

MUNICIPAL WARD DELIMITATION PROCESS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

SPATIALLY TRANSFORMED, JUST & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

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THE MDB MANDATE

Established in 1999, the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB), is an independent authority that has continued to deliver its mandate without fear, favour or prejudice.

The MDB's mandate is derived from the Municipal Demarcation Act, 27 of 1998 (MDA) and Municipal Structures Act, 117 of 1998, as amended (MSA).

The MDB is mandated to;

- Determine and re-determine Municipal Boundaries
- Delimit ward boundaries for Local Government Elections
- Conduct Municipal Capacity Assessments; to ascertain whether municipalities have the requisite capability to fulfil their constitutional obligations; therefore advice The Member of the Executive Council (MEC) on allocation of powers and functions between Local and District Municipalities; and
- Provide advisory services on related local Government matters.



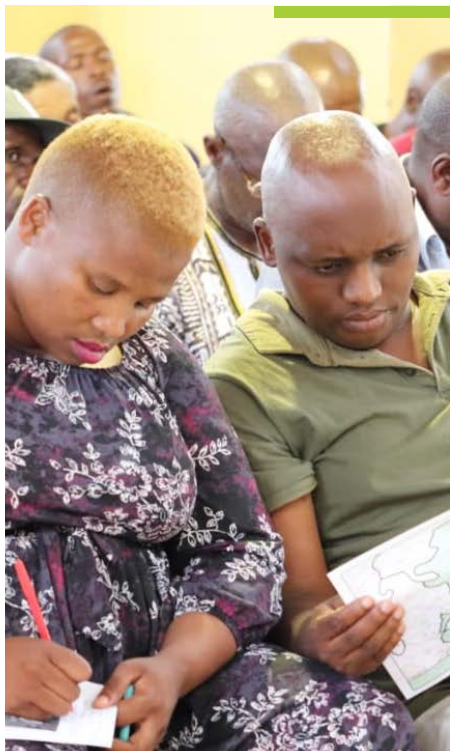
THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Unlike national and provincial elections, a dual electoral system applies to local government elections.

Members of a municipal council are elected in accordance with a system of proportional representation, combined with a system of ward representation based on that municipality's segment of the national common voters roll. The electoral system must result, in general, in proportional representation.

Voters registered on the voters' roll for an election in a municipality, vote for a party and for a particular ward councillor of their choice in that municipality.

The purpose of electing a person in a ward as a ward councillor, is to mandate that person to represent the residents in that ward, in the municipal council.



THE TERM OF OFFICE OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

The term of office of municipal councils is five years. The term is calculated from the day following the date set for the previous election of all municipal councils.

THE ELECTION DATE

The National Minister responsible for local government, after consulting the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), calls and sets a date for an election of all municipal councils. The Minister must publish the date in the Government Gazette. The notice may be published either before or after the term of municipal councils expires.

The next local government elections must be held within 90 days after five years counting from the date of the previous elections.

THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

A Local or District municipality may not have less than ten or more than 90 councillors. A Metropolitan municipality may not have more than 270 councillors.

Approximately two years before local government elections, the National Minister responsible for local government, publishes a formulae for the determination of the number of councillors.

The formulae must be published in the Government Gazette, and it is based on the number of registered voters in the municipality's segment of the national common voters' roll on a specific date. This date must also appear in the notice published in the Government Gazette.

The Minister of Cooperative Governance & Traditional Affairs may determine different formulae for the different categories of municipalities. There are three categories of municipalities. Category A: Metropolitan municipalities; Category B: Local municipalities; and Category C: District municipalities.

The MEC for local government in a province may deviate from the number of councillors determined for a municipality in terms of the formulae. However, the MEC must first apply certain criteria in terms of section 20 of the MSA.



THE NUMBER OF WARDS

Once the number of councillors for each local and metropolitan municipality has been gazetted by MECs, the MDB calculates the number of wards for each municipality.

The number of ward councillors in a Metropolitan or Local council must be equal to half of the number of councillors determined by the MEC. If the number of councillors is an uneven number, the fraction must be rounded off upwards in favour of wards. If a municipality has, for example, 11 councillors, six councillors will be ward councillors. Neither the MDB nor a municipality can increase or decrease the number of wards. The number is dependent on the number of councillors determined by the MEC.

A local municipality with fewer than seven councillors has no wards, and all the councillors must be elected on a proportional representation basis only.





