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**CHAS EVERITT**  
*International Property Group*

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Editor: Berry Everitt

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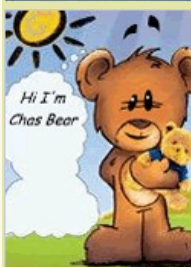
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**FROM BERRY EVERITT**

We are delighted that the key focus of the national Budget presented to Parliament this month is job creation, with almost R1-trillion over the next three years being allocated to various plans and projects to boost employment, as this is key to the survival and growth of the real estate and construction sectors of the economy.

It is also, as the Finance Minister said, very disheartening and disturbing to think of 42% of South Africans aged between 18 and 29 being unemployed, and we wholeheartedly support the large Budget allocations made to give them new hope of a better future by improving schools, providing more money for higher education and creating more vocational and skills training centres.

At the same time, I was very pleased that the Minister managed to find R8bn for tax relief for individuals that are already employed, and announced further tax concessions for the small and micro businesses that provide 68% of all jobs in the private sector.

As I have said before, I think individuals in SA are paying way too much tax - with personal income tax and VAT (which is mostly paid by individuals) accounting for more than 50% of SA's total tax revenue.

And then there are all the other taxes that individuals pay regularly, such as fuel tax (which was just increased by 10c a litre), municipal taxes and toll road fees, and the big amounts that they pay less regularly, such as capital gains tax, estate duty or property transfer duty. These take their contribution to total tax revenue to around 60%, which in anyone's terms means that they are carrying a very heavy tax burden - especially when you consider that the tax base is currently only around five million people out of a population of almost 50 million.

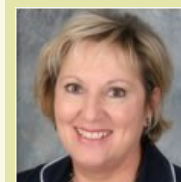
Then if you add this to the continually rising fuel and energy costs that affect every household, it is little wonder that SA has such a low savings rate - which in the property context translates directly into the inability to save for a deposit and to qualify for a home loan.

That is why I have for some time advocated tax relief for individuals as the simplest and best way to create jobs - because it increases individual and household disposable incomes, which stimulates demand for more goods and services, which promotes increased production which requires more employees.

So here's hoping that this year's tax cuts for individuals and small businesses are only the first of many over the next few years.



**National Awards 2011**



**Metro Top Agent**  
Lyn Massey-Hicks



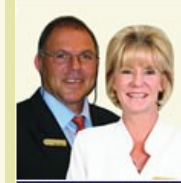
**Metro Top Agent - 2nd**  
Clinton Krouse



**Metro Top Agent - 3rd**  
Anette Rautenbach



**Metro Partnership**  
Paul & Roz Everitt



**Metro Partnership 2nd**  
Andre Jacobs & Debbie Rosz



**Metro Partnership 3rd**  
Gary Young & Lesley Pountain

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**Three tips for showing a small home**

Although most homebuyers these days can afford less house than their parents and grandparents, and although most of them don't actually want the hassle of maintaining a large home and garden, they still want "space"...

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**Selection of most viewed Properties for February 2011**



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Constantia - R 19,995,000

Bryanston - R 4,000,000





Stellenberg - R 2,100,000



Constantia - R 15,000,000



Eagle Canyon Golf Estate - R 4,250,000



Rondebosch - R 1,790,000



Sundowner - R 750,000



Vygeboom - R 2,550,000



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Non-Metro Agent  
Cheryl Van Deventer



Non-Metro Agent - 2nd  
Annette Whitfield



Non-Metro Agent - 3rd  
Anton Nell



Top Listing Agent  
Anette Rautenbach



Top Units Agent  
Clinton Krouse



Top New Entrant  
George Van Der Linde



Top Origination Award  
Paul & Roz Everitt

