



DRINGENDE RAADSVERGADERING GEHOU 9 DESEMBER 2022
MET 'N AGENDA VAN 1055 BLADSYE
Enkele terugvoer

Geagte CE-ondersteuners

Op Vrydag 9 Desember 2022 het 'n dringende spesiale raadsvergadering in Clanwilliam plaasgevind, wat deur die Speaker, Maxwell Heins, versoek is via 'n kennisgewing wat op 30 November 2022 uitgereik is. Die agenda beslaan 1055 bladsye (duisend vyf en vyftig bladsye) en bevat 'n aanpassingsbegroting en verskillende hersiene beleide, veral voorsieningskettingbeleide. Dit is kommerwekkend dat die agenda minder as 48 uur voordat die dringende raadsvergadering plaasgevind het, per e-pos aan raadslede versprei is.

Uit die vele items op die agenda wil ek net fyf uitlig:

(1) VERSOEK OM RAADSVERGADERING UIT TE STEL WORD GEWEIER

Die CE, DA, VF-Plus koalisie het versoek dat die Speaker die raadsvergadering uitstel om raadslede genoeg tyd te gee om die agenda en meegaande dokumente te bestudeer. Die speaker het die versoek geweier en beslis om met die vergadering voort te gaan. Raadslid Richards het namens die koalisie beswaar aangeteken en gesê die speaker verhinder raadslede aktief en doelbewus om hul oorsigrol uit te oefen.

Richards het verder gesê dat die speaker eintlik raadslede "hinder" en eis dat hulle besluite moet neem oor sake waarvoor hulle nie genoeg tyd gehad het om hul mening toe te pas nie. Dit, het Richards gesê, was onverantwoordelik aan die kant van die speaker en die administrasie, en was 'n daad om die raadslede te vra om aktief en willens en wetens die gedragskode vir raadslede te oortree.

(2) RAAD IN RESES TOT 9 JANUARIE 2023

Die Speaker het aangekondig (d.w.s. beslis) dat hierdie vergadering van 9 Desember die laaste vergadering vir die jaar was en dat die raad tot 9 Januarie 2023 in reses sou gaan. Die geskeduleerde finale raadsvergadering van 14 Desember sal dus nie meer plaasvind nie. Die speaker het gesê hy behou die reg voor om enige tyd gedurende die reses dringende vergaderings te belê.

(3) WANGEDRAG VAN RAADSLEDE – ONVERBETERLIKE TAAL ENS

Die raadsvergadering is gekenmerk deur dat raadslede baie onbeskof en beledigend teenoor mekaar was – baie onprofessioneel en onverbeterlik van 'n raadslid. Raadslid Richards het gevra vir duidelikheid oor die betekenis van immuniteit aangesien raadslede agter immuniteitsbepalings skuil en beweer dat hulle geregtig is om te sê wat hulle wil in raadsvergaderings "omdat hulle immuniteit het".

Richards het gesê dit wil voorkom asof immuniteit as verskoning gebruik word om rassisties en beledigend in raadsvergaderings te wees. Dinge het so warm geraak dat die speaker 'n verdaging van 5 minute afgedwing het sodat raadslede kon "afkoel" voordat die vergadering kon voortgaan.

(4) KLEREDRAGUITSPRAAK GEMAAK

Die ANC/PA het gekla dat die CE, DA, VF Plus-raadslede, wat slim gemaklik met oop kraaghemde aangetrek is, die kleredragkode oortree wat volgens Josef Farmer, uitvoerende burgemeester, 'n kraag, das en baadjie geëis het. Raadslid Richards het die speaker versoek om uit te wys presies waar in die reëls dit staan dat 'manlike' raadslede 'n das en 'n baadjie moet dra.

Na 'n hewige debat het die speaker beslis dat die kleredrag vir vergaderings tot verdere kennisgewing 'n das en 'n baadjie sal wees. Hy het genoem dat die raad voorheen so 'n beslissing gemaak het, maar dit nie kon aanhaal nie, maar dat sy uitspraak nou sal staan tot tyd en wyl die Ordereëls gewysig word.

(5) RAADSLID RICHARDS WORD ONDERSOEK VIR GRONDGRYP

Sonder behoorlike waarskuwing of kennisgewing, en tydens 'n "in-komitee"-sitting op 9 Desember, is 'n ondersoekverslag oor die "grondgryp" van raadslid Richards deur sy boerderymaatskappy Namakwaland Sitrus, deur uitvoerende burgemeester, Josef Farmer, ter tafel gelê.

