



**NOTULES VAN DIE / MINUTES OF THE**

**DRINGENDE SPESIALE RAADSVERGADERING VAN DIE CEDERBERG  
MUNISIPALITEIT SOOS GEHOU OP**

**18 JULIE / JULIE 2024**

.....

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CEDERBERG MUNICIPALITY, HELD ON**

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**MINUTES OF THE URGENT SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CEDERBERG  
MUNICIPALITY HELD ON 28 MARCH 2024**

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**PRESENT AND IN ATTENDANCE:**

As per the attendance registers copied into the minutes after the final item:

**ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGY:**

N/A

**1. OPENING**

- The Chairperson welcomed all present opened the meeting with a moment of silence

**2. ELECTION OF (ACTING) SPEAKER, IF NECESSARY**

- N/A

**3. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

- Cllr. W Farmer

## Contents

4. STATEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS BY THE SPEAKER .....	4
5. STATEMENTS AND COMMUNICATION BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR.....	4
6. REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR ON DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR TOGETHER WITH THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MAYOR AND THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR TOGETHER WITH THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE .....	4
7. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION.....	5
7.1 RESOLUTIONS TAKEN BY COUNCIL.....	6
RB7.1.1/18-07-2024 DISASTER MANAGEMENT ITEM: DECLARATION OF A STATE OF DISASTER FOR CEDERBERG MUNICIPALITY JURISDCTION .....	6
RB7.2/18-07-2024 .....	7
URGENT MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER .....	7
RB7.3/18-07-2024 .....	7
MATTERS FOR NOTIFICATION .....	7
RB7.4/18-07-2024 .....	7
CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS OF EXIGENCY .....	7
08. CLOSURE.....	7

#### **4. STATEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS BY THE SPEAKER**

- In the absence of Cllr. Farmer, the Speaker wished him well as he is currently experiencing challenges with his health.
- The Chairperson also mentioned that Leipoldtville Community asked for assistance with the conditions of their roads.

#### **5. STATEMENTS AND COMMUNICATION BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR**

- Geen / None

#### **6. REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR ON DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR TOGETHER WITH THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MAYOR AND THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR TOGETHER WITH THE MAYORAL COMMITTEE**

- See attached.

## 7. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

### Rules of Order for Internal Arrangement

#### Part Four:

#### 2. DECISIONS AND VOTING

- 2.1 In the event that the Speaker enquires from the attendees at a meeting if they are in agreement with recommendation/s and there is no opposition by any member present, recommendations are adopted.
- 2.2 The Speaker must put every apposed motion to the vote by calling upon the members to indicate by a raising of hands unless otherwise prescribed by law, whether they are in favour of or against such motion. The result of the vote must thereafter be declared by the Speaker.
- 2.3 The number of members voting in favour of or against an item, is to be recorded in the minutes. Members may abstain from voting without leaving the meeting and may request that his/her abstention be recorded in the minutes of that meeting. Consequently, subsequent to the speaker's declaration of the result, a member may demand that his or her opposition or support of a decision be recorded in the minutes and the Municipal Manager must accordingly arrange for the same.
- 2.4 All decisions must be taken by a supporting vote of the majority of the members present at any meeting of the Council.
- 2.5 The Municipal Council must reconsider a decision taken if the majority of members lodge a request in writing with the Municipal Manager. This shall apply unless such reconsideration adversely affects existing rights. Motions for the reconsideration of decision must be submitted in terms of Rule 5 of the Rules of Order.
- 2.6 Notwithstanding the provision of this Rule, the Council may at any time following a recommendation by the Mayor, rescind or amend any resolution passed by it.

#### Part 5

#### 4. Councillor to address chair

A member who speaks at a meeting must address the chair.

#### Part 5

#### 16. Order of priority

- 16.1 The Speaker must ensure that there is maintenance of order. To this end, the Speaker may, if he / she deems it necessary, at any time in a meeting direct an office to remove or cause the removal of any person, excluding a member, from the Council Chamber. The Speaker may also direct that the public gallery be vacated.
- 16.2 The removal of any person or persons who refuse to carry out any reasonable instruction given by the Speaker or obstructs the carrying out of such instruction may be ordered by the Speaker.

