




AFRIFORUM'S MUNICIPAL AUDIT FOR THE NORTH WEST

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Introduction

AfriForum's municipal audit aims to measure the quality of life and level of service delivery in the country's respective municipal areas. Municipalities are the level of government closest to people and provide many of the important services that people are dependent on to survive and thrive, for example, water and electricity provision, and road maintenance. However, this level of government in South Africa is to a large extent in a dilapidated and deteriorating state, thus affecting millions of people in the country. The additional aim of our audit is to provide an overall picture of municipalities, thereby continuously focusing the attention on the state of affairs within these municipalities and their residents. The report also serves as an informative tool for the public, the media, opinion formers, decision-makers and administrators to understand their municipalities and apply pressure to bring about change where necessary. The municipal audit examines the demographics, socio-

economic conditions, service delivery issues and management of municipalities. Each report analyses the municipalities of a specific province, and each municipality is awarded an impression score out of ten. The follow-up reports on specific provinces also indicate which municipalities have improved and which municipalities have deteriorated when compared to the findings of previous reports. The first edition of this audit dealt with South Africa's most densely populated province and economic hub, Gauteng. This report deals with the North West province, one of the country's mining and farming hubs. As the analysis shows, all the province's municipalities are in dire straits. Although statistics on matters such as housing and education (both provincial competencies) seem positive and even show overall improvement, most municipal indicators are far below expectations and overall financial management is in a deplorable state.

City of Matlosana Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

More than 420 000 people belonging to 135 894 households reside in this municipality. The population growth is 1,04%.¹ Some 30% of the population is under 15 years of age, 66% are aged between 15 and 64, whilst 4,9% are over 65 years of age. The categories mentioned have shown slight variations over the years.

People over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education comprise roughly 8% of the population; those who have obtained the National Senior Certificate 32% and those with tertiary

education close to 9%.² Tswana is by far the most commonly spoken language in Matlosana, being the home language of 36% of the residents.³ Sotho is second with close to 20%, and Afrikaans comes third with 17,3%.

As far as housing is concerned, 89,2% of the households live in formal dwellings. In 2011 this figure was 82,9%.⁴ The latest official unemployment rate is 32,7% and the youth unemployment rate stands at 43,1%.⁵

Service delivery

The percentage of households with piped water inside dwellings has decreased over the years and only 48,7% of households now have such access.⁶ The state has not released its Blue and Green Drop Reports for years, which complicates gauging the quality of drinking water. AfriForum's own 2020 blue and green drop report shows that the drinking water in Klerksdorp, the main town in Matlosana, is clean.⁷ It has been classified as clean since reporting by AfriForum commenced in 2013. This report also contains tests done on sewage treatment and some serious reservations were expressed regarding the quality and disposal of wastewater. Poorly maintained sewerage

systems in the municipality have an adverse effect on the pollution of rivers in the area.

Currently, 95,1% of households have access to a flush toilet, which has increased from 92,8% in 2011.⁸ Close to 92% of the households are provided with weekly refuse removal and this has also increased slightly over the years, whilst 94,3% of households use electricity for lighting (compared to 90,3% in 2011). AfriForum's 2020 report on municipal landfill sites shows that Klerksdorp's landfill site is hopelessly inadequate. It attained a score of only 36% during this audit.⁹

Management

Matlosana was the only municipality in North West to obtain an "unqualified with findings" opinion from the Auditor-General (AG) in 2017/2018 – an improvement on the qualified opinion from the previous year.¹⁰ The rest of the municipalities in the province are far worse off. However, this does not mean everything is going well in Matlosana. Irregular expenditure of R2,7 billion was incurred by the municipality, as well as R141 million in unauthorised expenditure and R52,2 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure. Consequently, this opinion regressed again in 2018/2019 to "qualified with findings".¹¹ In this financial year, the municipality

was also one of the largest contributors to accumulated irregular expenditure at a rate of R3 billion.