MUNICIPAL WARD DELIMITATION

Wards are delimited by the MDB. This entails the division of the whole geographic area of a municipality into smaller geographic areas, called wards. Schedule 1 of the MSA provides for certain procedures and criteria to which the MDB must comply. The MDB must, amongst others, ensure that all wards in a municipality have approximately the same number of voters. The number of registered voters in each ward, may not vary by more than 15% from the norm (average).

The norm is determined by dividing the total number of registered voters on the municipality's segment of the national common voters roll by the number of wards in the municipality.

For example, the norm for a municipality with 30 000 voters, and 10 wards will thus be 3 000 voters. 15% can then be added or deducted which will allow between 2550 and 3450 voters per ward in this municipality.




“If the formulae provides more than 30 councillors to a municipality, a deviation of 10% is allowed. If 30 or fewer councillors have been determined, a deviation of not more than three is allowed. Lastly, Local municipalities must have a minimum of 10 councillors.”


TOWARDS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS


The formulae starts with the Minister responsible for local government publishing the formulae for determining the number of councillors. Thereafter, the MECs responsible for local government utilises the formulae to determine the number of councillors for all municipalities in their respective provinces.


The MDB will take the number of councillors and determine the number of wards. Half the number of councillors determined by the MEC are ward councillors. That means the MDB has to delimit the number of wards.


MUNICIPAL WARD DELIMITATION PROCESS IN TERMS OF THE MUNICIPAL STRUCTURES ACT (MSA) 117 OF 1998 AS AMENDED


- 1**



IEC provides the municipal segment of the national common Voters' Roll Electoral Act 73 of 1998.
- 2**


Minister of CoGTA determines the formulae for determining the number of councillors of Metros, Districts and Local Municipalities in terms of section 20(1) and (2) of the MSA.
- 3**


MEC determines the number of councillors for all municipalities in their respective provinces in terms of section 20(3), (4) and (5) of the MSA.
- 4**


Municipal Demarcation Board determines the number of wards for municipalities and delimit wards for local government elections in terms of schedule 1 of the MSA.
- 5**


Municipal Demarcation Board publishes wards in provincial gazettes and invites any person aggrieved by a delimitation to submit objections within 14 days of publication.
- 6**


Municipal Demarcation Board considers written objections received and either, confirm or vary its delimitation. The final decision is published in provincial Gazettes.
- 7**


The MDB submits the final ward boundaries to the IEC to prepare for local government elections.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultations with planning and geographical information management officials from municipalities allows the MDB to configure the draft wards by considering local inputs and addressing geographic barriers.

The intention of the local consultative process is to allow municipalities to show the members of the public in their areas what the MDB is proposing regarding wards in their municipalities.

If they do not agree with the MDB's proposals, they need to work through alternatives, following the rules and guidelines that have been provided to them. The MDB will provide municipalities with draft ward boundaries for consultation purposes. Members of the public will be given time to consider the draft wards.



The MDB and the municipalities will convene consultation meetings. These will be open to the public for all to make their inputs.

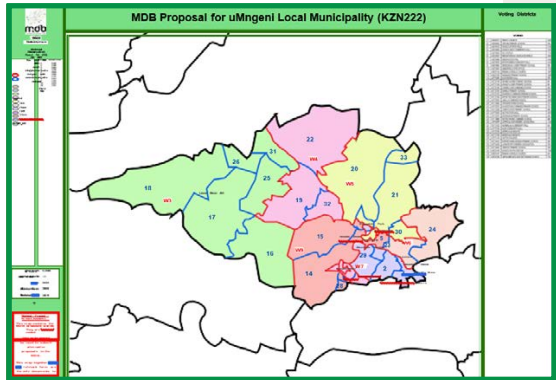
- When a member of the public or municipality and/or its stakeholders agree with the proposed wards, they submit form MDB1.
- When a member of the public or municipality and/or its stakeholders do not agree with the proposed wards, they submit form MDB2.

All inputs will be considered before the MDB publishes the ward boundaries in provincial Gazettes for objections. It is the responsibility of any aggrieved person to object within 14 days of publication of the wards.

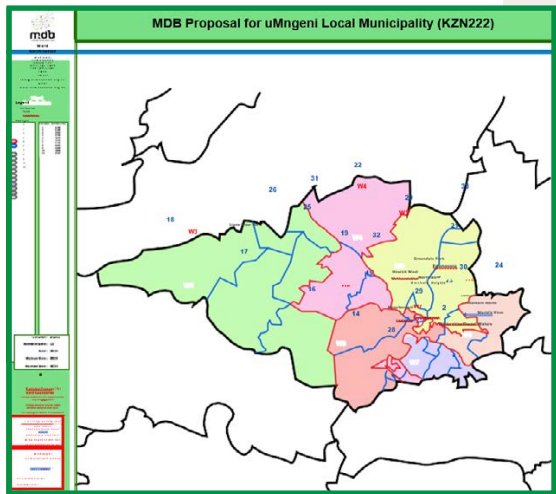
Final ward boundaries will be handed to the IEC. The IEC will then prepare for the local government elections.