#### Part 5

#### 3. Precedence of the Speaker

Silence must be observed by all present in meeting when the Speaker addresses meetings in order for the Speaker to be heard without interruption. Whenever the speaker addresses the meeting, all members must be silent so that the speaker may be heard without any interruption. Council must be addressed by members through the Speaker.

#### 13. Relevance

Speeches by members must address the subject or matter under discussion or to an explanation or to a point of order. In this Regard, no discussion shall be tolerated in relation to the anticipation of any matter on the agenda or in respect of any matter in respect of which a decision by a judicial or quasi-judicial body or a commission of inquiry, whether instituted in terms of legislation or not, is pending, provided that such matter may be considered with the permission of Council.

#### Part 5

#### 5. Right to speak

A member is provided with an opportunity to speak with the permission of the Speaker only once for no longer than 5 (five) minutes on a matter before the meeting unless authorised by the Chairperson.

A member is entitled to speak once on any recommendation, motion or proposal, provided that the Mayor or Member may reply to conclude a debate and shall restrict himself/herself to answering previous speakers rather than the introduction of new matters.

Prior to the consideration of any item contained in the report of the mayor in reply to a specific question or during discussion of the same, the Speaker shall permit the Mayor, MMC or Chairperson of the Committee in terms of section 79 and 80 of the Local Government Municipal Structures Act 117 of 1998 who made the proposal in terms of rule 9 or rule 14 of part 5 of these Rules to make an explanatory statement.

#### 6. Length of speeches

- 6.1 A member may (unless authorised otherwise by the Speaker) only speak once to-
  - 6.1.1 the matter and any amendments to that matter that is before the council;
  - 6.1.2 any motion before the council;
  - 6.1.3 to a matter or an amendment proposed or to be proposed by himself or herself;
  - 6.1.4 a point of order or a question of privilege, unless authorised by the speaker or as provided for in terms of these rules.
- 6.2 No new matters may be introduced by a mover that speaks to a motion and replies to previous speakers in a debate. The right of reply shall not extend to the mover of an amendment which, having been carried, has become substantive motion.



## 7.1 RESOLUTIONS TAKEN BY COUNCIL

### **RB7.1.1/18-07-2024 DISASTER MANAGEMENT ITEM: DECLARATION OF A STATE OF DISASTER FOR CEDERBERG MUNICIPALITY JURISDICTION**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Council resolved:

1. To take note, with appreciation, the declaration of a provincial state of disaster for the flooding incidents in the Western Cape (inclusive of Cederberg municipality) by the National Disaster Management Centre of South Africa.
2. To treat the disaster as a local disaster within its jurisdiction of Cederberg, notwithstanding the declaration of the broader provincial state of disaster.
3. To provision R1million (one million rand) for the purpose of disaster relief as well as purposes associated with such relief.
4. To authorise the Executive Mayor to make decisions related to disaster relief if a Council meeting cannot be timeously constituted and that all decisions be documented for ratification at the next Council meeting.
5. To mandate the Municipal Manager to implement decisions referred to in resolution 4, including procurement of goods and services in terms of regulatory guidelines.
6. To authorise the Municipal Manager to maintain control of said expenditure and provide regular report back to Council.

**Proposed:** Cllr. M Bergh

**Secondant:** Cllr. M Heins

**No Counter proposals**

## **RB7.2/18-07-2024**

### **URGENT MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

- Geen / None

## **RB7.3/18-07-2024**

### **MATTERS FOR NOTIFICATION**

- Geen / None

## **RB7.4/18-07-2024**

### **CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS OF EXIGENCY**

- Geen / None

## **08. CLOSURE**

- The Speaker thanked all involved with the disaster/floods in helping and assisting in this time.
- Meeting adjourned.

