able to. Just start with the next step. When you find something that's working, share those ideas with others, and they may, in turn, share their best ideas with you. Be the help you are looking for.

Personal or pandemic, problems are a very real part of our human journey, and they can be overcome. But it's hard to pull yourself up and regain your footing alone. We still go farther when we go together—even if "together" might look different for a while."

Thought for Day

As much as we are beset by worries, fears and frustration in these times, we need to remember that there is so much in our lives we have to be grateful for and to take the time to reflect on these and appreciate them.

This video by Brother David Steindl-Rast reminds us of all that we have to be grateful for. Take some time out and enjoy it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSt7k_q_qRU