MDB PROPOSAL FOR LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES



The table contains the ID numbers of the voting districts (VDs), the VD numbers, the number of voters registered in each VD, and the name of the voting station in the VD. After you have clustered voting districts together to create a ward, use this table and add up the number of registered voters in each VD in your ward. The total may not be more or less than the minimum or maximum on the left hand side of the map.



A ward may not have less or more registered voters than the minimum and maximum number shown here.

The blue lines are the boundaries of voting districts

The red numbers are ward numbers.

The different colours surrounded by a red line represent the MDB's proposed wards. However, you can cluster other voting districts together to create your own wards.

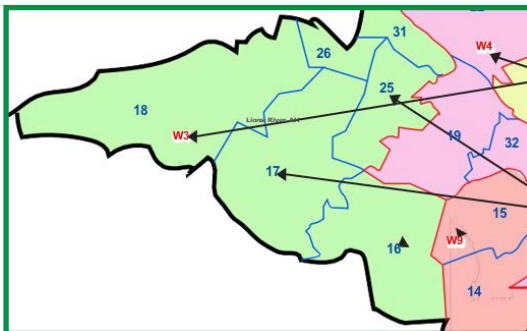
HOW TO MAKE PROPOSALS FOR WARD BOUNDARIES TO THE MDB

1

Ensure that you have a map of your municipality. Maps will be available on www.demarcation.org.za Click on "Ward delimitation" and then the name of the relevant province.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 1 The proposed wards are represented by the different colours and the red line around each colour is the boundary of the ward.
- 2 The boundaries of the voting districts (VD's) are indicated by the blue lines within a ward.



The MDB's proposed wards are in different colours and have red boundaries

In each ward there is one or more voting districts (VDs). The blue lines are the boundaries of VDs

Ward Number

- 3 Within each ward you will find a red number, this is the ward number. Within each VD you will find the ID number of the VD. Each ward is represented with a red number whilst the unique ID number of the VD is represented in blue.
- 4 Each ward is made up of one or more VDs.

5 On the right hand side of the map is a table showing the VD number, the number of registered voters in each VD and the name of the voting station in the VD.

ID	VD NUMBER	REGISTERED VOTERS	VOTING STATION
1	97900016	2480	Botrivier PS
2	97920018	1266	Sonskyn Kleuterskool Gebou
3	97920029	1405	Batansaal
4	97920041	312	Myddleton Gemeenskapsaal
5	97920052	993	Caledon CC
6	97920010	1342	Uitsig Creche
7	97940021	610	Emil Weber SS Genadandal
8	97950011	2790	Voorstekraal Morawiese Kersaal

6 On the left hand side of the map is the norm and the minimum and maximum number of voters allowed per ward. In this municipality a ward may not have less than 2 940 registered voters and not more than 3 977 registered voters.

Norm	3458
Minimum Norm	2940
Maximum Norm	3977

- 7 | If you are satisfied with the wards proposed by the MDB on the municipal map, complete form MDB1 and send it to the MDB.
- 8 | If you want to submit your own proposals you can cluster voting districts together to create your own proposed ward. If you want to cluster VDs 31, 32, 29 together as a ward you must determine whether your ward complies with the norm. Use the table on the right hand side of the map and add up the number of voters in the three VDs. If the total number of registered voters is between 2940 and 3977, a valid ward has been created. (Please note that the norm, minimum norm and maximum norm will be different for each municipality).
- 9 | If the ward created is valid use a fibre tip pen and draw the ward boundaries following the blue line.
- 10 | A change to the boundaries of one ward may impact on the boundaries of other wards and the number of registered voters in those wards. Therefore the process must be repeated to ensure that all other wards remain within the minimum and maximum number of registered voters.
- 11 | Once the boundaries of all the wards have been drawn and you have checked that the number of registered voters in the proposed wards fall between the minimum and maximum norm, the map with proposals and form MDB2 must be submitted to the MDB.



For more information visit the MDB website www.demarcation.org.za

Click on “**Ward delimitation**”
and then on the name of the relevant province.



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Municipal Demarcation Board