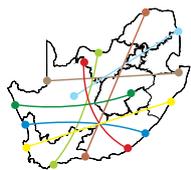


# Broad process and timeframes within current legal framework: 2017 - 2021



## MDB: Towards inclusive demarcation

The Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) has, for the past 17 years, been at the forefront of spatial transformation in South Africa through the determination and redetermination of municipal boundaries, with four cycles of demarcation having been conducted thus far. During this time, the process has evolved from addressing spatial injustices of the past to rationalising municipalities into functional units to meet their constitutional obligation, including infrastructure and service delivery.

However, the task carried out by the MDB is in recognition of the reality that some of the challenges the country continues to grapple with, mainly unemployment, poverty and inequality, were spatially engineered. Despite the progress made towards spatial configuration of the local government sphere, it is still clear that the realisation of an integrated, fully efficient, stable and developmental local government still remains a challenge.

The MDB's function and scope are confined and restricted solely within the boundaries set out in law. It has no unfettered powers to stretch its business interest beyond the criteria and procedures prescribed by legislation. This has unfortunately made the organisation unpopular in some instances, where the board's decisions were met with violent protests and litigations.

In light of the above and the considerations made pertaining to the challenges faced by the organisation, lessons learnt and its interaction with the public, the MDB undertook a decision not to conduct any major redeterminations of municipal boundaries. This includes amalgamations, annexations and categorisations, in the period preceding the 2019 national elections.

Only correction of technical misalignment of municipal boundaries will be considered for redetermination, which will involve minor adjustments to align municipal boundaries to either cadastral boundaries, natural or man-made features (eg farm boundaries, rivers, roads) or addressing split settlements. This is mainly aimed at improving the quality of boundaries by providing clearly defined boundaries that are legally defensible.

Although they may not affect a large size of the population, these technical adjustments still have to follow the entire legal demarcation process.

The success of this project is independent on efficient collaboration with all stakeholders including municipalities, provincial departments responsible for local government, traditional leadership, political parties, the media and members of local communities affected by the board's processes.