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**VOORSITTER / CHAIRPERSON**

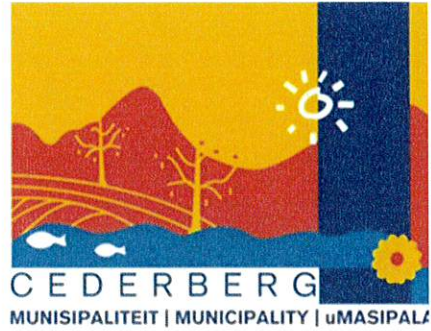
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**DATUM / DATE**

# LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO BREATHE<sup>1</sup>

*Interim and urgent report by Executive Mayor,  
Dr Ruben Richards to the Speaker and Councillors  
on the impact of recent flooding in Cederberg*

*Submitted to Urgent Special Council meeting held on  
18 July 2024, Clanwilliam Council Chambers.*



## Contents

1. PURPOSE AND TIMING OF REPORT .....	2
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	2
3. OVERVIEW OF CHALLENGES .....	3
A weather window until Thursday 18 July 2024.....	4
State of Disaster .....	4
4. CONTEXT – R303 AS A VULNERABLE AORTA .....	4
5. JOC INITIATED .....	5
Early warnings and preparedness .....	5
Most vulnerable areas.....	5
Great team work and foresight .....	5
6. OPERATIONAL UPDATES AND FAKE NEWS .....	6
Attempts to save the R303 - 11 July 2024 (17h00).....	6
Road closure notices – an ever-changing picture.....	6
Communicating with residents.....	7
7. CONCLUDING COMMENTS .....	7
Role of provincial government .....	7
Let's join hands.....	7
Premier to visit Citrusdal on 23 July .....	8
8. WAY FORWARD - TAKE A MOMENT TO BREATHE .....	8
ANNEX A - HANG IN THERE, requests the Mayor .....	9
ANNEX B - LETTER TO MEC SIMMERS – 15 July 2024.....	11

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<sup>1</sup> Date the report was originally circulated to councillors was 16 July 2024, 15h00. It is now submitted to the Urgent Special Council meeting of 18 July 2024 as the Mayor's formal report to council.



# LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO BREATHE

*Interim and urgent report by Executive Mayor, Dr Ruben Richards  
to the Speaker and Councillors  
on the impact of recent flooding in Cederberg*

Dear Speaker and Fellow Councillors

## 1. PURPOSE AND TIMING OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to give you a brief update on the impact of the flooding which has hit our municipal area over the past few days (July 2024). The inclement weather is not over yet and we expect more heavy rains later this week. So, this report is by no means conclusive. Its aim is to provide an interim update so that councillors are more or less on the same page.

There are several pressing demands and ongoing operational challenges in this first post-flood window period. However, I thought it prudent to steal a moment and write you this interim report before we are hit by more heavy weather in a few days' time.

I do feel like the author (possibly Mark Twain) of the often-quoted line which says: *"If I had more time I would write a shorter letter."*

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The long and short of this report is the following:

*The two most affected areas as a result of the rains of last week (especially 11/12 July) are Citrusdal and Wupperthal – both areas being cut off from the world due to swollen and flooding rivers.*

- **Citrusdal**
  - The town remains cut off – all access roads are still inaccessible but frantic efforts are being made to scrape roads and reopen these as soon as practically possible. This is no doubt a moving target.
  - We are negotiating to get access to the Mouton Citrus private road and bridge which connects the N7 to Citrusdal. We await provincial signoff.
  - The municipality is housing and feeding residents who lost their shacks in the low-lying areas (i.e. below flood line in Riverview). This number is on average 150 warm bodies at peak. This number also changes daily as many affect decline to report as they are not properly documented individuals.

- Humanitarian aid to an ever larger and growing number of people is being rendered. Community “soup kitchens” are now being activated to bring relief in Citrusdal and Wupperthal.
- Concerns:
  - Stocks are running low at all levels (medical supplies, food, cash and fuel).
  - The funeral undertaker has indicated that there is only very limited space left in the mortuary to store dead bodies given that funerals cannot take place under the current weather conditions.
  - The health risk associated with many people being accommodated in one single space such as the community hall is being addressed.
  - The biggest concern relates to the speed with which the provincial government will be able to restore the road access to the town. Citrusdal citrus growers are concerned that undue delays in getting their fruit out to the market (mainly international) will result in huge losses as the fruit goes rotten while awaiting road access.
- **Wupperthal**
  - Two consignments of humanitarian aid have been sent to Wupperthal specifically to reach the “buitestadies”- the out posts/stations.
  - The innovativeness and “can do” attitude of the Wupperthalers have seen them restore broken infrastructure themselves as they wait upon assistance from the municipality and provincial government. Well done to our Wupperthal Councillor Andre Mouton. We have much to learn from Wupperthal. However, the silence (or is it paralysis) of the Moravian Church is a concern.