Another worrying aspect of Matlosana's management is that its cash balance as on 30 June 2018 was standing at zero.¹² Therefore, the municipality could not cover even a single day's operating expenses with the money available. Some 20% of the operating expenditure is spent on staff salaries and wages.

Matlosana's score: 1,5 out of 10

¹ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: City of Matlosana local municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1193/city-of-matlosana-local-municipality>.

² Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: City of Matlosana local municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1193/city-of-matlosana-local-municipality>.

³ Stats SA. 2019. *City of Matlosana*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=city-of-matlosana-municipality.

⁴ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: City of Matlosana local municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1193/city-of-matlosana-local-municipality>.

⁵ Stats SA. 2019. *City of Matlosana*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=city-of-matlosana-municipality.

⁶ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: City of Matlosana local municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1193/city-of-matlosana-local-municipality>.

⁷ AfriForum. 2020. *Blue and green drop project 2020*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Blou-en-groen_2020_Engels.pdf.

⁸ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: City of Matlosana local municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1193/city-of-matlosana-local-municipality>.

⁹ AfriForum. 2020. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill site audit project for 2020*. Available at <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Landfill-site-audit-report.pdf>.

¹⁰ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201617/GR/16%20provincial%20overviews.pdf>.

¹¹ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2020. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes – MFMA 2018-19*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201819/GR/MFMA%20GR%202018-19%20Final%20View.pdf>.

¹² Municipal Money. 2019. *City of Matlosana*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW403-city-of-matlosana/>.

Ditsobotla Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

A total of 181 865 people belonging to 54 154 households resided in Ditsobotla in 2016 compared to 166 952 in 2011 in 43 885 households.¹³ In terms of age structure, 27% of the population is under the age of 15; 68,3% is between the ages of 15 and 64, whilst 4,8% is over 65.

The education profile has improved over the years, but the tertiary qualification profile has deteriorated. In 2011, people over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education comprised 14,4% of the population; this improved to 8,9% in 2016.¹⁴ Between these years, those over 20 having obtained a National Senior Certificate grew from 20,3% to 25,4% while those with tertiary education fell

from 6,5% to 5,9%.

Tswana is by far the most commonly spoken language in the municipality, being the first language of nearly 80% of the population.¹⁵ Afrikaans is the second most prevalent language with close to 10% of speakers; English comes in at a distant third with 2,3%.

Of the households, 80,5% lived in a formal dwelling in 2016 and this figure increased from 74,6% in 2011.¹⁶ The last known official unemployment rate was 28,5% and the youth unemployment rate was 37%.¹⁷

Service delivery

Between 2011 and 2016, the number of households with piped water inside their dwelling declined from 35,2% to 31,8%.¹⁸ AfriForum's blue and green drop report for 2020 showed that the drinking water in Biesiesvlei has been classified as clean since 2020 (the first time it was tested), in Coligny since 2017 and Lichtenburg since 2014 (except for 2018, when no tests were performed).¹⁹ In 2011, 44,4% of households had a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system and this figure rose to 55% in 2016.²⁰ AfriForum's blue and green drop report showed that Coligny and Lichtenburg's sewage treatment processes did not comply with national water quality standards. Tests showed more than 10 000 units of E. coli per

100 ml of treated sewage in Coligny in 2020. In Lichtenburg this was more than 50 000 units in 2019, although this fell to less than 1 000 in 2020. Both towns' sewage treatment is rarely classified as clean. As far as the use of electricity is concerned, 88,1% of households use it for lighting purposes whereas this figure was 74,6% in 2011.²¹ Only 36,5% of households are provided with weekly refuse removal, with this figure being 38,1% in 2011. The municipality's landfill sites are shockingly inadequate. In AfriForum's national audit of such sites in 2020, Coligny achieved a 0% rating and Lichtenburg 2%.²² These ratings are representative of the derelict state of the province's landfill sites, with only 2 in 18 complying with national standards.

