

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO GO STRAIGHT TO THE POINT...

WE ARE HERE BECAUSE WE ALL FAILED TO ERADICATE HUNGER IN ALL COUNTRIES.... 854 MILLION PEOPLE ARE STILL UNDERNOURISHED IN THE WORLD TODAY....

WE ARE HERE BECAUSE WE DO NOT WANT TO CONTINUE FAILING ....

THEORETICALLY, AS MENTIONED BY THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF WTO, WE ARE FACING A HUGE SUPPLY – DEMAND PROBLEM...

THEORETICALLY AND TO PUT IT SIMPLE, WE HAVE TWO ALTERNATIVES... INCREASE SUPPLY OR DECREASE DEMAND!

DOING **TOO LITTLE** AS WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN THE PAST DECADES IS NOT AN ALTERNATIVE BY ITSELF...BECAUSE DOING NOTHING MEANS INDEED DECIDE TO DECREASE DEMAND ....OR IN OTHER WORDS LET PEOPLE DIE...

I WILL TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TELL YOU HOW A SMALL ISLAND COUNTRY IS STRUGGLING TO COPE WITH SUCH AN ADVERSE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.....

WE RARELY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE LISTENED ...SO I CAN NOT MISS THIS ONE....

CAPE VERDE IS **CURRENTLY** THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD UNDER A GRADUATION PROCESS.... AND IS THE SECOND IN AFRICA...

THE GRADUATION HAS NOT BEEN A GIFT.... SINCE OUR INDEPENDENCE IN 1975 ..... WE HAVE WORKED HARD AND PERSISTENTLY .... TO GET IT....

AND INDEED WE PUT RESULTS ON THE TABLE...LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST 10 YEARS:

- WE REDUCED THE PUBLIC DEFICT FROM 20% OF GDP TO AROUND 4%;
- THE TOTAL PUBLIC DEBT DECREASED FROM AROUND 80% OF GDP TO 66%;
- THE PRIMARY SCHOOL RATE HAS REACHED 95% OF THE CHILDREN;
- AROUND 60% OF THE POPULATION HAS ACCESS IN LESS THAN 30 MINUTES TO POTABLE WATER;

DESPITE THESE RESULTS CAPE VERDE STILL BE A HIGH VULNERABLE ECONOMY...ACTUALLY THE VULNERABILITY INDICATOR HAS NOT BEEN REACHED IN THE GRADUATION PROCESS:

- **Infrastructure bottlenecks still constrain growth (WE ARE 10 ISLANDS)**
- **The financial sector still relies on nonresident deposits WHICH MEANS WE GOT STRONGLY HIT BY THE CRISIS...**
- **Cape Verde's export base is narrow**

**COMPARING CAPE VERDE WITH SIMILAR ECONOMIES...**

- **OUR FISCAL DEFICIT IS HIGHER**
- **OUR DEBT RATIO IS HIGHER**
- **OUR FOREIGN RESERVES ARE THE LOWEST...**

UNFORTUNATELY, FOR US, CAPE VERDE AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THE GRADUATION PROCESS HAPPENS UNDER SUCH AN ADVERSE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.....

THEREFORE .... CAPE VERDE IS RUNNING THE RISK OF JEOPARDIZING WHAT WE, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND CAPE VERDE, HAVE BUILT TOGETHER!

IF WE FAIL.... THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL FAIL ALSO.... IN THE SAME WAY ....WE HAVE BEEN SHARING THE SUCCESS .... WE WOULD BE SHARING THE FAILURE...

THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL SAID THAT WE HAVE TO TRANSFORM THE ACTUAL CRISIS IN AN OPPORTUNITY...

THIS IS WHAT CAPE VERDE HAS BEEN DOING IN THE PAST 30 YEARS... AND WHY? BECAUSE WE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE IF WE WANTED TO SURVIVE AS A NATION...

WE DO NOT HAVE NATURAL RESOURCES.... EVEN WATER WE DO NOT HAVE ....

IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY THE CAPE VERDEAN POPULATION HAS DIED AS A RESULT OF FAMINES....

WE HAD TO ADOPT GOOD GOVERNANCE AS OUR SURVIVAL FLAG!!!

BY DOING SO .... WE HAVE BEEN EXPORTING CREDIBILITY .... WE MANAGED TO TRANSFORM AN INTAGIBLE ASSET IN AN EXPORT MERCHADISE....

SO ..... WE TRANSFORM CRISE IN AN OPPORTUNITY!!!!

IN ORDER TO CONTINUE DELIVERING POVERTY REDUCTION...CAPE VERDE  
NEEDS TO BE INCLUDED AND CONSIDERED IN THE ADDITIONAL EFFORTS  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO FIGHT THE ACTUAL FOOD  
CRISIS...

THE RULE "BUSINESS AS USUAL" CAN NOT BE APPLIED DO CAPE VERDE...

WE REQUEST TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO STILL BE IN TUNE  
WITH US ....

PLEASE BEAR WITH US ...

AND SUPPORT OUR POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY FOR 2008 AND 2011

AS WELL AS OUR NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM....

BOTH ARE DONE AND APPROVED ..... SO READY TO BE IMPLEMENTED.