### 3. OVERVIEW OF CHALLENGES

I am sure you, as a council, are relatively up to date with information given the already extensive media coverage as well as our own municipal internal communications via videos and information alerts posted on all our social media platforms.

I am pleased that each ward councillor was able to make an early statement via a video message to their residents requesting them to be safe and warm as we braced for the icy and wet weather to arrive. This was certainly a first for the municipality in terms of proactive communication, and it bodes well for the future and how we as councillors, especially ward councillors, need to engage with our residents. After all, we serve all people and not just those of our political constituency. So, well done councillors. I appreciate your contribution in this regard.

## A weather window until Thursday 18 July 2024

With this report allow me then to provide some context, perspective and matters for us as councillors to consider noting that the storm is not yet over. We currently have a few days reprieve – a weather window – until Thursday 18 July - when more heavy rain is expected.

## State of Disaster

Let me also say that since the Premier declared a state of disaster, we as council have no need to declare our own disaster as I had requested from the Speaker last week. Events had overtaken us in a good way.

## 4. CONTEXT – R303 AS A VULNERABLE AORTA

The early rains of June 2024 caused the main access road into Citrusdal (i.e. the R303) to temporarily flood. The waters quickly subsidised and the access was restored albeit initially by way of one-way traffic. Of course, the R303 is a vulnerable road given that in 2023 it was completely destroyed by heavy rains and then rebuilt.

The MM called a number of JOC meetings to address this early June 2024 flooding of the R303 – the first such meeting held on 6 June 2024 and ran for a few days.

A month later, with the onset of further inclement weather and consistent warnings from the Provincial and District Disaster Centre around early July 2024, the MM again called a series of JOC meetings the first of which took place on 3 July 2024. That JOC has sat daily until present.

Unfortunately, last week, the anticipated and feared happened. The R303 was again completely destroyed by heavy rain and flooding like it was in 2023, barely a year ago. And Wupperthal was again cut off as well as Elandskloof.

Interestingly, according Kobus van de Merwe of the Citrusdal Water Users Association, it is estimated that the value of goods that move across the R303-Citrusdal is over one trillion rand<sup>2</sup>. The R303 is therefore more than just a little road that joins the N7 with the little rural town of Citrusdal. It is my view that ***the R303 is to the industry of Citrusdal and the broader Cederberg what the aorta is to the heart***, namely, the largest blood vessel in your body that delivers oxygen-rich blood to your organs and tissues. I leave you to join the dots from this analogy.

The vulnerability of the other wards and towns must not be underestimated. Wupperthal, for example, experience its buitestadies being cut off. Other towns such as our coastal areas also took a beating but fortunately did not lose road accessibility. The lose of electricity and connectivity is irritating and frustrating, but hardly carries with it the level of risk associated with towns completely cut off as a result of no access road networks.

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<sup>2</sup> This figure is more likely into the hundreds of millions.



## 5. JOC INITIATED

### Early warnings and preparedness

On 3 July 2024, our MM called a JOC (Joint Operation Committee) to prepare for the heavy rains and icy weather which was predicted to hit our region as part of the larger inclement and cyclone level weather to that hit the Western Cape. The JOC eventually expanded beyond municipal representatives to include all relief and support agencies, the police, the hospital, provincial road repair groups as well as the West Coast District Municipality's Disaster Centre which provided the technical guidance and statistics as well as supplies. Our JOC become the nerve centre for information and coordinated action as we responded to the weather challenges.

### Most vulnerable areas

In July 2024 (as was the case the previous month), the two most vulnerable and hardest hit areas/wards were Citrusdal and Wupperthal in terms of flooding which hit us on 11 July. However, during the days leading up to the eventual flooding of the R303 Citrusdal road on 11 July, we as a municipality were already hard at work, via the JOC process, providing assistance to various towns such as Wupperthal, then already a victim of swollen rivers and collapsed roads which made a number of buitestasies inaccessible. For example, on Wednesday 10 July, around midday, a humanitarian relief convoy left Clanwilliam for Wupperthal to provide much needed relief to communities which had been cut off since the previous weekend already. On the other side of the mountain, we were also already housing about 19 people evacuated from the low-lying flood areas of the Olifants River in Citrusdal – a number which grew to over 200 warm bodies.