Management

Ditsobotla's audit opinion for the last three financial years was "disclaimed with findings".²³ The Auditor-General lamented the poor quality of financial statements and the lack of information on irregular, unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. A lack of negative consequences or deterrents for poor performance and transgressions, along with vacancies in key positions, were

identified as the root causes for the sad state of financial affairs at the municipality.

Ditsobotla's cash balance at the end of June 2018 was R74 108 789 – a rarely seen positive.²⁴ Close to 40% of operating expenditure were spent on staff salaries and wages.

Ditsobotla's score: 2 out of 10

¹³ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ditsobotla Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1202/ditsobotla-local-municipality>.

¹⁴ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ditsobotla Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1202/ditsobotla-local-municipality>.

¹⁵ Stats SA. 2020. *Ditsobotla*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=ditsobotla-municipality.

¹⁶ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ditsobotla local municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1202/ditsobotla-local-municipality>.

¹⁷ Stats SA. 2020. *Ditsobotla*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=ditsobotla-municipality.

¹⁸ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ditsobotla local municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1202/ditsobotla-local-municipality>.

¹⁹ AfriForum. 2020. *Blue and green drop project November 2020*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Blou-en-groen_2020_Engels.pdf.

²⁰ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ditsobotla local municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1202/ditsobotla-local-municipality>.

²¹ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ditsobotla local municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/1202/ditsobotla-local-municipality>.

²² AfriForum. 2020. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill site audit project for 2020*. Available at <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Landfill-site-audit-report.pdf>.

²³ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2020. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes – MFMA 2018-19*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201819/GR/MFMA%20GR%202018-19%20Final%20View.pdf>.

²⁴ Municipal Money. 2019. *Ditsobotla*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW384-ditsobotla/>.

Greater Taung Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

The population of Greater Taung has shrunk over the years from 177 642 people in 2011 to 167 827 in 2016.²⁵ The number of households is now 46 168 – compared to 48 613 in 2011. The population under 15 years of age has also shrunk and stands at 34,2%. People between 15 and 64 of age make out 58,4% of the population and those aged over 65 stands at 7,5%. People over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education comprise 13,8% of the population; those who obtained a National Senior Certificate almost 20%; and those with a tertiary

qualification 4,3%.²⁶ Setswana is by far the most widely spoken language in the municipality with close to 90% of the population regarding it as their mother tongue.²⁷ Afrikaans, English, Xhosa and Sotho have small percentages of native speakers. Just over 90% of the households resided in formal dwellings in 2016; this figure was 88,5% in 2011.²⁸ The last known official unemployment rate was 49,8% whilst the youth unemployment rate stood at 61,7%.²⁹

Service delivery

The water situation in the municipality is quite dire. Only 4,6% of the population have piped water inside their dwelling and this percentage has deteriorated over the years. In 2019, North West premier Job Mokgoro made a commitment to resolve the impasse over the completion of the maintenance of the Taung Dam.³⁰ The dam is supposed to provide water to 126 villages and settlements in the surrounding municipalities, but it remains unclear whether the implementation of the project has been finalised. AfriForum did not do any drinking or sewage water tests in the municipality and it is unclear what the quality of the sewage and drinking water is. Only 7,9% of households in Greater Taung have

access to a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system and this figure has also shown a steady decline over the years.³¹ The electricity picture is, however, much brighter, with 92,7% of households using electricity for lighting. This is an improvement from the 88,5% recorded in 2011. The same does not apply to refuse removal: only 5,2% of households are provided with weekly refuse removal by the municipality – down from 7,4% in 2011. AfriForum did not audit any landfill sites in the municipality, but the deplorable state of most sites in the North West province and lack of refuse removal services in Greater Taung do not allow any expectation of functionality in this regard.

Management

The last audit opinion rendered by the Auditor-General for the 2017/2018 financial year was “qualified with findings”.³² The previous opinions were also “qualified with findings”. The AG expressed serious reservations on the quality of the municipality's financial statements. There were repeat findings on lack of

compliance with key legislation and procurement processes. However, the municipality had a positive cash balance of R222 506 924 at the end of June 2018.³³ More than one-third of operating expenditure is spent on staff salaries and wages.

