



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **THE MDB EMBARKS ON A JOURNEY TO IMPROVE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS**

In a deliberate move to deepen understanding on demarcation processes, the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) is currently conducting consultations with the aim of empowering stakeholders about the Ward Delimitation (Change) process. These consultations are held in all municipalities, targeting: Traditional Leadership, Ward Councillors, Ward Committees, Municipal Officials, and other stakeholders.

The MDB delimits wards every five years preceding the local government elections (LGE) in compliance with the Municipal Structures Act 117 of 1998, schedule 1 as amended (MSA). The next LGE will be held in 2026. The plan is to hand-over the final wards to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) towards the end of 2025.

It should be noted that over the years, there has been a sharp increase in the number of voters resulting in a proportional increase in the number of wards in municipalities. Consequently, this results in a change in the configuration (form) of wards in municipalities.

The education and awareness drive commenced in July 2024 to allow stakeholders sufficient time to understand the process and be able to participate effectively during the ward delimitation process and make informed inputs. The consultations culminate the end of Phase 1 of the process which will be followed by Phase 2, where nationwide public consultations will be conducted for the same purpose. Once the draft wards are drawn, intensive community consultations will be rolled-out to obtain public views before the

process is finalised. This process is envisaged to take place between March 2025 and April 2025.

Although, the consultations by way of public meetings are not legislated as per the MSA, it will be conducted to reflect MDBs resolve to enhance its public engagement processes.

“The MDB remains committed to drive meaningful public consultations and that all affected communities are empowered to actively participate in demarcation processes. This will enable them to make informed decisions that will enhance spatial democracy, access to economic opportunities and efficient delivery of services”, said Thabo Manyoni, Chairperson of the Board.

**-ENDS-**

#### **ENQUIRIES**

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