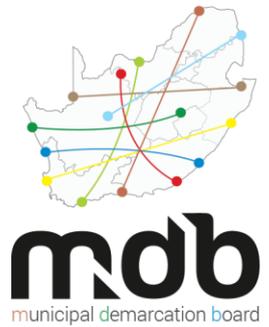


## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**10 SEPTEMBER 2018**

### **FINAL REDETERMINATIONS OF MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES**



During February and early March 2018, the MDB embarked on a public consultative programme to obtain views and comments regarding possible solutions to fix the technical municipal boundary misalignments affecting various communities. This was a culmination of a process that started in the first quarter of 2017, involving stakeholders such as the National House of Traditional Leaders, Provincial Executive Councils and municipalities. These misalignments, if left unresolved, have the potential to cause disruptions, including challenges with the management and administration of property rates by municipalities when a farm straddles boundaries of two or more municipalities.

In March 2018, the Board published Section 26 legal notices stipulating its intention to consider several cases and invited members of the public to submit their written views and representations within a 30 day period from the date of publication. The Board resolved to re-determine the municipal boundaries after considering 107 cases. The Board resolved to re-determine municipal boundaries affecting 103 cases. A schedule of all re-determinations is attached hereto as Annexure A. Notices were published in the relevant Provincial Gazettes by between 14 -19 June 2018.

The notices sought to invite any members of the public aggrieved by the decision of the Board to submit written objections for consideration by the MDB. After the closing date of the objections period, only one objection relating to a case in KwaZulu Natal was received and the Board decided not to proceed with the case. The Board resolved to confirm its re-determination of municipal boundaries for 102 cases. These are final decisions of the Board. The MDB published its final decisions in relevant provincial Gazettes as reflected in table 1:

**Table 1: Summary of the final decisions of the Board.**

<b>PROVINCE</b>	<b>CASES PUBLISHED IN TERMS OF SECTION 21</b>	<b>CASES CONFIRMED IN TERMS OF SECTION 21</b>	<b>CASES WITHDRAWN IN TERMS OF SECTION 21(5)</b>	<b>CASES VARIED IN TERMS OF SECTION 21(5)</b>
<b>Eastern Cape</b>	8	8	0	0
<b>Free State</b>	10	10	0	0
<b>Gauteng</b>	5	5	0	0
<b>KwaZulu Natal</b>	28	27	1	0
<b>Limpopo</b>	5	5	0	0
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	5	5	0	0
<b>North West</b>	9	9	0	0
<b>Northern Cape</b>	7	7	0	0
<b>Western Cape</b>	26	26	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

The publication of final decisions of the Board marks the conclusion of the municipal boundary re-determination process. Immediately after the publication the MDB sent particulars of the re-determinations to the IEC on 20 August 2018 as agreed between the two institutions in 2017. In terms of Section 23(2) of the Municipal Demarcation Act of 1998, the IEC has to establish if the boundary determinations will materially affect representation of voters in the affected municipal councils or not. If the Electoral Commission is of the view that the boundary determination

- (a) will affect the representation of voters in the council of any of the municipalities affected by the boundary redetermination, the determination takes effect from the date of the next election in the area concerned, or
- (b) will not materially affect the representation of voters in such council, the determination takes effect from a date determined by notice in the relevant Provincial Gazette by the MEC for local government in the province concerned.

The IEC must, publish its view in the relevant provincial Gazette within 60 days after receiving information about the final boundaries from the MDB.

The MDB is committed to meaningful citizen engagement and will endeavour to make sure that all affected communities are made aware of the final decisions of the Board

in respect of this municipal boundary re-determinations and would like to urge all stakeholders, especially affected municipalities to do the same.

The Board's sincere appreciation goes to all stakeholders including members of the affected communities, provincial departments responsible for local government, municipalities and members of the media for the role they played since the onset of this process. The efficient execution of this project would not have been possible without their cooperation

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**END**