



Cederberg Eerste

Cederberg Eerste
Gemeenskapsorganisasie

Cederberg First Residents Association

Posbus 44, Clanwilliam 8135
Epos: info@cederbergeerste.co.za

13 October 2023

Open and Public Information Note

To supporters of *Cederberg Eerste*

TODAY'S TOPIC

**CEDEBERG EERSTE (CE) IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE
2024 NATIONAL ELECTIONS AS A PARTY**

Dear CE Family

The main purpose of the Open Information Note is to clarify that CE will not at all be standing in the 2024 national elections – neither as a party nor as individuals nor independent candidates.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY “RESIDENTS” ORGANISATION

It may be good to remind ourselves that CE is not a political party. CE are a community (residents) organisation. Our sole focus is service delivery in the Cederberg region. Our vision is for “*A well run and managed Cederberg Municipal Region where there are more jobs than people.*”

Therefore, you will not find CE on the 2024 national elections ballot paper. CE only has one focus and agenda and that is the Cederberg Municipal region. Of



course, all CE members and supporters are encouraged to vote in the 2024 elections for whomever and whatever political party you wish. We encourage you to use your ballot/vote wisely.

The next local government election is scheduled for sometime in 2026. This is when CE will call upon you for your vote for CE.

OPERATIONS UPDATE:

1. We have been busy fixing the municipality

It has been a busy few months since CE and its coalition partners were voted back into power earlier this year. We have come through a difficult political journey characterised by votes of no confidence, by-elections, court cases and so on. But we are not back in the governing seat at the municipality and we have learned a lot.



September 2023 – SUNDAY EMERGENCY BREAKDOWN - CE councillors (Andre Mouton [left] and Ruben Richards [right] fix pump at Municipal Sewerage Plant in Clanwilliam.

Thank you for the trust and support you have in CE. My role as Executive Mayor has kept me extremely busy and I hope that you have been reading all the updates as contained in my regular Mayoral press statements issued by the municipality and my regular reports to council.

There are now exciting and good things happening inside the municipality.

We face many challenges but we are succeeding to



fix our broken and bankrupt municipality. We suffered a huge set-back with the raging floods of June 2023. But we have doubled our efforts to restore basic services and in recent weeks we have fixed thousands of potholes throughout the Cederberg municipal region. We are now busy trying to fix the poor quality of the water and beautifying our region including cleaning our beaches.

With you help and support we will restore Cederberg to its former glory. But it is not a quick fix. So please be patient.

2. The success of CE is under attack

The lead up to the 2024 national elections is called by some the “silly season”. This is because politicians and political parties and other opponents will make silly and untrue statements about others. In fact, they will make wild and spurious allegations in order to discredit their opponents and claim that they have the freedom of speech to do so. Sadly, they will even spread lies and falsehoods. They will attempt to defame you and attack your credibility as a person. They will stop at nothing in order to destroy you or the “party” you represent.



September 2023 – Clanwilliam Chamber: Member of newly elected Khayelitsha Community Committee sign Code of Conduct with Mayor Ruben Richards looking on. MM Gerrit Matthyse in background.

We see evidence of this in recent press statements made by the ANC (West Coast/Cederberg) as they attack the leadership of CE and undermine the work of the municipal council. For example, the ANC accuses CE and its coalition partners of protecting the “white mafia”. The ANC accuses CE of selling the Clanwilliam Dam. They also accuse CE of only blocking the electricity of poor coloured people and protecting rich white people.



The ANC (West Coast/Cederberg) seem to have become experts, like Apartheid was, at spreading racist propaganda and lies in order to destroy the reputation and credibility of people they want to destroy. This is most unfortunate and as someone said recently, the ANC of today is not Mandela's ANC.

These attacks are almost expected and will get worse the closer we get to the 2024 elections. CE is trying to bring calm, stability and success to the Cederberg.

3. Implementation without fear, favour or prejudice

Please be assured that CE will ensure that the municipality is properly and transparently governed. We are pleased that our competent Municipal Manager, Gerrit Matthyse and his team are implementing municipal council Resolutions and By-Laws without fear, favour or prejudice. Admittedly, the “krag blok” (i.e. cutting of electricity) is an emotive issue and we recognise that the system has challenges. However, we can assure you that the administration is simply enforcing the municipality's Credit Control and Debt Collection Policy and By-Law that has been promulgated in the government gazette effective as of 30 June 2023. No one is favoured based on race, religion, gender or age.

NEXT CE GENERAL MEETING

CE will soon be calling a general meeting of its members and supporters. We will communicate a date, time and place for such a meeting very shortly. There you will receive a full report and the CE plans for the next two-three years leading up to the next local government election in 2026.

Until then, goodbye and be blessed.

Dr Ruben Richards
(Leader, Cederberg Eerste Residents Association)
On behalf of the Steering Committee of CE

For media enquiries: info@cederbergeerste.co.za