Macro-Economic Impact Assessment of Capping the Interest Rate on Specific Credit Categories Applying the South African INFORUM Model (SAFRIM)

By David Mullins & Nomsa Phindile Nkosi

23TH INFORUM WORLD CONFERENCE, 2015 - BANGKOK- THAILAND

CONTENTS

The structure of the presentation is as follows:

- Description of the Case Study The macroeconomic impact of the proposed interest rate and credit cost capping
- Overview of the South African INFORUM(SAFRIM) model
- Activating the SAFRIM model
- Summary of results
- Conclusions

Description of the Case Study

- Capping interest rates can be seen as a way to limit the extent to which consumers could face being over-indebted, blacklisted or prosecuted for bad debts or declared insolvent.
- The macroeconomic impact of the proposed interest rate and credit cost capping were conducted by assuming that some lending by formal sector registered credit providers will be curtailed.
- Part of the customers who would no longer be serviced by registered credit providers will then still access credit provided by unregistered credit providers operating in the informal unregulated sector.

Dynamic and inter-related workings of the SAFRIM Model



Impact on Interest Payments and Loans Available



Summary of Impacts on Consumer Expenditure (R million)

| | Net interest paid | Net credit effect: credit | Net effect on |
|------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| | (negative value | from informal lending | consumption |
| | indicates positive | (positive) and rejected | expenditure |
| | impact on disposable | credit (negative) | |
| | income) | | |
| 2016 | 400 | -5 012 | -4 612 |
| 2017 | 850 | -5 644 | -4 793 |
| 2018 | 1 429 | -7 259 | -5 829 |
| 2019 | 2 271 | -10 551 | -8 280 |
| 2020 | 3 117 | -10 595 | -7 478 |
| 2021 | 3 377 | -3 260 | 117 |
| 2022 | 3 491 | -1 439 | 2 053 |
| 2023 | 3 610 | -1 488 | 2 122 |
| 2024 | 3 733 | -1 538 | 2 194 |
| 2025 | 3 860 | -1 591 | 2 269 |

Methodology

fdc = pcec + invc + govc + exc - imc + fdrc + trcc + interest

| Where: | |
|----------|---|
| fdc | = total final demand |
| pcec | = private consumption expenditure |
| invc | = investment (investment excluding investment in the mitigation measures) |
| govc | = government |
| exc | = exports |
| imc | = imports |
| fdrc | = residual |
| trcc | = transfer costs |
| interest | = interest on unsecured loans/credit facilities |
| | |

Summarised Results of the Economic Impact: GDP (R Million, 2014 constant prices) and Employment (Numbers) for Unsecured Lending and Credit Facilities (Average over the period 2016 to 2025)

| | Unsecured Credit | | Total Unse- cured Credit Impact | Credit Facilities Impact on Consumption Expenditure | | Total Credit Facili-ties Impact | Net Impact on Unse- cured Credit and Credit |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | Impact on Consumption Expenditure | | | | | | |
| | Net Interest Paid | Change in Credit | | Net Interest Paid | Change in Credit | | Facilities |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| GDP - Total Economy | 2 307 241 | 2 301 928 | | 2 305 463 | 2 302 722 | | |
| Baseline | 2 305 357 | 2 305 357 | | 2 305 357 | 2 305 357 | | |
| Difference | 1 884 | -3 429 | -1 544 | 106 | -2 635 | -2 529 | -4 073 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Employment - Total Economy | 15 155 220 | 15 106 900 | | 15 138 941 | 15 110 196 | | |
| Baseline | 15 137 965 | 15 137 965 | | 15 137 965 | 15 137 965 | | |
| Difference | 17 256 | -31 064 | -13 809 | 977 | -27 769 | -26 793 | -40 601 |

Impact on Household Income (R million, 2014 Prices)

| Impact | Size of Impact |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Impact on Households | -8 968 |
| Low Income Households | -1 367 |
| Medium Income Households | -1 762 |
| High Income Households | -5 839 |

Impact on Government Revenue (R million, 2014 Prices)

| Impact | Size of Impact |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Fiscal Impact | -5 023 |
| National Government | -4 508 |
| Provincial Government | - 72 |
| Local Government | - 442 |

Reduced Ability of Government to Invest in Certain Social Services (Numbers)

| Impact | Numbers |
|---|---------|
| 1.Additional number of educators | -10 649 |
| 2.Additional number of hospital beds serviced | -3 923 |
| 3.Additional doctors | - 341 |
| 4.Additional low-cost houses | -4 014 |

Sectoral GDP Impact of Capping Interest Rates on Unsecured Lending and Credit Facilities



Summary and Conclusions

- The macroeconomic impact analysis of the proposed changes to the limitation of interest rates charged demonstrates very clearly that GDP and Employment will be demonstrably negatively affected by the proposed changes.
- The main reason for this is that there is an inverse relationship between the capping of interest rates at lower levels and the willingness of financing institutions to accommodate credit.
- The advantages of the lower interest rates to customers are also to a great extent nullified by the fact that a certain number of customers who are rejected by the formal banking sector will be obtaining credit from the informal unregulated lending sector, but at significantly higher interest rates regimes.

• Thank You