

Richard Cluver Predicts

In our 22nd year of service to the investing public of South Africa



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If you have taken my comments to heart these past few months, you have been conserving cash in order to be able to enter the market as a buyer when the most opportune moment occurs. Since late last year ShareFinder's systems have been predicting that moment will be around April....just a month away now!

Now, notwithstanding the carnage in the world's securities markets this week as a result of a series of negative financial news items, it is clear that the start of the buying season has arrived.

Last Friday I drew readers' attention to the renewed growth trend of the Rand against the world's major currencies and, notwithstanding a strong revival of the US Dollar this week, the Rand has continued gaining as highlighted by the three graphs on the right. Furthermore, whereas on average the Rand was gaining at compound 11.9%, it has in the past few weeks been gaining at a massive 49.3% compound, indicating a very strong inflow of foreign capital.

Consider next the composite on the right. Note that the New High/New Low has been forming a firm base from which it is beginning to bounce upwards and the ShareFinder Blue Chip Index has similarly bounced upwards.

Two shares accordingly attract attention, Sasol and Mr Price. Sasol is already up 33% since last August but, relative to the Rand Oil price is still undervalued as highlighted by the relative strength graph on the right.

Mr Price, recovering from a February low of R55, is still relatively cheap at R61. ShareFinder calculates it is 17.5% undervalued relative to its peers.



The week ahead:

New York's SP500: I correctly predicted that the overall tone for March will probably be downward. And I continue to hold that view.

London's Footsie: I wrongly predicted a continuing recovery. Now I expect the UK market to continue downwards for the rest of the month.

JSE Industrial Index: I correctly forecast weakness continuing well into March but sense that a recovery trend is beginning.

Top40 Index: I wrongly forecast an extended recovery which I still anticipate, but I failed to predict this week's weakness.

ShareFinder Blue Chip Index: I correctly forecast further weakness during early March but expect a recovery to continue for the rest of the month.

The Rand: I correctly predicted the Rand would gain strength and I expect it to continue doing so until around March 22 when a new weaker phase appears likely.

Gold: I correctly predicted a downward correction followed by a recovery starting in the second week of March and, while I continue to hold that view, the recovery prospect is diminishing.

Gilts: I correctly predicted a period of weakness until approximately March 25.

The Predicts accuracy rate on a running average basis over the past 384 weeks has been 79.94%.

Richard Cluver