

## **CIRCULAR 3 OF 2020**

**To:** Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs  
MECs of Provincial Departments responsible for Local Government  
Chairpersons of National & Provincial Houses of Traditional Leaders  
President of South African Local Government Association  
Chairperson of Independent Electoral Commission  
Mayors of affected Metropolitan, District and Local Municipalities

**Cc:** Speakers of all Metropolitan, District and Local Municipalities  
HOD's of Provincial Departments responsible for Local Government  
PEO's of Independent Electoral Commission  
Municipal Managers Metropolitan, District and Local Municipalities  
Chief Surveyor General  
Chief Electoral Officer  
Chief Executive Officer of SALGA  
Statistician – General  
Members of extended Boundaries, Powers and Function Committee  
Members of Local Elections Technical Committee

Dear Sir/Madam,

**CIRCULAR 3/2020: DELIMITATION OF WARDS 2019-2020: OUTSTANDING PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS AND FURTHER MEASURES TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19).**

### **PURPOSE**

1. To provide information on the suspension of outstanding ward delimitation public consultation meetings amid the continuing spread of the corona virus (Covid - 19 Virus).

### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

2. Following the declaration of a national disaster status of the country by the President on 16 March 2020, the MDB issued Circular 2 of 2020 introducing some measures to curb the spread of Corona virus (Covid-19).

3. In terms of Circular 2 of 2020, the MDB communicated that all **public consultation meetings scheduled from 18 March 2020 to 09 April 2020 are suspended** and these will resume on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 unless circumstances change as guided by the decisions of the National Command Council (NCC).
4. However, in light of the continued spread of Covid 19 virus in the country, on Monday 23 March 2020 the President announced further and stricter measures to limit the spread of the Corona virus. Most notably, the President declared a “**nationwide lockdown**” (confinement of people to their homes) for a period of 21 days commencing at midnight 26 March 2020. This will have an impact on timeframes previously shared with stakeholders and the public in Circular 2 of 2020.

#### **OUTSTANDING WARD DELIMITATION PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS**

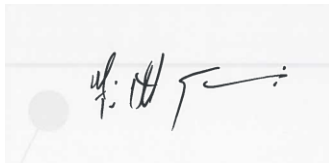
5. In view of the nationwide lockdown and, the continued spread of the virus and the unpredictable and uncertain nature of the situation, the MDB had to reconsider its measures in as far as that relates to the ward delimitation public consultation process. In this regard, **the MDB has suspended all outstanding public consultation meetings until further notice.**
6. In order to still allow members of the public and stakeholders opportunity to participate in the ward delimitation public consultation process, **the MDB will still accept written submissions, in this regard, the due date for the submission of written submissions is now extended from 30 April 2020 to 15 May 2020.**
7. Members of the public and stakeholders are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to engage with the ward delimitation process and influence how their wards should be configured. As communicated previously, MDB submission forms are available on the MDB website ([www.demarcation.org.za](http://www.demarcation.org.za)). Submissions should be sent to [registry@demarcation.org.za](mailto:registry@demarcation.org.za)
8. The MDB sympathises with those who were looking forward to participate at the public meetings, hence the period for written submissions is extended to allow them more time to prepare and submit written proposals. However, should the

prevailing health situation improve and the MDB after consultation with all other affected stakeholders obtain more time before the commencement of the election preparation processes, might be able to reschedule outstanding meetings even if they might be in a different form.

## **CONCLUSION**

9. We wish to assure everyone that the MDB is committed to meaningful citizen engagement and we urge all our stakeholders to assist in ensuring the country wins the war against the spread of the Corona virus.
10. We plead with everyone to be patient as the MDB grapples with the unprecedented situation which has befallen the country and the world.
11. We will update everyone should there be any other changes to the ward delimitation programme.

**Regards,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Manyoni', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

**MR TM MANYONI**

**CHAIRPERSON: MUNICIPAL DEMARCATION BOARD**

**DATE: 25 MARCH 2020**

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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