

THE WARD DELIMITATION PROCESS

Good Evening Jo'burgers, welcome to “*The Talk*” with myself, The Speaker of Council. We are live on various platforms such as the City of Jo'burg's social media platforms, as well as my own page which is “**Nonceba Molwele**” on Facebook and **@Speaker_CoJ** on Twitter.

We are also live on Jozi Fm until 7-00pm, following which we will then take the stream and play it on Eldos FM from 8-9pm. Today we are also joined by 2 new partners which are Radio Islam, and Eastwave FM. We also welcome Chai FM, who will stream the show tomorrow morning as per usual (Thursday from 09:00-10:00). Thank you very much to all the community media who partner with us, we appreciate your partnership because you play a key role in sharing these education series with our communities.

Greetings to my Co-host Dr Fundile Nyati and Mr Collins Hans. Dr Nyati is also our long time partner who ensures that these shows happen every week, he is our resident Dr who is also making waves in the area of community / civic education. Greetings to all the listeners, all our viewers, all the leadership present, officials, and a Special Greeting to my guest tonight, Mr Thabo Manyoni – The Chairperson of the Demarcation Board.

Ladies and Gentleman, these engagements are for the sole purpose of educating our communities on the business of council, and today we **unpack the ward delimitation process of Local Government**. Every five years, the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) delimits wards in metropolitan and local municipalities for electoral purposes.

In summary, wards are delimited, or determined by the MDB. This involves the division of the whole geographic area of a municipality into smaller geographic areas, called wards. Consultations with planning and geographical information management officials from municipalities lets the MDB align draft wards by considering local inputs and addressing geographic barriers, and the whole process must be concluded ideally not less than 10 months before the local government elections.

I must say that in this delimitation cycle, there have been various concerns raised by our communities and councillors.

I therefore thought it prudent to create a platform where we can engage with the Demarcations team directly, so that our communities begin to fully understand the process, the importance thereof, the criteria used in the delimitation process, the stakeholders involved, public participation process and how all of this affects them as the ordinary citizen. We invite community members to engage us and make their input or comments on the various platforms that we have made available.

Let me welcome my guest this evening, who is Mr Thabo Manyoni, the Chairperson of the Municipal Demarcation Board who is a man of many accolades. Mr Manyoni was the first Executive Mayor of the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality in the Free State Province. He was also the National Chairperson of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). Mr Manyoni was a Member of Parliament, and he is a political activist and local government practitioner, who has worked extensively towards the empowerment of disadvantaged communities through education and training, among many other positions that he has held in the public sphere. Thank you very much for joining us sir, we are honoured to have you on our platform and welcome to your team as well.

So lets get straight into it. Perhaps before I hand over to Mr Hans, let me start by simply asking Mr Manyoni: what is the concept of Ward Delimitation, and perhaps in answering that question if the Chairperson could touch on the Legislative framework or what the law says about the delimitation process...

MORE QUESTIONS:

1. Who are the stakeholders that are involved in the process and what is their role?
2. What are the challenges in the ward delimitation process?
3. How important is public participation in the process, and how should it be rolled out
4. How does this process affect the ordinary citizen?
5. What is the difference between demarcation and delimitation?