



**NOTULES VAN DIE / MINUTES OF THE**

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

**26 AUGUSTUS / AUGUST 2024**

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

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**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CEDERBERG MUNICIPALITY HELD ON  
26 AUGUST 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:**

Geen / None

**1. OPENING**

- The Chairperson welcomed all present and 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
- Cllr. M Bergh

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## 4. INTERVIEWS WITH OR PRESENTATIONS BY DEPUTATIONS

### Rules of Order for Internal Arrangement

#### Part 6

#### 6. Deputations

Should deputations seek an interview with council, the municipal manager must be provided with ten working days written notice of the intent of the deputation with details of the representations that are to be made as well as its source. The notice must be submitted to the Speaker by the Municipal Manager with recommendations and comments. The Speaker has the discretion to then grant the interview and instate conditions.

- Geen / None

## 5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

### RESOLVED:

- a) That Council approved the following Minutes:
  1. Council Meeting held on 14 May 2024;
  2. Special Council Meeting held on 13 June 2024;
  3. Special Council Meeting held on 27 June 2024; and
  4. Urgent Special Council Meeting held on 18 July 2024.

**Proposed:** Cllr. R Richards

**Seconded:** Cllr. A Mouton

## 6 STATEMENTS AND COMMUNICATON BY THE CHAIRPERSON

- In terms of the order of business the Chair informed the meeting that the urgent items will be handled 1st.

## RB06A/26-08-2024 REPRESENTATION: WEST COAST DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

### RESOLVED:

- a) Council took note that Cllr. A Scheepers is the newly elected WCD representation, as informed by the IEC.

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

- **See attached.**

## **8. 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**

### **RESOLVED:**

- a) That Council takes cognizance of the following Executive Mayoral Reports:
  1. Executive Mayoral Committee Minutes of 27 June 2024; and
  2. Executive Mayoral Committee Minutes of 30 July 2024.

## 9. 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 officer 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 and 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 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.

## 9.1 RESOLUTIONS TAKEN BY COUNCIL

### **RB9.1.1/26-08-2024 ADOPTION OF THE TIME SCHEDULE 2024-2025 FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026**

#### **RESOLVED:**

- a) That council approve the IDP/PMS/BUDGET Time Schedule for the period 2025-2026.
- b) That the Time Schedule be advertised to inform the public about the Key dates and a copy be submitted to Provincial Government

**Proposed:** Cllr. L Venter

**Seconded:** Cllr. A Scheepers

**No Counter Proposals**

### **RB9.1.2/26-08-2024 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REORT FOR 2023/2024**

#### **RESOLVED**

1. That Council noted the 2023/2024 Annual Performance Report of Cederberg Municipality.
2. That the report be submitted to the Auditor General.

### **RB9.1.3/26-08-2024 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COLLAB CITIZEN APP (COLLABORATOR)**

#### **RESOLVED:**

- a. Note the report on the effectiveness of the Collab Citizen (Collaborator) platform.



- b. To keep council informed of the progress regularly and referred to MayCo as standing item.
- c. Grant additional time for the implementation of the Collab Citizen app.
- d. Provide necessary support and resources for employee training and development.
- e. Allocate funding for marketing and awareness campaigns to promote the app.
- f. Support the implementation process of the Collab Citizen app.

#### **RB9.1.4/26-08-2024 QUARTERLY AND ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE AUDIT- & PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

##### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. Council to take note of the following reports:
  - a) Quarterly report – 1 April 2024 - 30 June 2024
  - b) Annual report - 01 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

#### **RB9.1.5/26-08-2024 DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR COUNCILLORS**

##### **RESOLVED:**

- 1. Council noted the Financial interests to be disclosed even if they incurred for only part of the year as per the Annual Report directive from National Treasury;
- 2. Council approved the code on the following basis:
  - a. The Disclosures Financial Interests Register to have a confidential part and a public part;
  - b. Confidential part –
    - i. The value of financial interests in a private or public company;
    - ii. The amount of any remuneration for any employment outside Council;
    - iii. The amount of any remuneration for any directorate or partnership;

- iv. Address of private residence;
  - v. The value of any pension and any amount paid;
  - vi. Details of all financial interests of a member's spouse, dependents, child or permanent companion to the extent that a members is aware of.
  - vii. No person who has access to the confidential part of the Register, may disclose particulars of any entry in the confidential part except to the Speaker and the Municipal Manager, and also as part of a report in respect of an alleged irregularity or when a court so orders.
- c. Public part –
- i. All relevant details other than those in b (i-vii) above, of the registrable interests as for the public interest for disclosure;
    - Councillor name
    - Councillor status
    - Political Party
    - Interests in shares and security company
    - Membership of any closed corporation
    - Interest in any trust
    - Directorships
    - Partnerships
    - Other financial interests in any business undertaking
    - Employment other than Cederberg Municipality
    - Interests in property
    - Pension
    - Subsidies, Grants and Sponsorships by any organisation
    - Interest in municipal contracts / suppliers
    - Gifts received above prescribed amount of R 350.00 for Municipal Manager and Directors
    - Gifts received above prescribed amount of R 1 000.00 for Councillors
  - ii. Any person has access to the public part of the Register on a working day during office hours at the office of the Municipal Manager in terms of the application procedure as required by the provisions of the Promotion of Access of Information Act.
- d. Councillors, Municipal Manager and Directors to disclose the financial interests annually between 01 July and 30 June; and
- e. Any time when a material change occurs.
3. That Council consented for the following full-time councillors to do other work.
- Executive Mayor – Dr Ruben Richards
  - Executive Deputy Mayor – Cllr Andre Mouton
  - Speaker – Cllr John Hayes

- Councillor – Johan van Heerden

**Proposed:** Cllr. M Heins

**Seconded:** Cllr. L Venter

**No Counter Proposals**

### **RB9.1.6/26-08-2024 PRE-AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. Council noted the Pre-Audited Annual Financial Statements for the period ended 30 June 2024;
2. Council noted that the administration will make additional changes to the Pre-Audited Annual Financial Statements before final submission to the Auditor General.

### **RB9.1.7/26-08-2024 WRITE-OFF OF OBSOLETE ASSETS DURING THE ASSET COUNT: 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR**

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. Council noted the contents of the report.
2. Council approved that assets are permanently removed from the asset register.

**Proposed:** Cllr. J Van Heerden

**Seconded:** Cllr. M Heins



**RB9.1.8/26-08-2024                      EXTENSION OF EXISTING PROCUREMENT  
CONTRACTS IN TERMS OF SECTION 33 AND 116(3) OF THE LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2003 (ACT 56 OF  
2003)**

**RESOLVED:**

1. **Council approved, the contract extension of CED 19/2020-2021: for a period of 24 months:** Compilation of the general valuation rolls and supplementary valuations rolls, in terms of the enabling provisions of sections 33 and 116(3) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003) (MFMA).

**Proposed:**                      Cllr. J Van Heerden

**Seconded:**                    Cllr. M Heins

**RB9.1.9/26-08-2024                      REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE  
2024**

**RESOLVED:**

1. The annual report on the implementation of the Supply Chain Management Policy for the 2023/2024 financial year is noted.

**RB9.1.10/26-08-2024                      QUARTERLY BUDGET OF THE TOP PLAYER  
SERVICE DELIVERY BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND SUPPLY CHAIN  
MANAGEMENT REPORTS: APRIL 2024 - JUNE 2024**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council noted the:

- a. Quarterly Budget Statement inclusive of the Top Layer Service Delivery Implementation Plan (SDBIP),
- b. Virements Report for the fourth quarter, and
- c. Supply Chain Management Report for the fourth quarter.

**RB9.1.11/26-08-2024**

**MONTHLY BUDGET STATEMENT: JULY 2024**

**RESOLVED:**

1. Council noted the Monthly Budget Statement for the month July 2024.

**RB9.1.12/26-08-2024**

**DEVIATION FROM AND RATIFICATION OF  
MINOR BREACHES OF PROCUREMENT PROCESSES**

**RESOLVED:**

1. Council, in terms of Section 36 of the Supply Chain Management regulations, took cognizance of the transactions for the month July 2024.

**RB9.1.13/26-08-2024**

**AMENDED BY-LAW RELATING TO THE  
CONTROL OF BOATS AND BOATING ON THE CLANWILLIAM DAM**

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That Council adopted the Published amended By-law relating to the control of boats and boating on the Clanwilliam dam that will guide the enforcement and management of boating on Clanwilliam dam; and
- b. The above is subject to the municipality's ability to implement and affordability.