### Great team work and foresight

We are grateful to the West Coast District Municipality who mobilised relief – their own supplies as well as via Gift of the Givers and the SARZA – Search and Rescue South Africa – both NGO's – who provided skills and assistance alongside our own Disaster Management teams led by Christo. Our own electrical team led by Randal was overstretched as powerlines were blown over by strong winds causing not only loss of electricity but extreme danger. Somehow, they managed to be in many places at the same time. Well done to them. Jacques and his civils team have responded timeously, for example, to the collapsing of the toilets in Khayalitsha. Heinie and his water team have done well to ensure that we are not consumed by water infrastructure challenges. Well done Director Riaan. You and your technical team have been superb. Well done Director Henry Witbooi under whose management is located the Disaster Response team. And thanks to Portfolio Chair, Cllr Leone Venter for her hands on availability in assisting the Disaster Team which forms part of her portfolio.

Our coastal towns of Lamberts Bay and Elands Bay received our attention and support resulting from the impact of level 6 and 8 weather warnings received from our Disaster Centre. Clanwilliam suffered minimal flood damage with some toilets washed away in Khayalitsha. And this was before the destruction of the R303 was washed away on 11 July.

Fortunately, our winter readiness program helped greatly to mitigate flood damage as all our storm water drains were recently “unblocked” and “cleaned”. The canal which was built in front of the Clanwilliam sewerage works literally saved the sewerage plant from being overrun by flood water on 7 July 2024 which would have caused raw sewerage to spill into the Jan Dissels river.

One can mention many other incidents where the municipal teams have responded beyond the call of duty and with foresight. I am sure the MM will report later on these matters and efforts. For that I am grateful for what we have accomplished thus far and wish to record a word of thanks to the MM and the team.

## 6. OPERATIONAL UPDATES AND FAKE NEWS

### **Attempts to save the R303 - 11 July 2024 (17h00)**

On Thursday afternoon (11 July 2024) Cllr Venter and I were in Citrusdal. Around 14h00, we received word that the heavy waters from the Ceres/Witzenberg catchment area will reach Citrusdal by Thursday afternoon around 17h00 and that the surrounding farms we evacuating with immediate effect. Cllr Venter and I mobilised our municipal team accordingly.

During the previous days (Monday to Wednesday), with the assistance of our Technical Director, Riaan De Ridder, we tried to facilitate the mitigation the impending flooding through the reinforcement of the riverbanks (Damval) which guides the water under the R303 bridge adjacent to the Caltex garage. At that stage we had a 36-hour weather window to try and improve the strength of the riverbank at two vulnerable spots which were identified. Unfortunately, the window closed before the riverbanks could be properly reinforced. For my sins, I got stuck with my 4x4 in the thick muddy sand as I was showing the eNCA TV News crew the vulnerability of the riverbank and tried to explain our efforts to save the R303. Unfortunately, my literal getting stuck in the mud is what made national prime time news as opposed to the vulnerable riverbank which needed to be rescued. Such is the media.

The combination of heavy rains as well as the water flow from the Witzenberg/Ceres catchment area caused the riverbanks to break resulting in the flooding and destruction of the R303 for the second time in one year.

*Note: The municipal road ends at the Caltex garage at foot of the bridge as you travel towards the N7 when leaving Citrusdal. From thereon, the road is a provincial road till it reaches the N7.*

### **Road closure notices – an ever-changing picture**

It has not been uncommon to see notices on our WhattsApp Flood Watch (JOC) Group – notices which constantly change. An example of such a notice is:

1. The R303 that links Citrusdal to the N7 is closed until further notice.



2. Citrusdal-N7 via MR539 (ALGERIA ROAD)– the low water bridge on this route is under water and is closed until further notice.

3. Citrusdal-N7 via Clanwilliam (MR539 to DR2183 and to the N7 via Clanwilliam OU KAAPSE WEG ROAD – Westcoast district municipality currently working on the road. But still no access.

4. Citrusdal-Ceres via MR310 ELANDSKLOOF west coast district municipality currently working on the road. But still no access.

It should be noted: Where water levels allow emergency vehicles to pass, they will receive access. This does not mean the public can utilise the road at this stage.

