



INFORMATION NOTE to staff and public

Issued by the Office of the Executive Mayor, Dr Ruben Richards
For immediate release (24 April 2023)

TWO EARS AND ONE MOUTH

*Listening to the people during the
IDP / SDF / Budget public consultation process*

It is often said that the reason we have two ears and one mouth is so that we can listen twice as much. In other words, we must listen more than we speak. This is what the Municipality has tried to do recently.

During the past two weeks I have travelled to each ward in our municipality to do two things:

(1) to attend the legislated public consultation sessions regarding the IDP/SDF/BUDGET in order to listen to our people articulate their needs, and;

- IDP – Integrated Development Plan
- SDF – Spatial Development Framework

(2) to meet all our municipal staff and deliver a motivational speech at each municipal office in order to encourage and challenge municipal workers to do their best as we serve our people.

THANK YOU TO THE COMMUNITY: I wish to thank the public who attended the consultation sessions for their comments, criticisms, and suggestions. Some of you were very emotional, and rightly so. Some of you have said that the proposed tariff increases are too high. Others have pointed out that the townships don't pay so why must you. Your emotions and sober comments help to determine the projects for the next five years and how they should be prioritised. The administration under the guidance from the Municipal Manager will now collate these comments into a final document for approval by council at the end of May 2023.



UNFUNDED DRAFT BUDGET 2023/24 (R22 million deficit): During these public consultation sessions we shared with you our financial/budget challenges: Our draft budget projects an income for the next financial year of R388 million. Our projected draft expenses is R410 million. That means that **we are projecting a spend of R22 million more than we are**

getting in. In other words, we have an unfunded budget which is illegal in terms of the law. We must therefore find a way to both increase our income and also reduce our expenses in order to balance the budget.

Please note that the public has until end of April to submit written suggestions and comments on the budget, IDP and SDF documents.

REPRIORITISE YOUR FAMILY BUDGET: The challenges facing our municipality are enormous. Unemployment and the consequential lack of money makes life very difficult and residents struggle to pay their municipal accounts. I ask, in fact, I plead, that all residents try to find a way and prioritise their family budgets. I humbly request that you first pay your municipal accounts before any other account. In that way we can at least ensure that you receive ONGOING services from the municipality like electricity, water, waste removal and so forth. **Did you know that the residents of Cederberg owe the municipality an accumulated amount of R124 million (one hundred and twenty four million rand) over the past few years.** That is the size of our debtors book. Somehow we must try to get this money from you, the residents. So please help us by at least paying your current bills and make a payment towards your arrears.



LIVING WITH LOAD-SHEDDING: Then, of course, there is load-shedding which affects us all. The municipality is at the mercy of Eskom. I really hope that load-shedding will end. Experts tell us that this will only happen in a few years' time. Eish!

THANK YOU TO THE MUNICIPAL WORKERS: I also wish to thank the municipal workers who attended the motivational sessions where the Mayor was the keynote speaker. My hope and prayer, as Mayor, is that each municipal worker will have found some aspect of the motivational speech useful and apply it to their personal lives.



Amidst all our challenges let me say thank you to all residents for your support and help. The new leadership of the municipality is committed to our revised vision for the Cederberg Municipality, as encapsulated in our IDP document and as communicated to you during these past two weeks. Our dream and vision is that Cederberg Municipality will become:

The home of good governance, service excellence and opportunities for all.

Of course, we have much to do to achieve this vision. But as they say, the journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step. These past two weeks represents taking that first step. Join us, as we rescue and rebuild our broken municipality.

Thank you very much.

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INLIGTINGSNOTA aan personeel en publiek

Uitgereik deur die kantoor van die uitvoerende burgemeester, dr Ruben Richards
Vir onmiddellike vrystelling (24 April 2023)

TWEE ORE EN EEN MOND

Luister na die mense tydens die GOP / ROR / Begroting openbare konsultasie proses

Daar word dikwels gesê dat die rede waarom ons twee ore en een mond het, is sodat ons twee keer soveel kan luister. Met ander woorde, ons moet meer luister as wat ons praat. Dit is wat die munisipaliteit onlangs probeer doen het.

Die afgelope twee weke het ek na elke wyk in ons munisipaliteit gereis om twee dinge te doen:

(1) om die wettige openbare konsultasiesessies rakende die GOP/ROR/BEGROTING by te woon ten einde te luister hoe ons mense hul behoeftes verwoord, en;

- GOP – Geïntegreerde Ontwikkelingsplan
- ROR – Ruimtelike Ontwikkelingsraamwerk

(2) om al ons munisipale personeel te ontmoet en 'n motiveringstoespraak by elke munisipale kantoor te lewer ten einde munisipale werkers aan te moedig en uit te daag om hul bes te doen terwyl ons ons mense dien.