**Proposed:** Cllr. A Mouton

**Seconded:** Cllr. A Scheepers

**No Counter Proposals**

**RB9.1.14/26-08-2024  
MANAGEMENT BY-LAW**

**CEDERBERG AMENDED COASTAL**

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That Council adopted the Published amended Coastal Management By-law that will guide the enforcement and management of coastal areas within Cederberg; and
- ii) The above is subject to the municipality's ability to implement and affordability.

**Proposed:** Cllr. A Mouton

**Seconded:** Cllr. A Scheepers

**No Counter Proposals**

**RB9.1.15/26-08-2024  
STORM WATER MASTER PLAN**

**PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND**

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That the item stand over and by way of a Round Robin, resolve on the matter.

**RB9.1.16/26-08-2024                      SUBSIDY FOR PERIODIC / CAPITAL  
MAINTENANCE ON MUNICIPAL ROADS**

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That council noted the application for subsidy for Proclaimed roads.

**RB9.1.17/26-08-2024                      RAISING OF THE CLANWILLIAM DAM WALL**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council noted the current status with regards to the status quo of the Raising of the Clanwilliam Dam Wall project and resulting operations.

**RB9.1.18/26-08-2024                      REPORT FROM WSP: LAMBERTS BAY  
DESALINATION PLANT**

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That Council noted the Audit Report from WSP on the SWRO Desalination Plant in Lamberts Bay, and
- b. It further be noted that a workshop be scheduled for proper discussions pertaining the way forward on water security, inclusive of the desalination plant, etc.
- c. The above-mentioned workshop will be driven by the Executive Mayor.

**RB9.1.19/26-08-2024**  
**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**MASTER PLAN: ELECTRICAL**

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That Council adopted the Updated Electrical Infrastructure Master Plans and that the Department will do any future planning, designs etc. in accordance with these plans.

**Proposed:** Cllr. J Van Heerden

**Seconded:** Cllr. A Mouton

**No Counter Proposals**

**RB9.1.20/26-08-2024**  
**MAINTENANCE POLICY**

**ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council adopted the Electrical Infrastructure Maintenance Policy, annexure 9.1.20; and
2. Mandated the Technical Department to start the implementation of the Electrical Infrastructure Maintenance Policy. .

**Proposed:** Cllr. A Mouton

**Seconded:** Cllr. M Heins

**No Counter Proposals**

**RB9.1.21/26-08-2024**

**REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE MDRG**

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That Council noted the current status with regards to the MDRG.



**RB9.1.22/26-08-2024                      REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE  
IDENTIFICATION OF A SITE FOR THE SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION**

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That Council took cognisance of the proposed options, and discuss the way forward.

**RB9.1.23/26-08-2024                      DIEPLKLOOF WORLD HERITAGE SITE**

**RESOLVED:**

- A: That Council noted the report;
- B: That Council assist and partner with the Eland's Bay museum in the promotion of the heritage site on its website and social media platforms;

**RB9.1.24/26-08-2024                      PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR DISPOSAL OF ERF  
279, CLANWILLIAM (RESORT)**

**RESOLVED:**

- a) Item be deferred to MayCo for debate and consideration.

**Proposed:**                      Cllr. L Venter

**Seconded:**                    Cllr. M Heins

**No Counter Proposals**

**RB9.1.25/26-08-2024                      PROPOSED CRITERIA FOR DISPOSAL OF ERF  
462 AND 1718 LAMBERTSBAY (RESORT)**

**RESOLVED**

- a)      Item be deferred to MayCo for debate and consideration.

**Proposed:**                      Cllr. L Venter

**Seconded:**                    Cllr. M Heins

**No Counter Proposals**

**RB9.1.26/26-08-2024                      PROPOSED "DISPOSAL" CRITERIA FOR ERF  
357, CLANWILLIAM (NATURE RESERVE)**

**RESOLVED:**

- a)      Item deferred to MayCo for debate and consieration

**Proposed:**                      Cllr. L Venter

**Seconded:**                    Cllr. M Heins

**No Counter Proposals**

**RB9.1.27/26-08-2024                      CEDERBERG MUNICIPALITY: 20-YEAR VISION  
PLAN**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council adopts the "Cederberg Municipality: 20-year Vision Plan" as a definitive guideline for consideration during any land disposal process under the following conditions;

2. That the administration be compelled to provide annual and/or regular updates regarding disposals in terms of the 20 year plan.

**Proposed:** Cllr. L Venter

**Seconded:** Cllr. M Heins

**No Counter Proposals**

**RB9.1.28/26-08-2024                      NINE MILES**

**RESOLVED:**

- a) The item be withdrawn.

**RB9.1.29/26-08-2024                      LEASE ON NON-VIABLE PROPERTY FOR  
CELLPHONE TOWER**

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) Item be deferred to MayCo for further discussion on 02 September 2024.

**Proposed:** Cllr. L Venter

**Seconded:** Cllr. J Van Heerden

**RB9.1.30/26-08-2024                      AMENDED RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION  
POLICY**

**RESOLVED:**

1. Item be deferred back to the Administration.



**RB9.1.31/26-08-2024                      RATIFICATION OF BK8.2.1/30-07-2024:  
REPRESENTATION OF SALGA WORKING GROUPS**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council ratify the MayCo decision, BK8.2.1/30-07-2024 – REPRESENTATION OF SALGA WORKING GROUPS, taken on 30 July 2024; and
2. That it be noted that the Representation of the SALGA Working Groups will now read as follows:
  - a. Community Development and Security  
Cllr .L Venter  
Cllr. M Heins (secundi)
  - b. Development Planning and Rural Development  
Cllr. M Heins  
Cllr. J Van Heerden
  - c. Economic Development and Job Creation  
Cllr . M Bergh  
Cllr. A Scheepers (secundi)
  - d. Electricity and Energy Provision and Public Works (new)  
Cllr. Bergh  
Cllr. A Scheepers
  - e. Environmental Management and Climate Resilience  
Cllr M Bergh  
Cllr M Heins (secundi)
  - f. Emergency Services and Disaster Management  
Cllr. A Mouton  
Cllr. M Heins (secundi)

g. Governance and Intergovernmental Relations

Cllr. J Van Heerden

Cllr. P Strauss

h. Health (new)

Cllr. L Venter

Cllr. M Heins

i. Human Settlement and Urban Agenda

Cllr .R Richards

Cllr .P Strauss (secundi)

Cllr. W Farmer (2nd secundi)

j. Public Transport and Roads

Cllr . A Mouton

Cllr . M Heins (secundi)

k. Water and Sanitation

Cllr A Mouton

Cllr M Heins (secundi)

l. Municipal Capability and institutional Resilience

Cllr. R Richards

Cllr. A Scheepers (secundi)

Cllr. W Farmer (2nd secundi)

m. Municipal Finance and Fiscal Policy

Cllr J van Heerden

Cllr A Scheepers (secundi)

n. Municipal Digital Solutions

Cllr J van Heerden

Cllr P Strauss (secundi)

o. Women's Commission

Cllr L Venter

Cllr M Heins

3. That the signed Council Resolution, be sent to SALGA with immediate effect.

**Proposed:** Cllr. L Venter

**Seconded:** Cllr. J Van Heerden

**No Counter Proposals**

**RB9.1.32/26-08-2024                      TABLING OF THE BI-ANNUAL PROGRESS  
REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS FOR THE  
PERIOD 01/01/2024 - 30/06/2024**

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That Council took cognisance of the progress made with regard to the implementation of Council resolutions for the period 01 January 2024 until 30 June 2024.

**RB9.1.33/26-08-2024                      COMPLIANCE OF WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council noted the current status with regards to the Compliance of the Waste Disposal Facilities and resulting operations.

## **RB9.2 URGENT MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER**

### **RB9.2.1/26-08-2024 MANDATE: SALARY AND WAGE NEGOTIATIONS – FACILITATOR’S PROPOSAL**

#### **RESOLVED:**

- a. Cederberg council accepted the SALGA facilitator's proposal on the salary and wage collective agreement of the five –year period: 01 July 2024 -30 June 2029.
- b. That Council delegated Cllr. L Venter, and the Acting CFO to attend Western Cape Bargaining Matters Mandate Meeting on Monday 26 August 2024 at 11h00 on behalf of Council;
- c. That the mandate included above, be communicated as the mandate of Cederberg Council.