Greater Taung's score: 2,5 out of 10

²⁵ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Greater Taung Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1196/greater-taung-local-municipality>.

²⁶ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Greater Taung Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1196/greater-taung-local-municipality>.

²⁷ Stats SA. 2020. *Greater Taung*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=greater-taung-municipality.

²⁸ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Greater Taung Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1196/greater-taung-local-municipality>.

²⁹ Stats SA. 2020. *Greater Taung*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=greater-taung-municipality.

³⁰ South African Government News Agency. 2019. *Taung Dam impasse to be resolved*. 4 April. Available at <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/taung-dam-impasse-be-resolved>.

³¹ Stats SA. 2020. *Greater Taung*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=greater-taung-municipality.

³² Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%208.pdf>.

³³ Municipal Money. 2019. *Greater Taung*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW394-greater-taung/>.

JB Marks Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

The population grew from 219 463 people belonging to 67 098 households in 2011 to 243 527 people in 80 572 households in 2016.³⁴ Those under the age of 15 comprise 28,2% of the residents; those between 15 and 64 comprise 66,9%, and those older than 65 represent 4,9%.

The percentage of people over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education declined from 9,2% in 2011 to 8,9%.³⁵ The percentage of those with a National Senior Certificate grew from 26,6% to 30,7% and those with tertiary education increased from 11,4% to 12,6%.

Due to the recent establishment of the JB Marks municipality (it came into existence in 2016), aggregate linguistic information is

not available. Some conclusions can, however, be drawn from its former constituent municipalities – Tlokwe and Ventersdorp. In Potchefstroom (the main town of the former Tlokwe) Tswana (at 40%) and Afrikaans (at 27,1%) are by far the two prevalent languages.³⁶ In Ventersdorp, Tswana is by far the most commonly spoken language and nearly 75% of the residents have it as their home language.³⁷ The second most prevalent language is Afrikaans at 9%; the other official languages represented in the area are negligible.

A full 82% of the households reside in formal housing and this percentage has risen over the years.³⁸ No reliable statistics regarding the official and youth unemployment rates could be obtained.

Service delivery

The portion of the population having access to piped water decreased between 2011 and 2016 from 49% to 46% due to the rollout of services not keeping pace with the population growth.³⁹ AfriForum's 2020 blue and green drop report showed that Potchefstroom's drinking water has been clean since the organisation started measuring it in 2013.⁴⁰ Ventersdorp's water has also been rated as clean (although no tests were performed in 2019). The municipality's latest Integrated Development Plan (IDP) states the following regarding sanitation in JB Marks: "The data shows that there has been a steady increase in the number of households with access to flush toilets from 71% in 2011 to 76% in 2016."

Potchefstroom's sewerage systems were classified as clean by AfriForum during the last two years of measurement. According to the municipality's IDP, access to electricity stands at 87% whilst refuse removal increased from 57% to 71% of households between 2011 and 2016. AfriForum's report on landfill sites⁴¹ showed Potchefstroom's landfill site to be in sharp decline. The last score was 16%, while previous scores were 100% (2016), 90% (2017), 94% (2018) and 64% (2019). In addition, Ventersdorp scored only 3% in 2018 and 0% in 2020 (the only years that it was rated).

³⁴ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: JB Marks local municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1246/jb-marks-local-municipality>.

³⁵ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: JB Marks local municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1246/jb-marks-local-municipality>.

³⁶ Stats SA. 2020. *Tlokwe*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=tlokwe-city-council-municipality.

³⁷ Stats SA. 2020. *Ventersdorp*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=ventersdorp-municipality.

³⁸ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: JB Marks local municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1246/jb-marks-local-municipality>.

³⁹ JB Marks Local Municipality. 2019. *JB Marks Local Municipality Final Integration Plan 2018-2019*. Available at <http://www.jbmarks.co.za/sites/default/files/2019-06%20documents/Finale%20%20IDP%20Doc.%202018-19%20FINAL.pdf>.

