# GRAVITAS

The Advantage of Innovative Thinking

### Review of Sub-prime Crisis

Emerging Opportunities for the Caribbean Financial Sector

35<sup>th</sup> Annual CAIB Conference Barbados – November 2008

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# Let's Recap...

- Let's review the damage to date:
  - Citigroup has declared billions in value wiped out from its balance sheet (about to cut 50,000 jobs)
  - Merrill Lynch, Lehman, AIG, Bear Stearns no longer exist as independent going concerns
  - In total to date about US\$1+Trillion lost (corporates, hedge funds, insurance companies, pension funds, endowments...)
  - Foreclosure rates are at historical highs (+70% in Sept)
  - Global impact...recessions in US, Japan, Germany,...

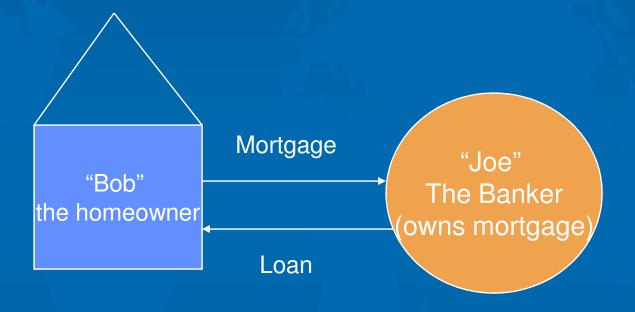
# What is sub-prime?

"A picture is worth a 1000 words..."

# Housing pulls Economy

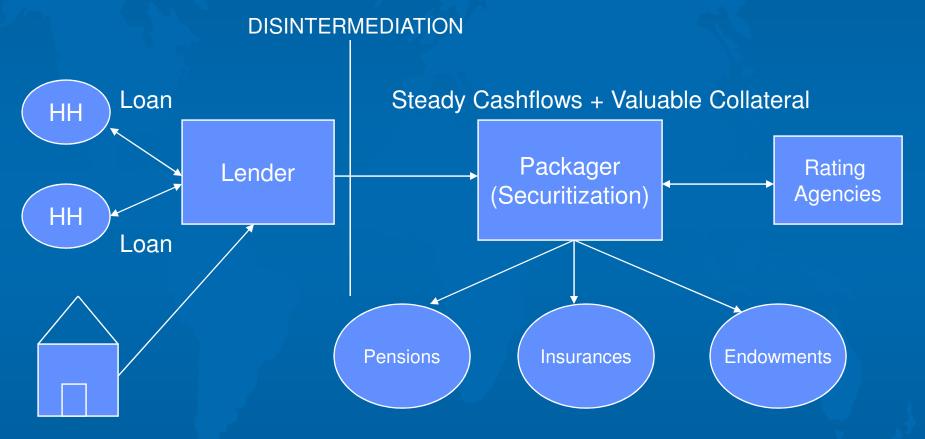


#### Old days of Relationship Banking



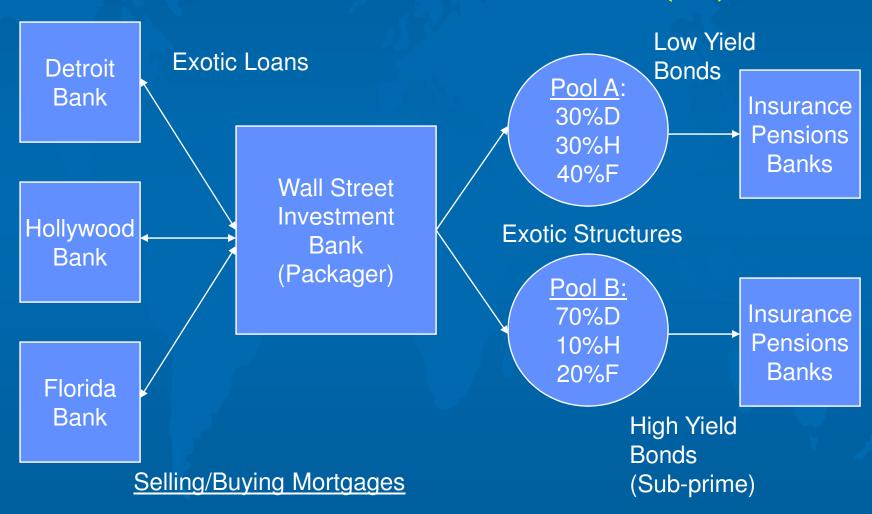
NB: Bank owns loan and knows client – is part of community

