

Attention: All Media

06 February 2020

MDB DISCOURAGES DISRUPTION OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION SESSIONS

The MDB is gravely concerned about the disruption that erupted during the public consultation session at Mbombela Municipality earlier today, 06 February 2020. The well attended meeting was unfortunately disrupted by a group of youth who claimed to be coming from Umjindini. They shouted and used vulgar language in expressing their demand for the former Umjindini municipality to be 'divorced' from Mbombela municipality. The youth further cited lack of service delivery as the main reason for their disgruntlement.

The MDB is currently embarking on a nation-wide public consultations sessions on the draft sets of electoral wards in preparation of the 2021 local government elections.

“If communities continue in this manner and disrupt the MDB meetings, they will miss an opportunity to engage with us however they can still fill forms accessible on the MDB website and submit their proposals by April 2020”, said Ms Jane Thupana, Member of the Board.

Although there were no injuries sustained, amid damage to property and theft, the MDB appeals for cooperation as the public consultation sessions will run until April 2020. Any person who wilfully disrupts or threatens the proceedings, will be committing a punishable offence as provided for in the Municipal Demarcation Act. In addition, the disruptions disadvantage ordinary members of the public who want to participate in having a say in how their wards would be reconfigured in preparation for the 2021 Local government elections.

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