⁴⁰ AfriForum. 2020. *Blue and green drop project November 2020*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Blou-en-groen_2020_Engels.pdf.

⁴¹ AfriForum. 2020. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill site audit project for 2020*. Available at <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Landfill-site-audit-report.pdf>.

Management

The Auditor-General's opinion for the 2017/2018 financial year was "qualified with findings", but at least this was an improvement on previous findings.⁴² The municipality recorded an irregular expenditure of R1,5 billion and was one of five municipalities that together contributed 63% to the total irregular spending in North West. Also, it incurred R168 million in unauthorised expenditure and R3,7 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure. A lack of negative consequences or deterrents for transgressions and poor performance as well as instability and vacancies in key positions were identified as root causes of these problems. The AG's opinion was also "qualified with findings" in 2018/2019.⁴³

JB Marks' cash balance at the end of June 2018 was R246 646 388, and 1,8 months' operating expenses could be covered with the cash available.⁴⁴ Staff's wages and salaries comprised almost 25% of the operating expenditure.

To further complicate matters, the municipality was placed under administration in May 2019.⁴⁵ A letter from the office of the North West Local Government MEC to the JB Marks mayoral office did not specify the reasons for the decision, but did mention that "there are evident signs of poor administration and governance in the municipality, which negatively affect service delivery".

JB Marks' score: 4 out of 10

⁴² Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%208.pdf>.

⁴³ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2020. *Consolidated General Report on National and Provincial Audit Outcomes*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/2018-19%20PFMA%20Consol%20GR.PDF>.

⁴⁴ Municipal Money. 2019. *Ventersdorp/Tlokwe*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW405-ventersdorptlokwe/>.

⁴⁵ Evans, S. 2019. *JB Marks Municipality in the North West placed under administration*. Mail & Guardian, 15 May. Available at <https://mg.co.za/article/2019-05-15-b-marks-municipality-in-the-north-west-placed-under-administration/>.

Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

The municipality has a shrinking population that fell from 105 789 people belonging to 28 531 households in 2011 to 102 703 in 28 274 households in 2016.⁴⁶ Those under the age of 15 comprise 35,9% of the population; those between 15 and 64 make up 58,5%; and those over 65 represent 5,5%.

The percentage of people over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education fell from 28,6% in 2011 to 25,7% in 2016.⁴⁷ Those who obtained a National Senior Certificate rose from 14%

to 18,3% and the group with a tertiary qualification decreased from 4,5% to 3,9%. Tswana is spoken by 90% of the population and the second most commonly spoken language is Afrikaans, with only 3,4%.⁴⁸

A solid 94,4% of the population live in formal dwellings – up from 89% in 2011.⁴⁹ The last measured official unemployment rate was 30,2% and the youth unemployment rate was 38,8%.

Service delivery

A negligible 3,4% of the households in Kagisano-Molopo have access to piped water inside their dwelling.⁵⁰ The worst part is that this shows a considerable decline from the 11,3% indicated in 2011. AfriForum has not measured the quality of the drinking water or sewage treatment in the municipality and thus no firm conclusions can be drawn on these matters.

In terms of sewerage access, the picture is equally sombre. Only 4,3% of the population have access to flush toilets connected to

a sewerage system and this represents a decrease from the 7,5% recorded in 2011.⁵¹ However, a solid 83,2% of households use electricity for lighting and this figure was 73,8% in 2011. The most shocking part is that not a single household is provided with weekly refuse removal by the municipality; a drop from the 1% recorded in 2011. AfriForum also did not measure the compliance of landfill sites in the municipality with national standards and no conclusion can be drawn regarding this.

⁴⁶ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1232/kagisano-molopo-local-municipality>.

⁴⁷ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1232/kagisano-molopo-local-municipality>.

⁴⁸ Stats SA. 2020. *Kagisano Molopo*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=kagisanomolopo-municipality.

⁴⁹ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1232/kagisano-molopo-local-municipality>.

⁵⁰ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1232/kagisano-molopo-local-municipality>.