**Proposed:** Cllr. R Richards

**Seconded:** Cllr. A Scheepers

### **RB9.2.2/26-08-2024 REQUEST FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS FOR DETERMINATION OF UPPER LIMITS OF SALARIES, ALLOWANCES AND BENEFITS OF MEMBERS OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS FOR 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR**

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. Council noted the content of the Draft Notice for the Determination Of Upper Limits Of Salaries, Allowances And Benefits Of Different Members Of Municipal Councils

2. Council's comment on the Draft Notice be as follows:

- Council accepted the content of proposal as tabled in the Circular 19/2024

**Proposed:** Cllr. R Richards

**Seconded:** Cllr. M Heins

**RB9.3/26-08-2024      MATTERS FOR NOTIFICATION – IN COMMITTEE  
FOLLOWED**

**RB9.1.34/26-08-2024      IN-COMMITTEE - RATIFICATION OF ROUND  
ROBIN RESOLUTION: APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That Council ratified the round robin resolution to appoint Mr. J Booysen, who qualifies at a competent level of appointment, as Chief Financial Officer, and which appointment must be on a permanent basis.

**RB9.1.35/26-08-2024      IN-COMMITTEE - QUALIFICATION AUDIT**

**RESOLVED:**

- b. Council took cognisance of the outcome of the qualification audit on managerial level as well as the attached report;
- c. Council noted the number of managers not yet in compliance with the minimum job requirements;
- d. It be noted that the information in this item and attached report is confidential and exclusively for the purpose of reporting back and is not for distribution or discussion outside the council meeting.

**RB9.1.36/26-08-2024                    IN-COMMITTEE - OUTCOME OF  
ARBITRATION HEARING: H SLIMMERT**

**RESOLVED:**

- a. Council took note of the outcome of the Arbitration hearing pertaining to Mr H Slimmert.

**RB9.1.37/26-08-2024                    IN-COMMITTEE - OUTSTANDING DEBT OWED  
TO THE MUNICIPALITY BY STAFF AS AT 31 JULY 2024**

**RESOLVED**

- a. Council noted the outstanding debt owed to the municipality by staff as at 31 July 2024 and the detailed report inclusive of councillors debt be reported at the next MayCo.

**RB9.1.38/26-08-2024                    IN-COMMITTEE - DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ALLEGATIONS OF MALADMINISTRATION, CORRUPTION,  
FRAUD AND/OR SERIOUS MALPRACTICE AT THE CEDERBERG  
MUNICIPALITY**

**RESOLVED**

- a) That Council note the progress regarding the request for funding.

**RB9.4/26-08-2024**

**CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS OF EXIGENCY**

- Geen / None

## 10. CLOSURE

- Meeting adjourned.

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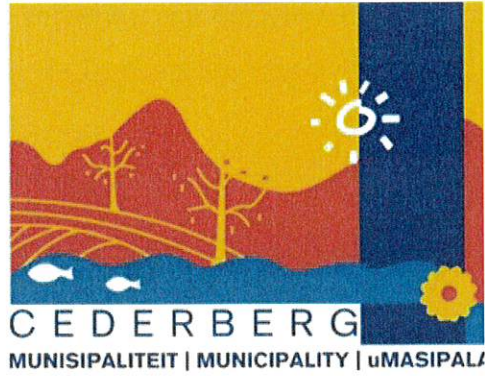
**VOORSITTER / CHAIRPERSON**

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**DATUM / DATE**







Statements and Communications  
by the Executive Mayor (Dr Ruben Richards)  
delivered at a sitting of council held on  
26 August 2024, Clanwilliam Council Chambers

*Item 7 of the Agenda*

Title of speech by the Mayor

## **DÉJÀ VU - CEDERBERG 2024 FLOODS**

*Same problem (road) – Different (permanent) solution*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Mr Speaker, fellow councillors, MM, Directors, all colleagues in the administration, ladies and gentlemen. Good morning.

Thank you for the opportunity to address council. Paragraph 34 of the RULES OF ORDER as adopted by Council on 31 August 2023 limits me to a 20-minute presentation. So much has happened and I have so much to share, but I will discipline myself to stay within the rules.

The focus of my speech today will be more philosophical and conceptual as opposed to being administratively pedestrian. The list of 33 Items on the Agenda excluding the In-Committee Items will provide enough detail regarding the day-to-day challenges and issues we need to deal with. What I will request you to do is to take a step back and reflect. I suspect you will need to read this speech a few times as I have written it to be content and conceptual intensive. Please pardon me for that since that is how I am wired.

## 2. DIARY ENGAGEMENTS

Since our last quarterly council meeting held on 14 May 2024 much as taken place, including the municipality reeling under the impact of another flood disaster which I will speak to in a moment. In addition to routine administrative meetings and one on one meetings with the MM and Directors, my diary has included delivering speeches and attending a range of engagements on behalf of the municipality. For example, on 24 May 2024 our municipality held a “sod turning ceremony” for the Clanwilliam Electrical Sub-Station. I delivered a speech which I herewith wish to submit for inclusion as a formal part of the record. The speech was entitled: *LET’S SWITCH ON ALL THE LIGHTS: R100 million electrical infrastructure project implemented in Clanwilliam-Cederberg.*

I have attended numerous meetings and engagements including Salga meetings in Polokwane<sup>1</sup> and Cape Town<sup>2</sup>, the reports of which will follow in due course. I have also attended a Waste Management workshop for municipalities (an EPR event – Extended Producer Responsibility Event) held in Cape Town co-hosted by provincial government<sup>3</sup> as well as the Premier Coordinating Forum held in Beaufort West<sup>4</sup>. On 29 August 2024 I will be attending the District Coordinating Forum in Morreessburg.

On 17 August 2024, I hosted the MEC for Agriculture and Economic Development, Dr Ivan Meyer, in Citrusdal. This was the occasion of the handover of a cheque of R15 million to the Citrusdal Water Users Association for purposes of cleaning the Citrusdal riverbed of its silt, a contributing factor to the 2023 and 2024 flooding of the R303.

On 19 August 2024 I hosted the new Deputy National Minister of Water and Sanitation (Sello Seitlholo) who visited the Citrusdal River Cleaning Project and the road repair work to the R303 as well as the Clanwilliam Dam Wall project. I composed a comprehensive briefing note for the Deputy Minister

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<sup>1</sup> Council of Mayors and Speakers – Polokwane – 7-8 August 2024

<sup>2</sup> Salga working groups held in Cape Town 12-16 August 2024

<sup>3</sup> Extended Producer Responsibility Event for Municipalities, Cape Town, 16 August 2024

<sup>4</sup> PCF 20 August 2024



which included a paragraph on housekeeping matters. I repeat that paragraph at length for ease of reference.

*In terms of housekeeping matters, I am sure that your officials will have prepared a dossier for you relative to the Cederberg-linked challenges. I hope that dossier will include my Mayoral briefing notes wherein I outlined **eight matters of mutual interest** pertinent to the project. I am sure that the recent advertisement for **Expressions of Interest** which closed 31 July 2024, and its call for proposals to develop recreation, tourism, or related activities on state land and/or privately owned land adjacent to state dams, will form part of that dossier, as well as the challenges associated with the **Desalination Plant** located in Lamberts Bay, also a town in our municipality. And then there is the matter of an MOA between DWS and Cederberg regarding the **sale of land for DWS housing** in exchange for grant funding to build the Clanwilliam bypass road. And let's not forget the **employment challenges** and expectations of the people. I shall await your formal responses to these matters in due course.*

On 24 August 2024, I accompanied the MEC of Infrastructure to a feedback session with stakeholders in Citrusdal. The MEC made public the “permanent solution” for the vulnerable R303 road which links Citrusdal to the N7. More about that in a moment.

Back to my diary: I have had the privilege to address a round table discussion and engagement with giants of the tourism industry in the Western Cape held at Reinhold's Restaurant, Clanwilliam, 20 June 2024. My speech was entitled - *CEDERBERG - Come and discover a hidden jewel in South Africa's tourist crown*, not knowing that 6 days later the Diepkloof Rock Shelter in Elands Bay would be declared a world heritage site.

