



South Africa's
worst- and best-performing
local municipalities

OCTOBER 2021

Dr Eugene Brink

Manager: Centre for Local Government
Community Affairs
AfriForum
Cell: 079 071 1799
Email: eugene.brink@afirforum.co.za

Morné Mostert

Manager: Local Government Affairs
Community Affairs
AfriForum
Cell: 082 809 7257
Email: morne.mostert@afirforum.co.za

Content

Introduction	1
Worst-performing municipalities	2
Ingquza Hill (Eastern Cape)	2
Ntabankulu Local Municipality (Eastern Cape)	2
Tswaing Local Municipality (North West)	3
uMhlabuyalingana Local Municipality (KwaZulu-Natal)	3
Ratlou Local Municipality (North West)	4
Best-performing municipalities	5
Witzenberg Local Municipality (Western Cape)	5
Swartland Local Municipality (Western Cape)	5
Mossel Bay Local Municipality (Western Cape)	6
Drakenstein Local Municipality (Western Cape)	6
Swellendam Local Municipality (Western Cape)	7

Introduction

This report is a very concise summary of the five worst-performing and five best-performing municipalities in the country. Key indicators that relate to service delivery, employment and management were used and it was compiled in light of the impending 2021 local government elections. The five best-performing municipalities are all located in the Western Cape. No municipality outside this province even approximated a position on this prestigious and short list (not even Gauteng), while several municipalities in the Western Cape were close contenders to be included. The five worst-performers are largely located in the Eastern Cape, North West and KwaZulu-Natal. Yet again, there were many contenders for positions on this ignominious list. It is a sad indictment on the state of local government in the country that one province delivers all of the excellence pertaining to local government – albeit only in a relative sense in the case of certain Western Cape municipalities – while the rest is comprised of a sea of dysfunctional and mediocre municipalities that is punctuated by rare achievers. Certain provinces, such as the North West and Free State, are completely replete with municipal decay and implosion.

Worst-performing municipalities

Ingquza Hill (Eastern Cape)

Service delivery data:¹

- Households connected to sewerage: 1,2%
- Households enjoying weekly refuse removal: 2,9%
- Households with piped water inside their dwelling: 1%

Unemployment rate: 41,9%²

Last audit opinion by Auditor-General: Disclaimed with findings³

Ntabankulu Local Municipality (Eastern Cape)

Service delivery data:⁴

- Households connected to sewerage: 0,5%
- Households enjoying weekly refuse removal: 1%
- Households with piped water inside their dwelling: 1,1%

Unemployment rate: 41,4%⁴

Last audit opinion by Auditor-General: Unqualified with findings⁵

¹ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa – Ingquza Hill Local Municipality*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1035/ingquza-hill-local-municipality>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

² Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Council. 2017. *Ingquza Hill Local Municipality: Socio-economic review and outlook, 2017*. Available at https://www.ecsecc.org/documentrepository/informationcentre/ngquza-hill-local-municipality_35291.pdf. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

³ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

⁴ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa – Ntabankulu Local Municipality*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1036/ntabankulu-local-municipality>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

⁵ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

Tswaing Local Municipality (North West)

Service delivery data:⁶

- Households connected to sewerage: 38,2%
- Households enjoying weekly refuse removal: 29,1%
- Households with piped water inside their dwelling: 9,1%

Unemployment rate: 28,7%⁷

Last audit opinion by Auditor-General: Qualified with findings⁸

uMhlabuyalingana Local Municipality (KwaZulu-Natal)

Service delivery data:⁹

- Households connected to sewerage: 1%
- Households enjoying weekly refuse removal: 0,4%
- Households with piped water inside their dwelling: 1,6%

Last known unemployment rate: 47,1%¹⁰

Last audit opinion by Auditor-General: Unqualified with findings¹¹

⁶ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa – Tswaing Local Municipality*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1206/tswaing-local-municipality>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

⁷ Tswaing Local Municipality. 2020. *Adopted integrated development plan 2019-2020*. Available at <https://www.tswaing.gov.za/images/Tswaing%20IDP%202019-20.pdf>. Accessed on 14 October 2021.