DANKIE AAN DIE GEMEENSAP: Ek wil die publiek wat die konsultasiesessies bygewoon het, bedank vir hul kommentaar, kritiek en voorstelle. Sommige van julle was baie emosioneel, en met reg. Sommige van u het gesê dat die voorgestelde tariefverhogings te hoog is. Ander het daarop gewys dat die townships nie betaal nie, so hoekom moet jy. Jou emosies en nugter kommentaar help om die projekte vir die volgende vyf jaar te bepaal en hoe dit geprioritiseer moet word. Die administrasie onder leiding van die munisipale bestuurder sal hierdie kommentaar nou in 'n finale dokument versamel vir goedkeuring deur die raad aan die einde van Mei 2023.



ONBEFONDSDE KONSEP BEGROTING 2023/24 (Tekort van R22 miljoen): Tydens hierdie openbare konsultasiesessies het ons ons finansiële/begrotingsuitdagings met u gedeel: Ons konsepbegroting projekteer 'n inkomste vir die volgende finansiële jaar (2023/24) van R388 miljoen. Ons geprojekeerde konseputgawes is R410 miljoen. Dit beteken dat ons 'n besteding van R22 miljoen meer projekteer as wat ons inkry. Met ander woorde, ons het 'n onbefondsde begroting wat onwettig is in terme van die wet. Ons moet dus 'n manier vind om

ons inkomste te verhoog en ook ons uitgawes te verminder ten einde die begroting te balanseer.

Let asseblief daarop dat die publiek tot einde April het om skriftelike voorstelle en kommentaar op die begroting, GOP en ROR-dokumente in te dien.

HERPRIORITISEER JOU GESINSBEGROTING: Die uitdagings wat ons munisipaliteit in die gesig staar, is enorm. Werkloosheid en die gevolglike gebrek aan geld maak die lewe baie moeilik en inwoners sukkel om hul munisipale rekeninge te betaal. Ek vra, ek pleit eintlik, dat alle inwoners probeer om 'n manier te vind en hul gesinsbegrotings te prioritiseer. Ek versoek nederig dat u eers u munisipale rekeninge voor enige ander rekening moet betaal. Sodoende kan ons ten minste verseker dat jy deurlopende dienste van die munisipaliteit ontvang soos elektrisiteit, water, vullisverwydering ensovoorts. **Het jy geweet dat die inwoners van Cederberg die munisipaliteit die afgelope paar jaar 'n opgehoopde bedrag van R124 miljoen (honderd vier en twintig miljoen rand) skuld?** Dit is die grootte van ons debiteureboek. Op een of ander manier moet ons probeer om hierdie geld van u, die inwoners, te kry. Help ons dus asseblief deur ten minste jou huidige rekeninge te betaal en 'n betaling vir jou agterstallige skuld te maak.



LEWE MET BEURTKRAG: Dan is daar natuurlik beurtkrag wat ons almal raak. Die munisipaliteit is aan die genade van Eskom oorgelaat. Ek hoop regtig dat beurtkrag sal eindig. Kenners vertel dat dit eers oor 'n paar jaar sal gebeur. Eish!

DANKIE AAN DIE MUNISIPALE WERKERS: Ek wil ook die munisipale werkers bedank wat die motiveringssessies bygewoon het waar die burgemeester die hoofspreeker was. My hoop en gebed, as Burgemeester, is dat elke munisipale werker een of ander aspek van die motiveringstoespraak nuttig sal vind en dit op hul persoonlike lewens sal toepas.



Te midde van al ons uitdagings laat ek dankie sê aan alle inwoners vir julle ondersteuning en hulp. Die nuwe leierskap van die munisipaliteit is verbind tot ons hersiene visie vir die Cederberg Munisipaliteit, soos saamgevat in ons GOP-dokument en soos die afgelope twee weke aan u gekommunikeer. Ons droom en visie is dat Cederberg Munisipaliteit die volgende sal word:

Die tuiste van goeie bestuur, diensuitnemendheid en geleenthede vir almal.

Natuurlik het ons baie om te doen om hierdie visie te bereik. Maar soos hulle sê, begin die reis van duisend myl met die eerste stap. Die afgelope twee weke verteenwoordig die eerste stap. Sluit by ons aan terwyl ons ons gebroke munisipaliteit red en herbou.

Baie dankie.

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