



MEDIA STATEMENT

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for Immediate Release

2011 to 2013 MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES REVIEW PROCESS KICKS OFF

The Municipal Demarcation Board announces the beginning of its consultative process that is intended to inform the redetermination of municipal boundaries

Today, the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) announced the beginning of an intensive three year consultative process that will inform the determination of municipal boundaries across the whole country.

At the conclusion of this process, three possible outcomes might arise. These are:

- The adjustment and/or re-alignment of a municipal boundary;
- The formation of new municipalities or amalgamation of existing ones; and
- Re-categorisation of a municipality into a metropolitan municipality.

“Over time we have matured in the way we do our work, which is essentially a story about continuing our agenda of spatial transformation and deepening democracy” said Landiwe Mahlangu, Chairperson of MDB, as he explained the significance of the process. “Concerns raised within some localities have also motivated us to further expand our outreach and consultation efforts.”

In addition to the legal process as provided for in the Local Government: Municipal Demarcation Act, 1998, representatives of the MDB will also visit municipalities to render assistance where necessary. It is the intention to deploy Board members and MDB staff in the 9 provinces to assist stakeholders.

All changes to municipal boundaries need to be finalised prior the national and provincial elections in 2014 so that the national common voters roll can be segmented according to confirmed and final municipal boundaries for the ward delimitation process. This means, that all the changes to municipal boundaries must be completed at the beginning of 2013. The process of re-determination will commence on 1st July 2011.



The MDB will, in general, prioritise requests for boundary changes submitted jointly by the affected municipalities, or by the Minister, or by the MECs responsible for local government. Persons and institutions wishing to propose certain changes to municipal boundaries are therefore advised to first consult the affected municipalities.

Where traditional authority areas or boundaries, and/or magisterial district boundaries are affected, it is recommended that such authorities, the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, and the relevant magistrate also be consulted. Once consensus has been reached with these stakeholders, the affected municipalities, and/or the MEC responsible for local government, can submit a request to the MDB.

Such requests must be submitted before or on 15 December 2011.

During the consultation, the MDB intends to interact with key council representatives and municipal managers, provincial stakeholders, traditional leaders and local communities. Discussions will primarily focus on the review and re-determination of municipal boundaries. In this regard, matters to be deliberated on will include:-

- Assistance to municipalities experiencing problems with submission of new requests to the MDB;
- Clarity about the process and timeframes;
- Provide information about the cases currently before the MDB; and
- Explain the role and extend of MDB's responsibilities.

The Municipal Demarcation Board Chairperson Landiwe Mahlangu said "Through the road shows the Board wants to embark on an inclusive process that also creates awareness about what the Board is about, why we do what we do and how we do it. This must include the criteria and process we follow which informs the boundary review and/or re-determination process".

Attention of stakeholders is drawn to the fact that the MDB only deals with municipal boundaries and not provincial ones. Where a proposal affects a provincial boundary, such proposals should **NOT** be submitted to the MDB but be addressed to the National Department of Cooperative Governance.

"It is very important and crucial for the Board that the boundary reviews or re-determination process is a transparent and open one. The public and all relevant stakeholders must be informed and included at the on-set of the process, so that we can deal with any controversies and concerns that may arise".



The Board has already received some requests for re-determination of certain municipal boundaries, and has also, in cooperation with stakeholders such as the IEC and StatsSA, identified a number of municipal boundaries which require technical alignment to other boundaries or natural features.

More than 500 possible boundary changes have been identified. These vary from small technical adjustments, to possible major re-configurations. This number may increase or decrease as a result of public inputs.

“The Board also wants to make special mention of its commitment to take extra measures to ensure that where ever possible and practical, it will consult and engage with traditional leaders, to ensure that their subjects are not divided” concluded Mahlangu.

For more details on this process, municipalities have been requested to make available copies of **Circular 1/2011** to interested persons. The circular can also be downloaded from the MDB website (www.demarcation.org.za) or can be obtained by sending an email to Robert@demarcation.org.za or a fax to 012 3422480.

In addition, details of the process will be made public through circulars to stakeholders, the media, and the MDB website www.demarcation.org.za

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Issued by Therisano on behalf of the Municipal Demarcation Board

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