

MAYORAL ACCEPTANCE SPEECH AND POEM
Cederberg Municipality

Remarks and poem by Dr Ruben Richards at the Council meeting held in Clanwilliam Council Chambers on 16 November 2021

Mr Speaker, fellow councillors, acting municipal Manager and colleagues in the administration, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen and all those who have cast their vote to make today possible;

It is my singular honour to accept the mantle of Mayoral leadership for this Cederberg Municipality. **Dit is vir my 'n besondere eer om die mantel van burgemeestersleierskap vir hierdie Cederberg Munisipaliteit te aanvaar.**

Dankie vir die vertrouwe wat U in my het.

Thank you for the trust you have bestowed upon me.

There is much to do and we have so little time. So I invite to buckle up and get ready for a ride of your life.

Daar is baie om te doen en ons het so min tyd. Daarom nooi ek julle uit om op te staan en gereed te maak vir 'n rit van jou lewe.

Last week, in anticipation of this moment, I wrote a poem instead of a speech.

Verlede week, in afwagting van hierdie oomblik, het ek 'n gedig geskryf in plaas van 'n toespraak.

Laat my toe om my gedig vir julle te lees en laat dit vandag as my formele aanvaardingstoespraak dien. Soos julle weet, ek dink en skryf nog in Engels en ek soen my vrou nog steeds in Engels. Gee my tyd ...

Allow me to read to you my poem and let it serve as my formal acceptance speech today. The poem reads as follows:

A poem by Dr Ruben Richards
AN ODE TO THE CEDERBERG

Oh Cederberg, Oh Cederberg
How beautiful you are
How sacred is your soul
How bountiful is your soil
Your mountains echo the visions of your people
Your rivers water our hearts as we drink and are refreshed.

Oh Cederberg, Oh Cederberg
For centuries you have quietly observed
For centuries you have lovingly accepted
For centuries you have embraced all who have visited here.

Oh Cederberg, Oh Cederberg
My heart aches as I see the ruins of unfulfilled dreams smashed on your rocky mountain slopes
My soul weeps as the blood of our ancestors cry up from the soil
I fear for my people of the Cederberg
For who will share our fate

Oh Cederberg, Oh Cederberg
Today we confess that we have not been our best
Today we promise to try again
Today we honour those who have gone before us
Today we honour those on whose shoulders we stand
Today we pledge to work together and cooperate
Today we acknowledge that we need each other
Today we recommit to ensure that there is a fair share for all.

Oh Cederberg, Oh Cederberg
We adore you
What beauty and promise you have bestowed upon us all.

ends