Elke raadslid het 'n afskrif van die verslag gekry om na 'n paar minute te kyk. Daar was nie tyd om die verslag te lees nie en na skaars 'n paar minute se bespreking moes die verslag aan die speaker teruggegee word. Toe raadslid Richards versoek het om die afskrif van die verslag te hou om daarop te kan reageer, soos aanbeveel is deur die bevindinge van die verslag, het die speaker beslis dat Richards deur die regte kanale om 'n afskrif van die verslag moet aansoek doen.

UPDATE from Cederberg Eerste (CE) – 9 December 2022

A note from Dr Ruben Richards (Leader of CE)



URGENT COUNCIL MEETING HELD 9 DECEMBER 2022
WITH A 1055 PAGE AGENDA
Some feedback

48 HOURS TO READ 1055 PAGE URGENT COUNCIL AGENDA PACK -

Dear CE Supporters

On Friday 9 December 2022, an urgent special council meeting took place in Clanwilliam, called for by the Speaker, Maxwell Heins, via a notice issued on 30 November 2022. The agenda comprised 1055 pages (one thousand and fifty five pages) and included an adjustment budget and various revised policies especially Supply Chain policies. Worryingly, the agenda was distributed via email to councillors less than 48 hours before the urgent council meeting took place.

Out of the many items on the agenda I wish to highlight only five:

(1) REQUEST TO POSTPONE COUNCIL MEETING IS DENIED

The CE, DA, FF Plus coalition requested that the Speaker postpone the council meeting in order to give councillors sufficient time to study the agenda and accompanying documents. The Speaker denied the request and ruled to proceed with the meeting. Councillor Richards, on behalf of the coalition, objected saying that the Speaker is actively and deliberately inhibiting councillors from exercising their oversight role. Richards went on to say that the Speaker was actually “ambushing” councillors and demanding them to make decisions on matters for which they have not had sufficient time to apply their minds. This, said Richards was irresponsible on the part of the Speaker and the Administration, and was an act of asking the councillors to actively and knowingly breach the Code of Conduct for councillors.

(2) COUNCIL IN RECESS TILL 9 JANUARY 2023

The Speaker announced (i.e. ruled) that this meeting of 9 December was the last meeting for the year and that council would go into recess till 9 January 2023. The scheduled final council meeting of 14 December would therefore no longer take place. The Speaker said he reserves the right to call urgent meetings at any time during the recess period.

(3) MISBEHAVIOUR OF COUNCILLORS – UNBECOMING LANGUAGE ETC

The council meeting was characterised by councillors being very rude and abusive towards each other – very unprofessional and unbecoming of a councillor. Councillor Richards asked for clarification on the meaning of immunity since councillors were hiding behind immunity provisions claiming that they are entitled to say what they want in council meetings “because they have immunity”. Richards commented that it seems as if immunity is being used as an excuse to be racist and abusive in council meetings. Things got so heated that the Speaker enforced a 5 minute adjournment so that councillors could “cool down” before the meeting could continue.

(4) DRESS CODE RULING MADE

The ANC/PA complained that the CE, DA, FF Plus councillors, who were dressed in smart casual with open collar shirts, were violating the Dress Code which, according to Executive Mayor Josef Farmer, demanded a collar, tie and jacket. Councillor Richards requested the Speaker to point out exactly where in the Rules it says that ‘male’ councillors must wear a tie and a jacket. After some heated debate the Speaker ruled that the dress code for meetings will be a tie and a jacket until further notice. He mentioned that council had previously made such a ruling but could not quote it but that his ruling will now stand until such time that the Rules of Order are amended.

(5) COUNCILLOR RICHARDS INVESTIGATED FOR LAND-GRABBING

Without due warning or notice, and during an “in-committee” session on 9 December, an investigation report into the alleged “land-grabbing” of Councillor Richards through his farming company Namakwaland Citrus, was tabled by Executive Mayor, Josef Farmer.

Each councillor was given a copy of the report to look at for a few minutes. There was no time to read the report and after barely a few minutes of discussion, the report had to be handed back to the Speaker. When Councillor Richards requested to keep the copy of the report in order to be able to respond to it, as was recommended by the findings of the report, the Speaker ruled that Richards must apply for a copy of the report through the proper channels.

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