Just last week, on 22 August 2024, I delivered the welcome speech at the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary and opening of the Cederberg Wild Flower Show in Clanwilliam where the theme was Nostalgia. I made the following comments which is worth repeating at length:

*It is my pleasure as the Executive Mayor of the Cederberg to formally welcome you all to this 63<sup>rd</sup> Wild Flower Show here in Clanwilliam, and more generally to welcome you to the Cederberg.*

*As we celebrate 63 years of this flower festival it is my privilege and honour to congratulate the Cederberg-Clanwilliam Wild Flower Association for their dedication and commitment to ensure that we always remember and appreciate the unique and expansive biodiversity which characterises this region.*

*It is at this time of the year, in the Cederberg and in Clanwilliam specifically, when the quiet and unassuming veld springs to life in the form of its display of wild flowers, which seem to suddenly appear out of nowhere in a display of a magnificent kaleidoscope of colours. Like an alarm clock, these wild and indigenous flowers of the veld awaken and announce to us that the winter season is about to end and that Spring is on our doorstep.*

Unfortunately, due to the flood disaster, the planned Clanwilliam-based Mayoral Waste Management Indaba scheduled for 8 July 2024 needed to be postponed due to inclement weather and impending flooding which hit the Cederberg at that time. A new date is still to be finalised in the near future.

Perhaps it bears mention here that I intend requesting a Special Council meeting somewhere in October 2024, motivated by the obligations imposed by the Disaster Management Act. It is my

intention to call all the relevant MECs and role-players to give account on progress regarding the upgrade of the Citrusdal road (R303) and the cleaning of the river bed as we mitigate the risk of future flooding. The transversal nature of the Citrusdal project will require attendance of at least the following departments: Environmental, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Water and Sanitation.

Mr Speaker, as you know, diary management continues to be a challenge and I do not give up trying to fit 25 hours into a 24-hour day.

### 3. DÉJÀ VU AS THE FRAMEWORK

#### Understanding the concept

To focus our thoughts as we prepare to work through this council agenda, I have chosen the concept of Déjà vu.

Déjà vu is a concept first introduced in 1876 by the French philosopher, Emile Boirac, in his book (*L'avenir des sciences psychiques*) with the translated title *The Psychology of the Future*. Déjà vu was the expression used to describe reality as if we have been in a similar (yet different) situation before. I am sure you have felt this way already. You find yourself in a situation or place or emotional state that feels strangely familiar and yet it is different. It's not like taking the same bus or motorcar route each day and recognizing the scenery — that's familiarity. Or to use a municipal example, it's not like approving the budget every year or the annual report — that is familiarity. And as they say, familiarity breeds contempt (i.e. a loss of respect). Same old, same old, same old, or one could say, "Here we go again".

Déjà vu, instead, is when you feel like you've had this exact same conversation or experienced this very specific scenario in the past, all while also knowing that it can't have ever happened before — or could it have, I ask? Déjà vu makes you feel like you've lived this moment before. But as the experts will tell us, Déjà vu is a false sense of familiarity with the past. This experience of déjà vu gives rise to that oxymoronic expression of things being "strangely familiar". How can things be strange and familiar at the same time? This is the nature of déjà vu, as I understand it.

#### Contextualising déjà vu in Cederberg

Speaker, I think we will all agree that the 11/12 July 2024 flooding experienced in the Cederberg (especially Citrusdal and Wupperthal) was a massive déjà vu moment considering that we have only just been awarded the money to repair the damages caused by the 2023 flood disaster. The warnings of multiple cold fronts and storms which were about to hit us deepened all of our anxieties and we hurriedly, already as early as 3 July 2024, prepared ourselves for another round of flooding — a déjà vu moment if ever there was one. And that moment arrived on 11/12 July 2024, ten or twenty years too early. Or was it 100 years too early since the 2023 floods were describe as the one in a 100-year flood. And yet, barely one year later, the same kind of flood devastation hit the same place. Déjà vu? I guess climate change is real.



Speaker, on 18 July 2024 you called a Special Council meeting at which council declared a state of disaster for the Cederberg, as a concurrence to the provincial classification to the same.<sup>5</sup> And we have been engaged in mopping up and disaster operations since the flood hit us as before.

This past Saturday morning (24 August 2024), just over a month after the flooding disaster, I had another déjà vu experience. I have been having of few of these types of experiences lately. On Saturday, I joined the MEC of Infrastructure for the Western Cape government, Tertius Simmers, in Citrusdal, for a stakeholder engagement, briefing and update on the state of repair to the R303 road which was damaged by the raging flood waters of July 2024 which devastated our region.

After the stakeholder briefing session we conducted a site visit and it was for me a déjà vu moment as I took a walk along the 'still being repaired' R303 and inspected more closely the damaged culvert. I had been here before, definitely, said my déjà vu voice. In fact, the weather conspired and it started raining harder as we were inspecting the site. Of course, it was only a light rain and yet it triggered within me a sense of "I've experienced this before" – and it was not a good sign or feeling. I am sure that Cllr Venter, who was also in attendance on Saturday, will agree with feeling like that also. It was as if we were expecting a flood to follow. Was this a bit of latent trauma perhaps, linked to this feeling of déjà vu?

### Déjà vu with a difference – a permanent solution is tabled

I am sure that I can speak on behalf of all of us when I say that when the 2024 floods hit us it was like déjà vu. We had experienced this before in 2023, but it was different this time round. We were more prepared this time in July 2024 and less anxious, until the flood waters spilled over the road and then quickly destroyed the road like it did in 2023.

I am glad to report that the difference between 2023 and 2024 is that this time (i.e. on 24 August 2024) the MEC placed on the table a permanent solution to the vulnerable R303 access road. Unfortunately, it was not the big Ashton / Robertson / Montague bridge which I had requested as a solution for Cederberg. Instead, the government road design engineers have proposed a less ambitious but still significant 20-year design for a 2 Barrel Cell Culvert able to cope with a flood flow rate of 59 cubic meters per second, as the permanent solution at the cost of R30 million excluding labour. I insisted that for this project at the very least, all general worker level labour must be sourced from Citrusdal and surrounding areas.

This double culvert solution is premised on a harmonious symphony of other interventions which have to be implemented in concert such as the mandatory cleaning of the river bed, the reinforcement/reinstatement of the Berms and both downstream and upstream erosion protection works to be implemented. The permanent solution for the Citrusdal road is therefore a multi and intersectoral solution, or to use the correct words, "a transversal approach". The Cederberg municipality will need to play a vital coordinating role to ensure that the various sectors and

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<sup>5</sup> (July 2024) 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 to a sitting of a Special Council meeting to address the impact of the 2024 flood – 18 July 2024.

government departments implement their part of the solution – lest the road again washes away with the next heavy rains.

The main point I want to make with reference to Saturday's revisiting of the "flood scene" (i.e. the R303 and the damaged culvert) is that this was a déjà vu moment but with a difference. I have tried to capture this moment in the title and sub-title of my speech today: **Déjà vu – Cederberg 2024 Floods**, with the subtitle: **Same road / problem – Different/permanent solution**. It is in this spirit that I want to approach this new financial year and our 2024 August council agenda – same issues/problems, but different/permanent solutions. And hopefully sustainable solutions.

### Thank you to all who helped

Speaker, before I move away from flood-related matters, I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation to Mouton Citrus, a private company who bailed us out by allowing citizens, business and the municipality vehicles to use their private farm road when Citrusdal was cut off from the world. Without the use of and the cooperation and support of Mouton Citrus, our problems would have been one thousand times worse. Mouton unselfishly and at their own cost, made their access road available to the public. And so, in this council meeting, I place on record, my sincere thanks to Mouton Citrus. As the Executive Mayor of the Cederberg, I speak on behalf of all the people of Cederberg as well when I say THANK YOU. We are deeply grateful and humbled by the generosity of the Mouton Citrus enterprise. There was also Martli Slabbert who allowed us to use roads on her farm for our emergency vehicles. And there were others whose names I do not know, but whose kindness we felt. Thank you everyone.

I must also thank all others who assisted with humanitarian aid – from the big players such as Gift of the Givers to individuals who made personal sacrifices and contributions – THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who played their part to help us through a very difficult time during these floods.

Of course, our Disaster Management team was simply tops with the support from District and Province. We displayed a wonderful sense of team work – and as the MM always says – Team work makes dream work. Well done everybody.

## 4. AUGUST 2024 AGENDA AS DÉJÀ VU

### So what has changed since 2023

Speaker, as I review the council agenda as well as my mayoral diary for the past quarter, I cannot but feel a sense of Déjà vu. I get the same déjà vu feeling when I review my speech to council one year ago, on 31 August 2023 - a speech to council entitled: BEING BUSY WITHOUT LOSING FOCUS OF THE VISION - *The challenges of operating in a crisis mode*. Like my speech today (26 August 2024), my 2023 speech also took place just after the floods and during the post-flood mop up and pothole fixing operations. As you read my 2023 speech, you will notice that all the same challenges apply to 2024, so I will not repeat myself or bore you with that detail. For ease of reference, I will attach my 2023 speech here as an annexure so that you have it easily accessible. All that I will extract from the 2023



speech is to highlight that it is easy to hide behind a crisis and not fix the structural problems – those problems that need a permanent solution. I strongly encourage us all to find permanent solutions to our deepest and most difficult challenges in 2024.