16 July 2024 07:00

Our challenge remains that of ensuring that all communication is vetted prior to dissemination. I think we have managed reasonably well in this regard. On the other hand, people are so hungry for information, they are willing to grab anything that can inform them of the situation. Our media department has done well under the circumstances. But like with all things, there is always room for improvement.

### Communicating with residents

On Sunday 14 July 2024, I issued a verbal and written communication to all residents of the Cederberg appraising them of the flood situation and calling on them to remain calm as the municipality tries its best to manage the situation. I have attached that communication hereto for ease of reference as **Annex A**.

## 7. CONCLUDING COMMENTS

### Role of provincial government

We continue to place pressure on provincial government to speedily repair the R303. In this regard I have written a formal letter to the MEC of Infrastructure, Tertius Simmers, attached hereto for your reference as **Annex B**.

### Let's join hands

I have learned from our Citrusdal min-JOC that there are political parties trying to take advantage of the vulnerable situation by wanting to hand out food parcels as a way of canvassing votes. I am sure we are all aware that there is a by-election coming up in Citrusdal on 28 August 2024. I appeal to all political parties to desist from trying to score political points. Let us serve our people because it is our duty and not because we can score cheap political points when people are at their most vulnerable.

### Premier to visit Citrusdal on 23 July

I have been informed that Premier Winde and his cabinet plan to visit Citrusdal on 23 July 2024. I will keep you posted on these developments given that we currently have no access to Citrusdal. Perhaps the Premier will arrange a boat or helicopter. Or perhaps he will have the R303 speedily fixed so that he can crossover the raging flood waters, even though the levels have subsided dramatically. However, more rains are predicted for this coming Thursday, thus closing the weather window we are currently enjoying.

## 8. WAY FORWARD - TAKE A MOMENT TO BREATHE

My hope is that all our staff and all those assisting us will take advantage of the limited weather window (i.e. the next two days) in order to rest and recharge their batteries as we await the next deluge of water and inclement weather predicted for later this week. I encourage everyone to take a moment to breathe.

Best regards to everyone and thank you for all your efforts to rescue and protect the Cederberg.

ends

## ANNEX A - HANG IN THERE, requests the Mayor

Message for the Executive Mayor of Cederberg – Dr Ruben Richards  
Sunday 14 July 2024, 11h30

### **Good morning residents of the Cederberg**

It is the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 2024 - Sunday morning 11h30. This is your Mayor speaking – Dr Ruben Richards.

We are all battling and responding to the impact of the heaving rains and floods of the past few days. The Citrusdal road (R303) has been washed away and in Wupperthal many communities remain cut off.

We are in emergency mode – we are in disaster mode - and the situation changes all the time.

This morning, we in the municipality had our daily early morning emergency meeting with all emergency agencies and support agencies just to catch up and assess the current situation and any developments overnight that we should be aware of.

### **WORDS OF COMFORT**

In a different message I will give you a damage assessment report. But with this message, I want to say a few words of encouragement to you. I also want to express my condolences to the family in Elandsfontien<sup>3</sup> who lost a loved one overnight. My deepest sympathies to you and also to the families of the three persons who lost their lives in Clanwilliam, due to the freezing temperatures.

The weather forecast for the next few days is that it will be sunny. The weather gods tell us it will rain a little bit today and then next week Thursday we can expect more heavy rain.

So we have a few days of reprieve in order to do some mopping up and to catch our breath and to further assess the damage caused by this rain and flooding.

### **DECLARATION OF A STATE OF DISASTER**

I am thankful that the Premier of the Western Cape, Alan Winde, has declared an official state of disaster which means that extra effort and resources can now be made available to assist areas such as the Cederberg. We are not the only area that has suffered like this. So our hearts go out to the residents of other areas that have been badly affected by this inclement and harsh weather.

### **HANG IN THERE EVERYONE**

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<sup>3</sup> Errata – correction dated 18 July 2024. This was originally and inaccurately recorded as Elandskloof. My apologies to Cllr Scheepers (ward councillor) and the people of Elandskloof for this mistake.

I call on all residents to vasbyt. We will survive this challenge as the people of Cederberg.

I wish you strength. We are a resilient people – and we will make it through this storm. But we must hold hands and help each other.

As Mayor I wish you warmth, a full stomach of food and dry clothes. Better, warmer and dryer days will come.