⁸ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

⁹ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa – uMhlabuyalingana Local Municipality*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1096/umhlabuyalingana-local-municipality>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

¹⁰ StatsSA. 2021. *Umhlabuyalingana*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=umhlabuyalingana-municipality. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

¹¹ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

Ratlou Local Municipality (North West)

Service delivery data:¹²

- Households connected to sewerage: 0,4%
- Households enjoying weekly refuse removal: 0,1%
- Households with piped water inside their dwelling: 0,7%

Last known unemployment rate: 44%¹²

Last audit opinion by Auditor-General: Disclaimed with findings¹³

¹² YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa – Ratlou Local Municipality*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1205/ratlou-local-municipality>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

¹³ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

Best-performing municipalities

Witzenberg Local Municipality (Western Cape)

Service delivery data:¹⁴

- Households connected to sewerage: 92,4%
- Households enjoying weekly refuse removal: 87,1%
- Households with piped water inside their dwelling: 82,2%

Last known unemployment rate: 6,7% in 2017¹⁵

Last audit opinion by Auditor-General: Clean¹⁶

Swartland Local Municipality (Western Cape)

Service delivery data:¹⁷

- Households connected to sewerage: 86,2%
- Households enjoying weekly refuse removal: 83,5%
- Households with piped water inside their dwelling: 84%

Last known unemployment rate: 14% in 2016¹⁸

Last audit opinion by Auditor-General: Clean¹⁹

¹⁴ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa – Witzenberg Local Municipality*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1211/witzenberg-local-municipality>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

¹⁵ Western Cape Government. 2018. *Witzenberg Municipality 2018*. Available at <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/provincial-treasury/files/atoms/files/WC022%20Witzenberg%202018%20Socio-economic%20Profile%20%28SEP-LG%29%20F.pdf>. Accessed on 14 October 2021.

¹⁶ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

¹⁷ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa – Swartland Local Municipality*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1230/swartland-local-municipality>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

¹⁸ Swartland Municipality. 2019. *Integrated development plan for 2017-2022*. Available at <http://www.swartland.org.za/media/docs/2019/IDP/IDP%20Amended%20Doc%2030%20May%202019s.pdf>. Accessed on 14 October 2021.

¹⁹ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

Mossel Bay Local Municipality (Western Cape)

Service delivery data:²⁰

- Households connected to sewerage: 91,1%
- Households enjoying weekly refuse removal: 87,2%
- Households with piped water inside their dwelling: 82,4%

Last known unemployment rate: 14,8%²¹

Last audit opinion by Auditor-General: Clean²²

Drakenstein Local Municipality (Western Cape)

Service delivery data:²³

- Households connected to sewerage: 96,9%
- Households enjoying weekly refuse removal: 90,6%
- Households with piped water inside their dwelling: 84,5%

Last known unemployment rate: 18,3%²⁴

Last audit opinion by Auditor-General: Clean²⁵

²⁰ YES!MEDIA. 2019. Municipalities of South Africa – *Mossel Bay Local Municipality*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1220/mossel-bay-local-municipality>. Accessed on 7 April 2021.

²¹ Mossel Bay Municipality. 2020. *Third review of the fourth-generation integrated development plan draft 2020/2021*. Available at <https://mosselbay.gov.za/20202021-third-review-fourth-generation-integrated-development-plan>. Accessed on 14 October 2021.

²² Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated General Report on the Local Government Outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

²³ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa – Drakenstein Local Municipality*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1208/drakenstein-local-municipality>. Accessed on 22 March 2021.

²⁴ Drakenstein Local Municipality. 2021. *2017/2022 Integrated development plan (IDP)*. Available at http://www.drakenstein.gov.za/docs/Documents/1c.%20IDP%202018-2019%20Review%20DRAKENSTEIN%202017-2022_final.pdf#search=Unemployment. Accessed on 14 October 2021.

²⁵ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.

Swellendam Local Municipality (Western Cape)

Service delivery data:²⁶

- Households connected to sewerage: 93,9%
- Households enjoying weekly refuse removal: 86,5%
- Households with piped water inside their dwelling: 86,3%

Last known unemployment rate: 6,4% in 2018²⁷

Last audit opinion by Auditor-General: Clean²⁸

²⁶ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa – Swellendam local municipality*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1224/swellendam-local-municipality>. Accessed on 7 October 2021.

²⁷ Western Cape Government. 2019. *Swellendam Municipality*. Available at <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/provincial-treasury/files/atoms/files/WC034%202019%20Socio-economic%20Profile%20-%20Swellendam%20Municipality.pdf>. Accessed on 14 October 2021.

²⁸ Auditor General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 13 October 2021.