### Let's deepen the turnaround – beyond the 154 plan

Speaker, unfortunately, for the past decade and possibly more, the Cederberg municipality has gotten used to non-delivery, under performance and an unfunded budget. Consequently, a whole range of matters fell into disarray which in turn brought the municipality into disrepute. Fortunately, in May of this year, I was privileged to place before council its first funded budget in many years, thus signalling a fundamental change in strategic direction for this municipality under the CE-led coalition.<sup>6</sup> Recent correspondence from Provincial Treasury has confirmed that our tabled and council-approved funded budget is realistic and authentic – or to use the proper word – it is a “credible” budget.

In addition, formal correspondence from the Department of Local Government (DLG) confirms that we have met all the requirements of the 154 Budget Support Plan and can therefore consider ourselves as having achieved or passed the constitutional 154 test which we had requested, by the way. You will recall Speaker, that our coalition invited provincial government to assist us with the turnaround of the municipality, unlike previous councils who chased province away. For the help provided by province, I remain deeply grateful.

Of course, Speaker, this does not mean we can relax on our cost containment strategy. This will remain in place until such time that we have accumulated sufficient reserves to consider ourselves financially secure and viable.

I wish thank everyone who has committed themselves to the turnaround of our municipality. Thank you for your belief and dedication, especially our finance team. I will of course be the first to say that there remains much room for improvement. But let us at least pause and celebrate the small victories (which in fact may not be so small after all) as we work towards achieving the bigger prize which I have severally described as skoon water, skoon dorpe and skoon administrasie.

### Back to basics

To stick with this “skoon maak” analogy, let me say that we have somewhat cleaned up one of the rooms in our Cederberg house – our budget. The other rooms in our house are receiving attention with some of them still in need of a thorough and deep spring cleaning. I am confident that the MM and his team will leave no stone unturned as we get our Cederberg house in order. MM, I need not tell you that there are many cobwebs that have to be cleared and removed. You will need a long handle feather duster to reach all the corners of the room where these cobwebs tend to gather. My only request is speed and that we clean the house without destroying the house in the process.

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<sup>6</sup> See Mayoral speech to council meeting of 14 May 2024 entitled: FROM BANKRUPTCY TO A FUNDED BUDGET: *The intricate balance between economic growth, fiscal sustainability, and service delivery excellence.*



## 5. BEYOND COMPLIANCE AND TOWARDS STRATEGY

### Aligning our priorities

Our agenda for this August 2024 council meeting is comprehensive, full, and leans more in the direction of dealing with matters of compliance rather than strategy and performance. It comes after the first council meeting barely 57 days (not even two months) into our new financial year. The August council meeting is a kind of transitioning meeting. We are caught in the tension between two competing forces – a looking back and a looking forward.

In terms of looking back we have the Auditor-General's office now occupying our offices and conducting the financial audit for the previous financial year. At the same time, we are trying to get out of the starting blocks and move forward, to start implementing the vision and strategies for the new financial year. Our newly agreed goals and priorities (as per the 2024/2025 SDBIP) is no doubt our guidepost, if not our bible, as we measure how we render services to our people. I remind you, as does our agenda, that we are about to reactivate the IDP process which itself is supposed to place us in tune with the needs and aspirations of our communities. The same holds true for feedback from our ward committees whose function it is to keep the ward councillor's finger on the pulse.

Another way to describe the situation in which we find ourselves is to recognise that we are rapidly trying to fixing a host of legacy problems while at the same time trying to map out a new path for the Cederberg municipality. And all the while, the clock is ticking with the 2026 local government elections coming closer each day and the communities are getting impatient with the perceived lack of service delivery. And yet, we have performed a few miracles already. I will simply mention the 19 service delivery vehicles we have been able to purchase – all of which was driven by our desire to deliver basic services to our people.

### A caution to ward councillors

At this juncture, I want to caution all councillors to be circumspect in the manner in which they engage communities. I will not get tired to remind everyone of the situation we inherited when we took office in November 2021 – a completely dysfunctional organisation/municipality with a rich tradition of councillors interfering in administration for their own narrow political benefit. These old habits die hard and I appeal to councillors to stay focussed on the priorities we have set for ourselves to achieve during the short time that we have in office.

A simple example will illustrate the point. If a resident were to be given a choice, the following scenario would play itself out: A resident would probably rather prefer a flush toilet at their home than want to hear that we should first upgrade our sewage works to accommodate the sewerage currently generated, lest we have raw sewage spilling into our water ways which creates a bigger risk for disease and contamination. As governors (i.e. councillors) we need to think "upgrade the sewage works ASAP" and not give the resident false hope that they will get a toilet tomorrow just because we want their vote. These are the choices we have to make given our limited budget.

### The pull of the past versus the promise of the future

And so, Speaker, to come back to my conceptual theme which I am trying to communicate via this lengthy speech: one could say that we are caught in the tension between the pull of the past and the promise of the future. The issue and problems of the past have a strong pull and it is tempting to live in the past, mainly because it is familiar. The future is a promise and unknown, uncertain and therefore is not as comforting as the past – even if that past was shrouded in abuse, disappointment, bankruptcy or even a lack of service delivery.

It requires a step of faith and determination to try and achieve a future which is better than our past. It is for this reason that we tend rather to agree with the expression: Better the devil you know. I hope we will make different choices. Let me summarise this section with an expression I have used elsewhere namely that often, the only future we know is the past we come from. Let's be bold and make different choices for our future.

### Maintaining stability

My hope is that amidst the challenges associated with the delivery of basic services, and in a context of having to fix flood damage, that we are still able to learn valuable life lessons while at the same time maintaining stability at all costs. I am aware Speaker, that there are a myriad of problems within our municipality. But as my mother always told me: *Rome was not built in a day*. I want to caution all of us, Speaker, that we need to be strategic and smart in the way we clean up the municipality. A easy method is to put a match to it and burn it to the ground. A smarter way is to systematically deal with the challenges and rebuild what remains a fragile and vulnerable organisation. I appeal to all of us to be circumspect in the manner in which we talk about the municipality and its people. We are a family. Let's be as gentle and yet as honest with each other as possible and let's join hands to build and not break down the municipality. Of course, we have no choice but to discard dead wood. That is a given. However, I believe that the vast majority of us want what is good for the municipality.

## 6. SIGNIFICANT ACCOLADES

Mr Speaker allow me to shift gear for just a moment as I try to rush my speech to a close. Allow me to briefly mention a few matters of significance and worth noting.

### Women's Day 2024

The first is that August in South Africa is Women's month with the 9<sup>th</sup> of August the official public holiday. I already wished all the Women of Cederberg well on Women's Day in a formal Mayoral message to them, which I am sure you have heard. All I want to say in addition, Speaker, is that women, unlike men, have to endure many more challenges than us – both at work and at home. I am particularly concerned that our women do not feel safe in our society. The statistics on gender-based violence seem to confirm that our men (of course not all) have become predators and abusers. Mr Speaker, my hope and prayer is that in our municipality our women will feel safe, respected and



treasured. This does not mean they are exempt from doing their jobs well. So, with just a few days left to Women's month, allow me to again take this opportunity to again wish our women a happy women's month.

### Elands Bay – a world heritage site and custodian of ancient human culture

Then Speaker, a second significant matter for our attention is the newest accolade for our municipal region bearing in mind that next month, September, is heritage month in South Africa.

Exactly one month ago, on 26 July 2024 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (commonly known as Unesco) held a World Heritage Committee session in New Delhi, India. That committee accorded world heritage status to the Diepkloof Rock Shelter (Caves) in Elands Bay. Speaker, this is beyond a big deal. Two days after the award, I received a call from India, from the Western Cape MEC for Arts and Culture, Richardo McKensie, to congratulate the Cederberg Municipality on this outstanding global recognition.

As Mayor I want to add my voice of congratulations the appreciation – UNESCO World Heritage site – Wow, well done Cederberg. So, amidst our desperate efforts to provide humanitarian aid as a result of the recent floods, and in the middle of fixing potholes and repairing a broken road in Citrusdal – it is as if the Divine took a moment to remind us that we are special. This Unesco decision confirms that we – and Elands Bay in particular – are the custodians of ancient human culture – amongst the oldest. Let's take a moment, Speaker, and reflect on the significance of this world heritage status for our municipality. And our agenda today has an Item about this matter also.