Thank you and strength to all



## ANNEX B - LETTER TO MEC SIMMERS – 15 July 2024

### KANTOOR VAN BURGEMEESTER / OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

15 July 2024

ATTENTION: Carmen Hartnick ([carmen.hartnick@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:carmen.hartnick@westerncape.gov.za))

For,  
**MINISTER TERTIUS SIMMERS**  
Department of Infrastructure  
Western Cape Provincial Government

#### **SUBJECT:**

- **URGENT DECISION REQUESTED** REGARDING ACCESS ROAD OFFERED BY PRIVATE FARMER ALONG N7 ABOUT 10 KILOMETERS FROM R303-CITRUSDAL COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE MOUTON BRIDGE

Dear Minister Simmers

The dramatic and devastating flooding of the R303 Citrusdal during Thursday/Friday last week (11/12 July 2024) refers:

1. Unfortunately, the flooding destroyed the main access road between the town of Citrusdal and the N7. The only two remaining access roads, namely, the Ou Kaapse Weg linking Citrusdal and Clanwilliam as well as the Ceres-Citrusdal Road which passes by Elandskloof have been deemed unsafe and therefore closed.
2. We desperately need to create an access road in order for supplies to reach the town of Citrusdal (viz. Medical supplies, food, gas, fuel, cash for ATM machines, etc). Citrusdal is now completely cut off from the world. Due to a shortage of supplies we are now conducting soup kitchens to feed the destitute but also those unable to access food supplies due to the shortage of supplies in the supermarkets.
3. As was the case with the 2023 flooding and the destruction of the same R303 road, a local farming business, Mouton Citrus, has generously offered the utilisation of their



private bridge which connects the N7 to Citrusdal. I will shortly provide the exactly location details.

4. Understandably, the Mouton proposal comes with certain conditions that must be considered including liability cover in the event of damages which may occur during the time of utilisation of the bridge.
5. As this is a provincial matter and competency, I direct this request to yourself. In this regard, our team has held preliminary discussions with the Mayor of the West Coast District Municipality, Boffie Strydom, herein copied for ease of reference.
6. It would be prudent if your technical team can take over the process and discussions with immediate effect. My technical team is currently conducting the preliminary discussions with the farmer in terms of securing goodwill.
7. Please advise how and when you will be able to intervene and/or send out your team to assess and guide the decision making process. The water levels of the Olifants River which flows over this Mouton private bridge are currently still too high for any vehicle to cross over. However, within a few hours, the levels should drop significantly. The farmer is currently clearing the debris around the bridge.
8. I request that your office please provide some indication of the pace of the ultimate repair of the R303 road but more urgently a decision on the utilisation of this Mouton Bridge as underwritten by yourselves.
9. For your information, on Saturday morning (13 July 2024, 08h00) a fact finding mission took place on-site where the R303 was washed away the previous day, in order to get a sense of the scale of the damage to the road. This on-site meeting was attended by the MM and Mayor of the West Coast District Municipality, and the Cederberg team included myself, the MM, our Technical Director, our Disaster Management team, law enforcement, the portfolio Chair for Support Services under which such an event would be monitored and representatives of business as well as humanitarian agencies.
10. An outcome of that meeting was that the District Municipality would facilitate a quotation from a local contractor who could conduct emergency repairs to the R303 in order to create temporary access to Citrusdal via the N7.
11. The longer term solution is, of course, a different discussion – something we as the Cederberg would like to contribute towards in terms of ideas and design where

appropriate. We respect that this is your domain and prerogative given that its a provincial road. However, I am confident that you would appreciate input from the local context as you make your final decisions.

12. But in the meantime, **this urgent letter is to get your GO-AHEAD** and sign-off on a cooperation agreement between Mouton Citrus and yourselves so that the Cederberg Municipality and its residents can use the Mouton Citrus private bridge as a temporary access road in and out of Citrusdal from the N7.

13. I await your kind and prompt response.

Dr Ruben Richards

Executive Mayor

Copy:

West Coast District Municipality, Mayor Boffie Strydom

Cederberg Municipal Manager, Gerrit Matthyse

Cederberg Technical Director, Riaan De Ridder

Cederberg Portfolio Chairperson and Mayco member, Leone Venter