

**ATTENTION: ALL MEDIA  
MEDIA STATEMENT**

**DATE: 12 MAY 2020**

**ELECTORAL WARD DELIMITATION: PUBLIC CONSULTATION DURING THE  
LOCKDOWN PERIOD**

The Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) joins other stakeholders and entities in commending Government through the National Corona Command Council, for efforts taken to mitigate against the devastating effects of Covid-19. We salute the Leadership for prioritising the lives, well-being and health of all South African citizens during this difficult period over many competing needs and demands.

In February 2020 the MDB commenced with the ward delimitation public consultation process. The process was to conclude in April 2020. However, in March 2020, the process had to come to a halt as the MDB suspended all the public consultations in response to the declaration of the Covid-19 national state of disaster and the lockdown.

The MDB had planned to complete the ward delimitation public consultations in municipalities in Eastern Cape, Kwa Zulu Natal, Mpumalanga, Gauteng and Western Cape provinces by end of March 2020. However, three (3) municipalities in Eastern Cape, one (1) in Western Cape, eight (8) in Gauteng and seven (7) in Kwa Zulu Natal could not be covered. Public consultations in Limpopo, Free State, Northern Cape and North West were scheduled for April 2020. However, these had to be postponed. Mpumalanga is the only Province where all scheduled meetings were concluded.

The MDB remains fully committed to citizen engagement, hence it is doing everything in its power to ensure that members of the public continue to have a say on how their

wards should be configured. In this regard, the MDB wishes to indicate that although the country has moved from level five (5) to level four (4), there are still regulations that restrict the MDB from continuing as normal in relation to engaging citizens regarding the ward delimitation process as was the case before the declaration of national disaster.

After a thorough analysis and consideration of the overall impact of the lockdown on the overall ward delimitation programme, a revised programme was developed with new timeframes as indicated below:

**BATCH 1: WARD DELIMITATION PROGRAMME FOR MUNICIPALITIES WHERE PUBLIC MEETINGS HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED (SEE ANNEXURE A).**

The submission date for written submissions has been extended from 15 May 2020 to **31 May 2020** for **Batch 1** municipalities as listed in **Annexure A**. Members of the public and all stakeholders who have not yet submitted, have until then to submit their submissions on how their wards should be configured.

In June 2020, the MDB will consider all submissions (Batch 1) and determine wards for publication in provincial Gazettes. All wards will be published in provincial Gazettes in July 2020. Anyone aggrieved by the wards as published will be allowed 14 days to submit written objections. In August 2020, the MDB will consider all objections received (**Batch 1**) determine and publish final wards in provincial Gazettes. Final wards for **Batch 1** will be handed over to the **IEC by September 2020**.

***BATCH 2: WARD DELIMITATION PROGRAMME FOR MUNICIPALITIES WHERE PUBLIC MEETINGS WERE SUSPENDED (SEE ANNEXURE B).***

In case the circumstances regarding the management of the spread of Covid-19 do not improve and the level of lockdown or conditions thereof are not adjusted to a level that will allow for gatherings or public meetings by 31 May 2020, the MDB will consider all outstanding public meetings cancelled. However, the period for making written submissions for members of the public in Batch 2 municipalities will be extended to **31 July 2020**.

In **August 2020**, the MDB will consider all written submissions (Batch 2) and determine wards for publication in provincial Gazettes. All wards will be published in

provincial Gazettes in **September 2020**. Anyone aggrieved by the wards as published will be allowed 14 days to submit written objections. **In October 2020**, the MDB will consider all objections received (Batch 2) determine and publish final wards in provincial Gazettes. Final wards for Batch 2 will be handed over to the IEC by November 2020.

The “New Normal” dictates that new technological methods to replace physical sessions be adopted in order to flatten the curve. **“Given the uncharted territory we are traversing, we are fully committed to support the Government in the fight against the virus and abide by the set regulations. In the interest of providing an equal opportunity to all community members to participate meaningfully to determine their own wards, we urge them to submit written submissions to [registry@demarcation.org.za](mailto:registry@demarcation.org.za)”**, said Thabo Manyoni, Chairperson of the Board.

Ward delimitation and public consultation information e.g. draft maps and submission forms has been distributed to all municipalities and are also available on the MDB website [www.demarcation.org.za](http://www.demarcation.org.za) or on request by calling the MDB at 012 342 2481 for assistance on any query related to ward delimitation.

The MDB is aware that conditions on the ground are changing all the time bringing with it a lot of uncertainty as the country continues its efforts in fighting against the spread of the Corona Virus. In this regard, the MDB will provide the necessary updates in line with regulations imposed during the lockdown period. The MDB appeals to communities to stay home, wash their hands, practice physical distancing and wear a mask when in public spaces.

**-ENDS-**

**Enquiries:**

Barileng Dichabe

Senior Manager: Stakeholder Management and Communication

Tel : (012) 342 2481

Mobile : 071 354 2612

E-mail : [Barileng@demarcation.org.za](mailto:Barileng@demarcation.org.za)