

Give a man a seed potato ...

If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day.

If you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.

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This is an old proverb that is often quoted to underline that fact that charity does not breed self-sufficiency. The latter can only be instilled through training and skills transfer.

Sounds easy enough, but when you have to achieve a goal such as this in a country riddled with problems, it becomes a mission – not mission impossible, but definitely mission difficult! Or is it a question of perspective?

Staying put

Recent news reports and press releases clearly show how the burden of load shedding is playing havoc with our economy, livelihoods and even our hearts and minds. Load shedding, along with numerous reports of criminality and fraud, political chaos, crumbling infrastructure, poor service delivery, and dwindling resources all add up to make us negative and downright depressed. Anxiety levels are at an all-time high and we are all wondering: What next? When will this card house finally come tumbling down?

I, and many others I know of, took a decision a long time ago not to leave our country. I personally do not believe that the grass is greener on the other side, just as I don't believe that making a life elsewhere is going to make me or my family happier. Sunshine, open spaces and the Saturday braai are in our genes. Besides, every country across the world has its cross to bear – protests, layoffs, cost-of-living crises,

natural disasters – these are commonplace across the world and many have problems we don't have to contend with.

There always is a bright side

At this point in our history, it might seem as though our cross is somewhat heavier than others' to bear, but every so often you have to take a step back, take a bird's eye view and see the landscape from a different angle. The fact is, South Africa remains a land of opportunity. It is a country whose wealth lies in its citizens and their willingness to work hard, innovate and find solutions. You merely have to read this issue of *CHIPS*, especially the transformation section, to appreciate the willingness of our citizens to teach and acquire skills, and to put those skills to work in order to feed communities, entire villages and even regions. Here, it is a case of: Teach a man or woman to sow a seed or plant a seed potato, and he or she will feed themselves and those around them.

For those who believe we are on the road to nowhere – change the algorithms on your news feed by finding positive stories, and your newsfeed will deliver more of the same. There are many positive stories out there; just choose to find them.

Enjoy this issue of *CHIPS* which illustrates that, at least in the potato industry, the machine and its parts are working.

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teen plaagdoders

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in die grond