⁵¹ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1232/kagisano-molopo-local-municipality>.

Management

The Auditor-General's audit opinion for the 2017/2018 financial year was "disclaimed with findings" and it showed a deterioration compared to previous years.⁵² As is the case elsewhere in the province, there are serious findings on the quality of financial statements made available by the municipality. More than R111 million in irregular expenditure, as well as R25 million in unauthorised spending, was notched up in the reported financial year. The accumulated outstanding irregular expenditure was roughly R388 million. A lack of negative consequences or deterrents for poor performance as well as instability in key positions contributed to this sad state of affairs. In 2019, the municipality legally staved

off an attempt by the provincial government to place it under administration, but only managed to do so because due process was not followed.⁵³ It had, however, already been placed under administration in August 2018 to avoid its collapse and inability to deliver services to residents.⁵⁴ This led to communities refusing to vote in the 2019 election and staging protests during election day. The audit opinion in 2018/2019 was "qualified with findings".⁵⁵ The municipality's cash balance at the end of June 2018 was R38 607 324 and this was barely sufficient to cover 2,5 months' operating expenditure.⁵⁶ A total of 17,06% of the operating expenditure is spent on staff salaries and wages.

Kagisano-Molopo's score: 1,5 out of 10

⁵² Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%208.pdf>.

⁵³ Ngatane, N. 2019. *Placement of Kagisano-Molopo Municipality under administration set aside*. Eyewitness News. Available at <https://ewn.co.za/2019/09/16/placement-of-kagisano-molopo-municipality-under-administration-set-aside>.

⁵⁴ Tshelle, B. 2019. *Angry villagers boycott polls*. Sowetan Live, 9 May. Available at <https://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/south-africa/2019-05-09-angry-villagers-boycott-polls/>.

⁵⁵ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2020. *Consolidated General Report on the Local Government Outcomes*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/2018-19%20PFMA%20Consol%20GR.PDF>.

⁵⁶ Municipal Money. 2019. *Kagisano/Molopo*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW397-kagisanomolopo/>.

Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

The municipality had a population of nearly 60 000 people belonging to 18 787 households in 2016; up from roughly 51 000 in 14 673 households) in 2011.⁵⁷ The population segment of those under the age of 15 has been rising steadily and now comprises one-third of the population, whilst the age segment 15–64 is declining and comprises 61%. Those over 65 make up 5,4%.

Those older than 20 who did not complete their school education comprise 8,4% of the population while being at nearly 16% in 2011.⁵⁸ Those who obtained a National Senior Certificate accounted for 27,3% and those with tertiary education stand at 7% – thus

showing an improvement on all education levels.

The vast majority (more than two-thirds of the population) speak Tswana at home and the second and third home languages are Afrikaans (17,4%) and English (4,2%), respectively.⁵⁹ In terms of housing, some 67% now live in formal houses and this has shown a decline from roughly 72% in 2011. According to the municipality's 2019/2020 Integrated Development Plan the unemployment rate is 23%.⁶⁰ This was 20,5% (with 26% youth unemployment) in 2011. The municipality is heavily dependent on the mining sector.⁶¹

Service delivery

Water delivery has deteriorated over the years and only 27,7% of households now have piped water inside their dwellings compared with close to 35% in 2011.⁶² AfriForum's tests showed the water in Koster in the Kgetlengrivier municipality to be clean in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.⁶³

In terms of sewerage, 62,5% of households have access to a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system; this figure was 52% in 2011. Electricity for lighting is used by 87% of households and this has

been increasing steadily over the years. The state of refuse removal is not encouraging, with only 27,5% of households provided with weekly refuse removal by the municipality. Most households still use their own refuse dumps. This has seen a decline from the 44,5% obtained almost a decade ago. A landfill site audit by AfriForum in 2020 showed a compliance score of only 4% in 2019 and 2% in 2020.⁶⁴

Management

The municipality received a "disclaimed with findings" opinion from the Auditor-General during the audits of the last two financial years.⁶⁵ This has deteriorated from an "unqualified" opinion in 2016/2017. It was also one of the municipalities that incurred an intervention from the provincial executive in terms of section 139(1) (b) of the Constitution. Moreover, it incurred irregular spending of R14,2 million in 2017/2018 and the accumulated irregular spending stands at R69 million. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure was at

R4,6 million and all the possible root causes, such as a lack of negative consequences or deterrents for poor performance as well as vacancies in key positions, were applicable in Kgetlengrivier's case.