We are of course not alone in achieving such recognition. The other South African site is the Pinnacle Point coastal caves site complex at Mossel Bay; which then joins the Sibhudu Cave, near Tongaat in KwaZulu-Natal. These caves are collectively described by archaeologists as South Africa's "Rock Libraries"<sup>7</sup>.

These sites are named The Emergence of Modern Human Behaviour: The Pleistocene Occupation Sites of South Africa. The inscription on Unesco's World Heritage List states that the sites contribute **"to the understanding of the origin of behaviourally modern humans, their cognitive abilities and cultures, and the climatic transitions that they survived..."**

Speaker, what this means is that Elands Bay of all places, can now claim to be the ancestral and ancient source for understanding of the origin of behaviourally modern humans, their cognitive abilities and cultures. I just hope that the descendants of Elands Bay and the current residents of Elands Bay behave in such a way that confirms such an illustrious human cultural heritage.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2024-08-15-sa-rock-shelters-gain-world-heritage-site-status/>  
SA's 'rock libraries' gain global acclaim with World Heritage Site status for three Stone Age sites (15 August 2024)

<sup>8</sup> The psychologist Carl Jung explained the déjà vu phenomenon by using his theory of the collective unconscious. His theory was that all people have a shared pool of knowledge that has been passed down through generations and we can unconsciously access this knowledge. The Diepkloof Caves in Elands Bay may well hold some clues to the collective unconscious of humankind. In this way we might better understand Jung's emphasis on archetypes like mother, father and hero or possibly about basic situations, emotions or

### Elands Bay – the home of “The Cave”

Speaker, I therefore want to congratulate the people of Cederberg, and especially those of Elands Bay. Their heritage footprint has put us on the world map. Speaker, my hope is that the future generations of people of the Cederberg and the world at large, will be taught the significance of this achievement. Perhaps the new name for Elands Bay must be “the home of The Cave”. Perhaps we must train up tour guides for a new era of tourism in our municipal area. No longer will this just be the red-tide lobster and crayfish coast or a dead seal and bird flu coast, but the home of “The Cave”.

Speaker, I am pleased to inform you and council that on 14 September 2024, we together with the Provincial government will have a formal induction ceremony in Elands Bay to celebrate this great achievement. I will forward the program in due course.

## 7. CONCLUSION- A NEW MIND SET IS NEEDED

Speaker, we have a funded budget. We have a world heritage site. We are getting a permanent solution to the Citrusdal road. We are turning our municipality into a world class area – and so we must. I want us to be energised and motivated by the Elands Bay accolade as a world heritage site.

Let us begin to accept that we are not just a municipality comprising a number of little hamlets stuck away on the west coast. Let us embrace the reality that we are one of the world’s centres of origin for human behaviour. Let’s live up to that ancient reputation. So let us fix our municipality and make it the place that the world indeed does want to visit – and a place that our own residents feel proud of, in spite of our many challenges.

Speaker with these words I thank you and apologise for my lengthy speech today. I hope the content of my speech merits the time taken to deliver it here today at this council meeting.

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other patterns. If we can access shared knowledge, déjà vu could potentially be an effect of recognizing one of the collectively stored patterns linked to places like Diepkloof. Who knows.

## ANNEX 1 – 2023 AUGUST FULL SPEECH TO COUNCIL

BEING BUSY WITHOUT LOSING FOCUS OF THE VISION- The challenges of operating in a crisis mode

**Statements and Communications by the Executive Mayor**  
delivered at Council meeting held 31 August 2023, Clanwilliam Council Chambers  
(Executive Mayor, Dr Ruben Richards)

**Mayoral Speech**  
delivered at Council meeting held 31 August 2023, Clanwilliam Council Chambers  
(by Executive Mayor, Dr Ruben Richards)

**BEING BUSY WITHOUT LOSING FOCUS OF THE VISION**

*The challenges of operating in a crisis mode*

### 1. INTRODUCTION – A call to be responsible public servants

Good day Speaker, fellow councillors, members of the administration, members of the public present and those on line, ladies and gentlemen. I have prepared a rather lengthy speech for today. The substance thereof was tabled to Mayco a few days ago (23 August 2023). I wish to table an amended version here at council for consideration.

It bears mention that the South African political timetable has entered a phase that can be called “silly season”. The impending risk facing those who will be preparing and participating in next year’s general election is that they are likely to become what I will describe as “silly and irrational” possibly to a point of acting unconstitutionally. All this to gain political power and often, sadly, at the expense of the people. This is the political climate we are entering into in right now.

In the interest of party political agendas, politicians and dare I say councillors, will be tempted to misrepresent each other in order to score cheap political points. I wish to appeal to all of us here in the Cederberg to please avoid falling into that trap. It might be a big ask, but I appeal that you stick to the facts and stick to the procedures. Please do not misrepresent council or its policies and



procedures. Please try to bring calm rather than inflame or mislead our already volatile and struggling population.

We all took an oath of office through which we promised to be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and its constitution. Let us continue to work towards fulfilling our promise to our nation and be found worthy of the public office we are privileged to hold. Let us be responsible servants of the public as we deliver on our constitutional mandate especially here in the Cederberg municipality.

And now to the business of the Cederberg. The past quarter, especially the months of July-August has been particularly busy especially after the flood disaster in our area. We have much to do and so little money and time. The past two days is evidence of this challenge as we try to fix the potholes in our municipal region starting in Citrusdal. In this regard, a big word of thanks to the MM and his team as well as the behind the scenes staff, for their commitment and energy. Also, a big word of thanks to the public out there for your support and well wishes. Thank you to those who have supplied food to our workers as they repaired the roads. Thank you to businesses who have donated money in order to buy tar and other supplies needed to fix the road. We are still waiting for government to officially declare the Cederberg a disaster so that we can receive money to fix our towns hardest hit by the floods. But we cannot wait any longer and so in partnership with private sector businesses such as The Old Village, Spar, Goodehoop Citrus, Mouton Citrus, to name a few, we have been able to mobilise resources in order to do some patch work and fix the worst potholes, at least.

### Mayoral Infrastructure Inspection visits to all Wards

I wish to highlight that on Monday (21 August 2023) I commenced what I call Mayoral Infrastructure Inspection visits. I am visiting and inspecting the municipal infrastructure of each of the six wards that make up our municipality. I have asked each Ward Councillor to host me and to be proactive in generating a *State of the Ward* report regarding infrastructure. I had set a deadline of Friday 25 August (12h00) to receive a report from each Ward councillor. I am still waiting councillors. While we have a political oversight role to play, we must nevertheless make sure that we are familiar with the actual state of the infrastructure undergirding each of our Wards. I look forward with great anticipation to receiving these reports. I hope that there will be a correlation between what I see during my physical infrastructure inspection visits compared to what councillors will report on vis-à-vis their Ward.

### Operational Clean Towns - Mayor joins Chamber of Commerce to cleanup Clanwilliam

On Saturday, 19 August 2023, I joined a group of residents clean up the town of Clanwilliam. These were members of the Cederberg/Clanwilliam Chamber of Commerce who have committed themselves to clean the town every third Saturday of each month (i.e. walk through the town and pick up garbage). I am deeply grateful to these residents for their commitment. My hope is that each town will have a group of residents who will take ownership and assist the municipality to clean up and keep the town tidy.

This initiative comes hot on the heels of other residents who have put their hands in their pockets and sponsored the purchase of ten skip bins for the collection of garbage in Clanwilliam that enabled us to launch Operation Clean Towns here in the Cederberg on 3 May 2023.

(see <https://www.facebook.com/CederbergLocalMunicipality/videos/822319345985939> )

Let me again express a word of thanks to those residents especially Bernie van der Heever who has recently opened a special bank account for donations to help him pay the salaries of workers who will work fulltime to collect the garbage, and in this way reduce the financial burden on the municipality. Thank you to all those residents who are making a donation into that private sector bank account.

Furthermore, and in addition to the 10 skips sponsored by local residents, the national government, through the Department of Forestry and Fisheries, recently (3 August 2023) donated 5 skip bins for garbage collection. These bins will be placed in Citrusdal within the next few days, resulting from my infrastructure inspection visit to Citrusdal on Monday past.

