



MUNICIPAL DEMARCATION BOARD

MEDIA STATEMENT

10 JULY 2015

MEDIA STATEMENT BY MS JANE THUPANA, CHAIRPERSON OF THE MUNICIPAL DEMARCATION BOARD: PUBLISHING OF WARD DELIMITATIONS IN PROVINCIAL GAZETTES IN LINE WITH SCHEDULE 1 TO THE STRUCTURES ACT, 1998

The Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) after consultation with the Electoral Commission, for purposes of the local government election, must delimit all metropolitan municipalities and all local municipalities that must have wards, into wards.

Considerable progress has been made and the MDB will soon be publishing the first set of its delimitation of the wards (2971 in total) in Provincial Gazettes.

The number of wards that have been completed thus far is as follows:

PROVINCE	Number of Municipalities	Number of Wards to be Published
Eastern Cape	28	614
Free State	18	259
KwaZulu-Natal	40	835
Limpopo	9	204
Mpumalanga	8	224
North West	11	245
Northern Cape	25	188
Western Cape	25	402
TOTAL	164	2971

Any person aggrieved by a delimitation may within 14 days of publication submit objections in writing to the Demarcation Board, and the Board must-

- (a) consider those objections; and
- (b) confirm, vary or withdraw its determination.

The following ward delimitation criteria were taken into account:

- a) The number of registered voters in each ward, may not vary by more than fifteen percent from the norm, where the norm is determined by dividing the total number of registered voters on the municipality's segment of the national common voters roll by the number of wards in the municipality;
- b) The need to avoid as far as possible the fragmentation of communities;
- c) The object of a ward committee which is to enhance participatory democracy in local government;
- d) The availability and location of a suitable place or places for voting and counting if appropriate, taking into consideration communication and accessibility; density of population, topography and physical characteristics and the number of voters that are entitled to vote within the required time frame;
- e) The safety and security of voters and election material;
- f) Identifiable ward boundaries.

Circulars are currently being issued to stakeholders to afford sufficient time to prepare any objections that they may have, plus the draft schedules that will be published in provincial gazettes together with the notices and ward maps . To accommodate the volume there will be 9 versions of this circular - 1 for each province with the relevant schedule for that province. The Circular for Gauteng will follow at a later stage as the wards for municipalities in this provinces are still to be finalised.

The circulars, the schedule, and the ward maps, will also be posted on the MDB website www.demarcation.org.za within the next few days.

Ward delimitation in municipalities that may be affected by the determination or re-determination of their municipal boundaries, will commence after the latter process which will be concluded in early August 2015.

Some municipalities are no longer affected by the determination or re-determination of municipal boundaries. The MDB will soon consult the public on the delimitation of wards in the respective municipalities.

The Board envisages to hand over wards to the IEC in 3 batches of which the first batch will be handed over by 31 August 2015, and the last batch by 31 November 2015 for the electoral process.

The MDB would like to thank all stakeholders for their assistance and cooperation during the ward delimitation process.

END

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