

BY-ELECTIONS DUE IN SETSOTO, SASOLBURG

17 April 2013

Ward by-elections in the Setsoto (Senekal) and Metsimaholo (Sasolburg) municipalities are among a number of by-elections announced by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to take place in all nine provinces on April 24.

The two areas have experienced violent service delivery protests in the past few years.

In Setsoto's town of Ficksburg, Andries Tatane died, allegedly at the hands of the police while leading a service delivery protest two years ago. Earlier this year Sasolburg's Zamdela township also experienced violent service delivery protests.

Ward 7 in Senekal will be contested by Morena Mabeleng, an independent candidate, Ntauleng Nkomo (ANC) and Fumane Motete (Cope).

The ward was previously represented by the ANC and became vacant as a result of the councillor's resignation.

Ward 10 in Sasolburg will be contested by Mbekezeli Maduna (independent), Nokuthula Mtshali (ANC), Safania Setungoane (DA) and Mantoa Moleli (PAC).

The ward was also previously represented by the ANC until the councillor resigned.

IEC spokesperson Kate Bapela yesterday said: "A total of 20 wards will be contested by 55 candidates of whom six are independent candidates and the rest represent 12 political parties."

The Eastern Cape and Free State will have two by-elections while Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape and Western Cape will have one each.

Limpopo will have the most number of by-elections with seven wards being contested and the IEC has recorded three apiece for Mpumalanga and the North West province.

Two of the by-elections, one in Eastern Cape and one in Mpumalanga, would be uncontested.

"Voting stations will be open from 7am to 9pm except in Ward 5 in Engcobo municipality in the Eastern Cape, where voting stations will close at 7pm," the IEC said.

Bapela said a total of 105393 voters were registered in the 20 wards and 112 voting districts where by-elections would be taking place.

She said electoral staff were well-trained and would ensure that all by-elections go smoothly.

"All is in order and we are most certainly ready. We always have smooth by-elections," Bapela said.

[Source: www.thenewage.co.za]