We are not the only municipality wanting to tidy up and clean up our municipality. Residents of the South Coast in Kwa-Zulu Natal have done the same for their beach front. I congratulate them and am inspired by their commitment. If they can do it, so can we in the Cederberg. Their motto is *clean makes clean* – WOW! I think that is just great. Well done South Coast.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhLd359R28A>

### Other stakeholders stepping forward to help

I wish to acknowledge a growing number of residents and stakeholders who are stepping forward to offer their help, money, wisdom, assistance and prayers to the Mayor and the municipality at large, as we implement a turnaround for the Cederberg Municipality. Earlier I made reference to the Citrusdal-based private sector who are helping us. There are residents throughout our municipality that are stepping forward to help us fix our municipality. Thank you again to them.

I addressed the Annual General Meeting of the Clanwilliam Aquatic Club a little more than a week ago and shared with them the good news that the Cederberg ship is now turning into the right direction – away from the rocks and treacherous coastline towards calmer political and economic waters.

I have met with the Cederberg Tax Payers Union who also have valuable advice as do the Agricultural associations with whom I regularly meet. Thank you to all stakeholders for their support and show of confidence in the new leadership of the municipality.

### Post-flood state of Municipality – flood damaged infrastructure (e.g. potholes)

Unfortunately, government funds move very slowly which means that we have no funds to immediately fix things like the unsightly potholes in Citrusdal, resulting from the recent floods. I have



instructed the MM and CFO to review our budgets and see how we can reallocate funds to do some “patch work” while we wait for approval of “disaster relief funds” or grant money to do a proper repair of our flood-damaged infrastructure.

### **Eskom Debt Relief Approved**

I am pleased to inform you that our application for Eskom Debt Relief has been approved by National Treasury. This means that if we faithfully pay our current account over a period of three years, Eskom will write off our debt of R45 million – proportionally after each 12 month cycle.

### **Organisational and governance renewal**

We are in the final stages of a review of the organisational structure of the municipality as part of the provincial government imposed 154 Budget Funding Plan designed to help Cederberg fix its financial and service delivery performance challenges. Further, I am pleased to report that on 11 August 2023, we conducted a Delegations Workshop with all councillors present. Here we reviewed and aligned our core governance documents to the most recent legislation. These include our Rules of Order, Delegations of Political office bearers, and Disciplinary procedures for councillors. These documents will serve here at this Mayco for endorsement as they journey to the council meeting of 31 August for final adoption.

### **2023 Wild Flower Show and Ramskop Tuin upgrade**

On 24 August, I attended the opening of the 2023 Wild Flower Show which is spectacular given the recent rains. This is a huge event in the tourist calendar for our region and I appreciate everyone’s efforts and contribution to this event.

It bears mention, as will be reported here, that last year the council approved the formalisation of a MOU between the municipality and the Wild Flower Association in respect of the management of Ramskop Garden – a municipal asset. It is this association that has managed to procure R450 000 (four hundred and fifty thousand rand) from the Lotto, to upgrade our municipal garden – Ramskoptuin. A huge word of thanks to those private residents and members of the association for their contribution to beautifying an asset that belongs to the municipality. If that is not commitment then nothing is.

### **Government liaison - PCF / DCF / SALGA**

I have just returned from the PCF – Premiers Coordinating Forum - held two days ago (29 August) in Plettenberg Bay – a gathering of Mayors together with the Premier and ministers of the provincial cabinet. The big take away from that meeting is that government in general is facing a massive fiscal cliff with an unfunded wage bill. We have been asked to tighten our financial seatbelts and brace ourselves for what some describe as an impending financial blood bath.

On 17 August 2023. I attended the District Municipality (Mooreesburg) Coordinating Forum (DCF) meeting. A core focus on the meeting was to receive feedback from Saldanha Bay Municipality on the implementation of their Smart City Technology. I congratulate them on their progress. Unfortunately, we, the Cederberg are struggling to source the basics such as garbage trucks, let alone Smart City ICT systems. I hope we will soon be in a position to also adopt smart city technology. It is an expensive exercise.

I place on record my disappointment with the West Coast District Municipality who have only made promises of help to us but have not delivered with particular reference to post-flood support. I will continue to reach out to various municipalities begging and requesting for assistance be it for vehicles and or experts and/or expertise. We in the Cederberg can do with all the help we can get.

In a few days, September (4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>), I will be attending the annual SALGA congress in Johannesburg. And so the diary fills up. My sympathies and thanks to my personal assistant for managing my diary and the very irritated people who want appointments and do not want to believe that the Mayor is actually busy.

### Pause to reflect

I share the above as a snapshot and a sample of what is *positively* happening in our municipal area and what is *negatively* happening in my diary. As you can tell, there is much happening. But we do well to pause and reflect, amidst our busy schedules just to check that we are still on track in achieving our vision.

## 2. THE BIG DREAM / VISION

Let me then turn my attention to the vision of Cederberg Municipality as adopted on 31 March 2023. Our vision/dream is to be: **The home of good governance, service-excellence and opportunities for all**".

But what does this mean in reality. I believe we need to give our broad vision statements some focus and content. And this, among others, is what I want to do with my speech today. I remind you that we are not yet out of the financial woods. The municipality remains battling with an UNFUNDED budget, with insufficient funds to repair unbudgeted for flood damage. Nevertheless, we are working hard to comply with the 154 Budget Support Plan as prescribed by Provincial government and adopted by Council. I will leave it to the portfolio chairs to report on the detail embedded in these 154 reports and they provide feedback from their Section 80 committees.

### From vision to reality – smaller dreams / baby steps towards the big dream

Our core mandate as a municipality is to deliver basic services to our residents. But how do we do that amidst a host of competing interests, priorities and emergencies. We are very much still in a crisis and emergency mode although matters do seem to be much calmer than a few months ago. I am almost

persuaded that we are beginning to stabilise – both politically and administratively. My hope is that our financial stability will soon appear on the horizon.

As a way to achieving our big vision, I want to propose a series of smaller steps (visions/objectives) to help us achieve the big vision. I will identify a core service deliverable and give it an objective for us to consider adopting as a strategy. I believe we should have a set of objectives for each of our service delivery mandates. For example (and now I ask you to dream with me);

### 1. Billing system

- As a municipality, we sell services in exchange for money (not votes). It is therefore imperative that our services are excellent but more importantly that our billing system is accurate so that we can send accurate accounts to our customers. I am not yet convinced that our billing system is accurate. So we have work to do in this area. Let us dream of a fully automated and accurate billing system which is trusted by both the municipality and the general public.
- I therefore propose that we should dream of a municipal billing system that is accurate and where our customers pay their monthly bills promptly and with a smile, because of the good service they are getting from the municipality.

### 2. Electricity

- We should dream of delivering electricity efficiently and continuously to each formal dwelling/structure in our municipality and to receive at least 95% payment for electricity provided.
- We should dream of a future with less dependence on Eskom and more reliance on renewable energy.

### 3. Water

- **Potable Water** – We should dream of providing clean, high quality piped potable water to all formal dwellings / structures within the municipal area.
- **Waste Water** – We should dream of removing all waste water and release treated water back into the system in compliance with legislation.

### 4. Solid Waste Management

- **Garbage collection** – We should dream of a municipality that is clean, and where garbage is not only collected promptly and regularly, but also where garbage is seen as a precious resource that can generate jobs and revenue through recycling. What is garbage and a problem to one person is no doubt a gold mine and a solution to another person.



## 5. Property Assets

- **Resorts** – We should dream of a municipality where our parks and resorts are places where our residents and tourists want to spend time in safety and comfort. We must dream of these facilities being fully booked 365 days per year and earning us much needed revenue. We should consider finding partners that can help us maximise the potential of our resorts, maximise our income and create jobs.
- As a side note, I remind you that our Clanwilliam Dam resort area will soon be lost to construction as the work on the raising of the dam wall intensifies. The resort area is already considered a “construction site” and soon we will not be able to host visitors and consequently lose income. Hopefully, a renewed and higher dam wall will also result in better opportunities for the municipality to build a new and modern waterfront facility - a new resort area with enormous income potential.
- **Land** – We need to prepare for the future and further growth of the Cederberg population (especially Citrusdal and Clanwilliam) because we will become successful and attract people to our municipal area. Let’s prepare to welcome those who will come to our area.

## 6. Finances

- We should dream of a municipality that has a FUNDED budget within the next two years and eventually with enough in reserve (“profit/surplus”) to fund its own maintenance of infrastructure and projects.

## 7. Roads

- We should dream of municipality where there are no potholes, no bad roads and where all roads older than 25 years are upgraded for the next 25 or 50 years.