# The Mortgage Market Today (A)

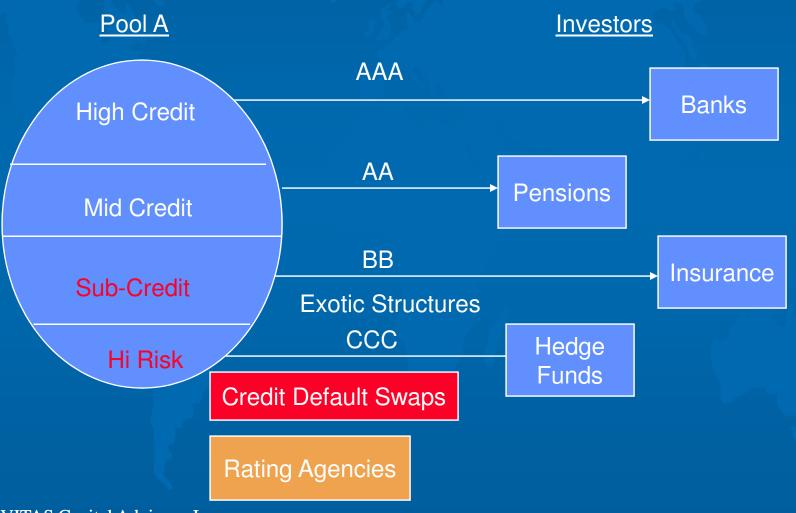


**Investment Guidelines** 

### Securitization Process (A)



# Securitization Process (B)



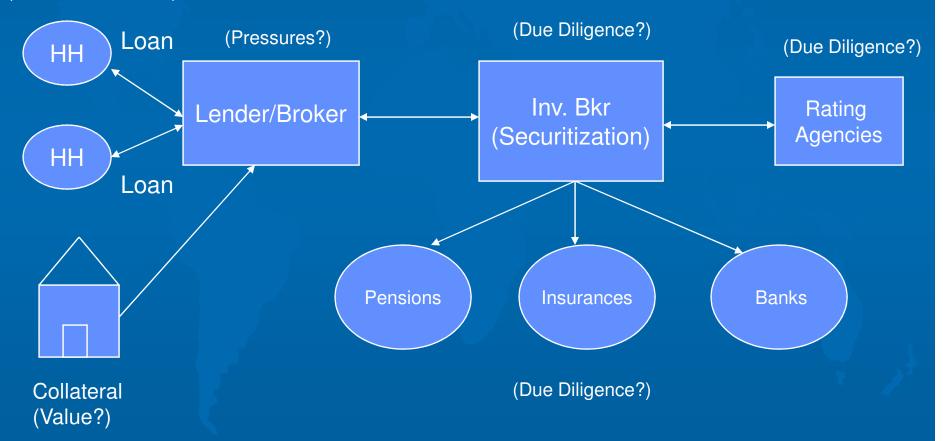
#### CRISIS!! HOME PRICES PLUMMET

#### Result:

- -All Securities/Collateral are valueless
- -Credit freezes/consumption collapses
- -Corporate layoffs rise
- -Dramatic shrinking of consumption
- -Recession...Depression looms

#### Who's Fault??

(Credit Worthiness?)



GRAVITAS Capital Advisors, Inc.

# Now what does this all mean for Caribbean Financial Services?

#### Immediate Regional Implications?

- Capital Calls from HQ
  - Freezing of major projects
  - Higher cost of financing (corp. and sovereign)
- Slowing of Remittances
  - Mexico vs. Jamaica
- Fear of Contagion
  - Regulatory Clamp Down (innovation and cross-border)
  - Delays in regionalization (securitization initiatives)
- Late Effects
  - 2009 and beyond: Tourism

#### **Evolving Regional Market**

(What needs to be done?)

- G20 Initiatives for Reform (cf. Article)
  - Disparate application due to local politics
  - Macro vs. Micro Response
- The Fear of Contagion (cf. Article)
  - Is the dream of regionalization dead?
- Takeaway for the Caribbean Regulator:
  - Coordinated oversight (Regional SEC?)
  - Balance in Risk Taking (Boards Incentives)
  - Cooperation with Private Sector (not adversarial)
  - Transparency
  - Consistency across jurisdictions (Easier here)

# Opportunities?

- ♦ As normal sources dry up seek alternative sources of finance:
  - Small Enterprise Assistance Fund (SME finance)
- New product development
  - Remittances based products
    - Building on counter-cyclicality and dependence
  - Community based financial services
    - Global Education Savings Fund

# In Closing

- Difficult times ahead, but:
  - Regulators need seek balance NOT restrict
  - Boards should be more accountable (micro)
  - Regional market should stay alive
  - CAIB members should seek value in responsible innovation
- New G20 Regulatory Framework bound to create new inefficiencies
  - Watch for <u>unintended consequences</u>.