

**ATTENTION: ALL MEDIA
MEDIA STATEMENT**

17 MARCH 2020

THE MDB SUSPENDS WARD DELIMITATION PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Following the declaration of COVID-19 as a national disaster, the MDB suspends all outstanding public consultations on draft electoral wards. This is in line with President Ramaphosa's pronouncement to the nation on 15 March 2020, *"The current circumstances require extra-ordinary measures to curb the spread of the virus" and that "gatherings of more than 100 people will be prohibited, where small gatherings are unavoidable, organisers will need to put in place stringent measures of prevention and control"*.

The MDB will implement the following precautionary and mitigation measures for the public consultations process, in an effort to curb the spread of corona virus:

- The MDB suspends all public consultation meetings scheduled from 18 March 2020 to 09 April 2020 with immediate effect.
- Consultations are expected to resume from the 14th April 2020 (see attached schedule). The above might be changed depending on the directives issued by the National Command Council as established by the President, in this regard the MDB will communicate accordingly.
- Regardless of the situation, members of the public and stakeholders are encouraged to continue to submit written submissions until 30 April 2020. The ward submission forms are available on the MDB website (www.demarcation.org.za) and from municipalities. Submissions should be sent to registry@demarcation.org.za.

“The well-being and protection of our communities during this period is of utmost importance. It is our responsibility to take all necessary measures as a collective to curb the spread of the virus hence we are suspending all outstanding public sessions. We further encourage communities to learn more about the virus in order to protect themselves” said Manyoni, Chairperson of the Board.

These ongoing measures will be reviewed on a regular basis depending on the state of affairs.

-ENDS-

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