## 3. THE HOPE

I am convinced that if we make a decision to achieve just these few things I have mentioned, we will have made a significant impact for the Cederberg both socially and economically. Furthermore, my fantasy is that people will want to live, invest and visit the Cederberg because it is clean, safe and prosperous and is vibrant, growing and welcoming of everyone who arrives – workers, migrants, tourists, family – everybody.

My hope is that all resident of the Cederberg will take pride in their towns – in their surroundings – and in that way help Cederberg to become the most sought after town in the whole of South Africa. Why not!

## 4. BIG ISSUES AND CONCERNS

### Economic development - the dam wall

Economic opportunities link to the upgrade of the dam are enormous. But the pace of progress of this project remains a concern. The projected date of completion for the project now stands at April 2028 – at a cost of R3,2 billion - estimated total project cost.

Our municipal land around the dam has been expropriated by DWS given the new projected flood levels.

### Water security – a call for a water indaba

I have requested the MM to facilitate the calling of a Water Indaba within Cederberg to hear from private sector and public sector experts regarding solutions to our precarious water supply situation in the Cederberg. We remain dependent on borehole water with the boreholes located on private property. More about this in future feedback reports from myself. I herewith only want to register my deep concern regarding water security for our municipality.

### Regional dumpsite

A huge concern remains the proposed regional dumpsite and the associated costs and also the long distance we as Cederberg municipality will need to travel with our garbage trucks to reach the regional dumpsite which is no longer located in Traval but in Van Rhysdorp. This is a matter for which I have asked the MM to provide us with a comprehensive briefing as it has huge financial implications not just for us but those who follow us as a council. We are being asked to make decision that will tie up the municipality for 30 years, financially. We do not want to leave a legacy of ill-considered projects which those coming on behind us will curse us for.

### Defective infrastructure causing sewerage spilling

My infrastructure visits have already exposed defective machinery causing unacceptable sewerage spillage into the waterways of our municipality. I have asked the MM to make it an absolute priority to find the funds in order for us to fix this crisis – and in my book this is a crisis.

### Poor workmanship

During my infrastructure inspection visit in Citrusdal it was brought to my attention that a contractor was paid R500 000 to repair the roof of the Citrusdal municipal building. However, the first rains after the repair exposed poor and low quality workmanship. Offices were flooded and buckets needed to be placed in corridors to collect dripping water from the roof.

A range of questions now surface regarding the sign off on the quality of workmanship for which we pay. Who signed off and what penalties and remedies are available to us as a municipality.

My own inspection of the interior surface of the roof exposed the signs of leakage. But more worrying, it seems to me that we have a structural weakness which may result in the collapse of the roof itself. This “structural” defect is located just above where customers stand when reporting to the municipality or paying their bills.

I have instructed the MM to get an assessment of the structural damage to the roof which seems evident.

### **Community tensions – let us learn to listen carefully**

The recent uprising and unrest and subsequent damage inflicted on the municipalities of Swellendam and Mossel Bay have enabled us to put more urgency into listening as carefully as possible to our communities on the one hand, and trying our best to explain policies and procedures and tariff structures to our residents on the other hand.

In this regard, I was pleased that we have, early in our Mayco meeting, received feedback from the Khayalitsha Informal Settlement with perspectives from the community and the police. The recent assault of a female resident there and the dissolution of the community committee has focused our attention. I, as Mayor, visited that victim (a female resident of Khayalitsha) in hospital and expressed our disapproval of the action taken against her by fellow female residents. My hope is the police investigation will rapidly take its course. We cannot afford to have community tension spill over into mob justice.

I have requested an urgent engagement with the Riverview community leadership in Citrusdal as a proactive gesture to ensure open and clean lines of communication between all parties and thereby reduce unnecessary tension and confusion

I have also asked all Ward Councillors to arrange special community gatherings (in addition to the IDP schedule) to listen to the heartbeat of our people who are suffering out there and finding life difficult.

## **5. ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL LIAISON CAPACITY**

After broad consultation, I have decided to appoint three spheres of Mayoral advisory councils made up of private sector residents/individuals representative of all the Wards and core business investment and interests in our municipal region. Their contribution is to share their wisdom and simply provide advice to the Mayor on a macro strategic level. They will not have any legal or statutory status and will meet perhaps twice or thrice a year around a coffee or tea to share their wisdom. The three entities will be (1) a Council of Elders, (2) a council of Youth, and (3) a Business/Economic Development Council.



## **6. WAY FORWARD**

The above synopsis of issues and activities, coupled with extracts from my Mayoral diary, confirms the need to be vigilant about how one uses ones time and energy especially when you have to operate in crisis and unfunded budget mode. The risk is that we become so busy with the everyday nice-to-do activities that we lose sight of our big vision and reason why we are actually here and the must-do-activities that bring us closer to realising our dream as a municipality and fulfilling our legislative mandate. I conclude by reminding myself and us all, that we are here to serve our resident whose basic needs come first. Therefore, in short, and without delay, let us first ensure the delivery of basic services to our people.

Thank you

ends



## ANNEX 2- LIST OF SPEECHES TO COUNCIL, MAYCO AND RESIDENTS

### (February 2022) WHEN THE TAPS RUN DRY IT IS TOO LATE

Special Council meeting held 28 February 2022

### (April 2022 – Mayco) TOWARDS A FUNDED BUDGET AS WELL AS FOCUSED AND SUSTAINABLE SERVICE DELIVERY:

A call for going Back to Basics in the Cederberg Municipality Mayco meeting of 25 April 2022

### (March 2023) BROKEN, BANKRUPT AND BEHEADED: *It's time to prepare for a new season*

31 March 2023 – Council meeting

### (May 2023) LET'S ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND FIX OUR BROKEN MUNICIPALITY

31 May 2023 – Council meeting

### (June 2023) – WATER WATER EVERYWHERE: *Jamborees, flooding rivers, rock falls, potholes and broken garbage trucks.*

Newsletter and information note to all residents of Cederberg For immediate release (10 June 2023)

### (July 2023)- FROM FLOOD DAMAGE TO A BETTER “NEW NORMAL” - *Let's wipe away our tears and move on.*

A message from the Executive Mayor – Dr Ruben Richards issued on 13 July 2023 to residents of Cederberg in the wake of the devastating floods of June 2023.

### (August 2023) BEING BUSY WITHOUT LOSING FOCUS OF THE VISION- *The challenges of operating in a crisis mode*

Mayoral Speech delivered at Council meeting held 31 August 2023, Clanwilliam Council Chambers (by Executive Mayor, Dr Ruben Richards)

### (October 2023) ROLL OVER FUNDS AND SALARY INCREASES FOR COUNCILLORS:- *Approval of Adjustment Budget*

Mayoral speech to Special Council meeting of the Cederberg municipality. 16 October 2023  
– Clanwilliam chambers

**(December 2023) SERVICE DELIVERY – A tribute to our blue-collar army (surgeons).**

A speech by Dr Ruben Richards (Executive Mayor) at the council meeting of the Cederberg Municipality held 14 December 2023, Clanwilliam.

**(January 2024) 2024- THE YEAR OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE CEDERBERG: *Service delivery protests, Ministerial protests and the quest for clean water.***

Speech at a full sitting of the Cederberg Municipal Council meeting held on 31 January 2024 (10h00), Clanwilliam Council Chambers.

**(February 2024) THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA**

Adjustment budget speech by the Executive Mayor, Dr Ruben Richards, delivered at a sitting of a Special Council meeting of the Cederberg Municipality held 28 February 2024 in Clanwilliam Council Chambers.

**(May 2024) FROM BANKRUPTCY TO A FUNDED BUDGET: *The intricate balance between economic growth, fiscal sustainability, and service delivery excellence* -**

Mayoral speech, 14 May 2024 – Council meeting

**(May 2024) LET'S SWITCH ON ALL THE LIGHTS: *R100 million electrical infrastructure project implemented in Clanwilliam-Cederberg***

Opening remarks at sod-turning ceremony for the Clanwilliam Electrical Sub-Station by Executive Mayor of Cederberg Municipality, Dr Ruben Richards. 24 May 2024

**(June 2024) CEDERBERG- Come and discover a hidden jewel in South Africa's tourist crown**

Welcoming remarks by Dr Ruben Richards, Executive Mayor of Cederberg Municipality, on the occasion of a round table discussion and engagement with giants of the tourism industry in the Western Cape held at Reinhold's Restaurant, Clanwilliam, 20 June 2024, 18h00.

**(July 2024) 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 to a sitting of a Special Council meeting to address the impact of the 2024 flood – 18 July 2024

ends