
GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**NO. 57****25 JANUARY 2016****DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE AREAS IN RESPECT OF SHERIFFS AFFECTED BY THE RATIONALISATION OF MAGISTERIAL DISTRICTS**

With further reference to the General Notice in respect of the above, published under General Notice No. 963 dated 28 November 2014, it is published, for general information that:

- (a) The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services has, in terms of section 2 of the Magistrates Courts Act, 1944 (Act No. 32 of 1944) published notices in the Gazette creating new magisterial districts in respect of the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces which come into effect on 25 January 2015. (See Government Notices 32 and 33 published in the Gazette of 15 January 2016). The implementation in respect of the latter provinces comes a year after implementation in the Gauteng and North Provinces took effect. (See Government Notice No. 43 Dated 24 January 2014). Implementation in respect of the remaining five (5) provinces will occur incrementally over the 3 years.
- (b) The service area for which any sheriff was initially appointed is not affected by changes made to magisterial districts or areas of jurisdiction under a Division of the High Court. Any consequential change that may be required or necessary in relation to any such areas for which a sheriff has been appointed, will be made by the Minister in terms of section 3(2)(a) of the Sheriffs Act, 1986 (Act No. 90 of 1986). The process for the re-description of areas, whether in respect of magisterial districts, or a subdivision within a district or an area under the jurisdiction of a Division of the High Court, will take place after the new magisterial districts or areas under the jurisdiction of the Division of a High Court have taken effect.
- (c) There is an on-going investigation underway which focuses in respect of affected and certain vacant areas in the Gauteng, the Western Cape, KwaZulu Natal and the

Eastern Cape Provinces. This investigation is conducted jointly with the South African Board for Sheriffs with a view to ensuring effective involvement and participation by the Sheriff's profession. The investigation in respect of the above areas is due for completion by 31 March 2016 or soon thereafter. The Department will continue to undertake similar investigations where necessary as a result of the outcome of the implementation of the rationalisation process. Details regarding such investigations will be communicated to the affected sheriffs, role players and communities.

Any inquiry regarding the changes to a service area of a sheriff as a result of the changes to magisterial districts must be addressed to the Deputy Director-General: Court Service, Department of Justice and Constitutional for the attention of Mr M Moagi at the following address:

Private Bag X 81

Pretoria

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Email address: Rationalisation@justice.gov.za