



Cederberg Eerste

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Gemeenskapsorganisasie

Cederberg First Residents Association

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Open Letter

To supporters of Cederberg Eerste

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

Dear CE Family

Please excuse my recent silence. It has been a busy few months since we were voted back into power on 1 March 2023. Thank you for the trust and support you have in CE. My role as Mayor has kept me busy and I hope that you have been reading all the updates as contained in my regular Mayoral press statements and reports to council. There are exciting and good things happening inside the municipality. We are succeeding to rescue and fix a broken municipality.

WE ARE A COMMUNITY “RESIDENTS” ORGANISATION

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 *“A well run and managed Cederberg Municipal Region where there are more jobs than people.”*



NATIONAL ELECTIONS - 2024

The main purpose of the Open Letter is to clarify that CE will not be standing in the 2024 national elections at all – neither as a party nor as individuals or independent candidates. 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 to vote for in 2024. We encourage you to use your ballot/vote wisely.

NEXT LOCAL (MUNICIPAL) ELECTIONS - 2026

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

THE SUCCESS OF CEDERBERG EERSTE 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 will make silly and untrue statements about others. In fact, they will make wild and spurious allegations in order to discredit their opponents. 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.

We see this in recent press statements made by the ANC as they attack CE and Mayor Ruben Richards. The ANC seems to have become racist. They also seem to have become experts, like Apartheid was, and spread propaganda and lies in order to destroy the reputation and credibility of people they hate. I, Dr Ruben Richards, unfortunately, have become the target of ANC propaganda and lies. This is most unfortunate and as someone said recently, the ANC of today is not Mandela’s ANC. Today’s ANC has become known for being corrupt and do not care about delivering basic services to our citizens. In my view this generation of ANC leaders have betrayed Mandela’s ANC and have become rogues, thieves and liars intent on destroying our country. The recent findings of the Zondo Commission provides enough evidence to support such as view.



The recent press statements from the ANC in the West Coast Region are evidence of a deliberate attack on the success of CE. The aim is to destabilise and create havoc and chaos. Please be careful what you believe especially when the ANC is saying it. It is also silly season.

ANC (WEST COAST REGION) ARE RACIST AND UNTRUTHFUL

The ANC (West Coast) has made blatantly racist statements and are spreading lies and feeding citizen with wrong information. It is as if they are inciting citizens against good governance.

For example, the ANC (West Coast) has put out official press statements accusing CE and its coalition partners of protecting the “white mafia”. They have accused CE of wanting to sell the Clanwilliam Dam. They accuse CE of only blocking the electricity of poor coloured people and protecting rich white people. These attacks are almost expected and will get worse the closer we get to the 2024 elections. However, even robust politicking must have limits and boundaries.

WE ARE HAPPILY FIXING THE CEDERBERG

Please be assured that while I am the Mayor we will ensure that the municipality is properly and transparently governed. We are encouraged by the fact that our trusted 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. However, I 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.

The municipality under the leadership of the newly appointed Municipal Manager, Gerrit Matthyse, has been extremely busy fixing our broken and bankrupt municipality. We suffered a set-back with the raging floods of June. 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. We will



restore Cederberg to its former glory. But it is not a quick fix. So please be patient.

NEXT CE GENERAL MEETING

CE will soon be calling a general meeting of its members and supporters. I 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)

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