At the end of the 2017/2018 financial year, the municipality had a negative cash balance of R7 888 026.⁶⁶ Nearly 30% of the operating budget was spent on staff wages and salaries.

Kgetlengrivier's score: 1,5 out of 10

⁵⁷ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1187/kgetlengrivier-local-municipality>.

⁵⁸ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1187/kgetlengrivier-local-municipality>.

⁵⁹ Stats SA. 2020. *Kgetlengrivier*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=kgetlengrivier-municipality. Accessed on 3 August 2020.

⁶⁰ Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality. 2020. *Integrated Development Plan 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.kgetlengrivier.gov.za/intergrated-development-plan/>.

⁶¹ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1187/kgetlengrivier-local-municipality>.

⁶² Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1187/kgetlengrivier-local-municipality>.

⁶³ AfriForum. 2020. *Blue and green drop project November 2020*. Available at <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/AfriForum-Blue-and-green-drop-project.pdf>.

⁶⁴ AfriForum. 2020. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill site audit project for 2020*. Available at <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Landfill-site-audit-report.pdf>.

⁶⁵ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2020. *Consolidated General Report on the Local Government outcomes*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Reporting/MFMAReports/2017-2018MFMA.aspx>.

⁶⁶ Municipal Money. 2019. *Kgetlengrivier*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW374-kgetlengrivier/>.

Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

The population of the municipality of Lekwa-Teemane is gradually rising and stood at 56 025 people belonging to 16 496 households in 2016, compared with 53 248 in 15 000 households in 2011.⁶⁷ The population is also slowly ageing, with the share of those under the age of 15 dropping from 31,8% to 31,6%. Those aged between 15 and 64 grew from 62,1% to 62,8% and those over 65 now constitute 5,6% of the population.

The level of education has seen a steady improvement and the percentage of those over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education has dropped from 17,9% to 9,6% in five years.⁶⁸ Those who have obtained a National Senior Certificate now account

for 28,1% and those with tertiary education now stand at 4,8% of the population.

Tswana (the first language of 63,3% of the population) and Afrikaans (in second place with 17,5%) are the two dominant languages in the municipality.⁶⁹ The number of households living in formal dwellings has increased significantly from 79,2% to 93,3%.⁷⁰ The municipality's website contains no recent Integrated Development Plan and thus no definitive conclusion could be drawn on the latest unemployment rate. The official rate in 2011 was 30,5% and the youth unemployment rate was close to 40% at the time.

Service delivery

The percentage of households with access to piped water inside their dwellings has remained almost unchanged at 30% since 2011. AfriForum's own audit showed Christiana's water to be clean from 2014 to 2020.⁷¹

The percentage of households with a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system improved slightly from 86,8% to 87,1%, whilst those using electricity for lighting increased from 86,1% to 94,1%.⁷²

Weekly refuse removal by the municipality also showed an encouraging increase, from 73,5% of all households to close to 86%. However, AfriForum's audit on landfill sites showed the dismal state of the sites in the municipality. Bloemhof and Christiana scored only 44% and 18% respectively in 2020. In the preceding years they had equally dismal scores.⁷³

Management

The last three audit opinions by the Auditor-General were disclaimers of opinion.⁷⁴ Among other damning pronouncements, the following was noted by the AG in the 2017/2018 report:

The financial statements were not properly reviewed by the accounting officer before being submitted for audit. Key management vacancies have not been filled and the municipality continues to rely on the work and assistance of consultants.⁷⁵

Accumulated irregular expenditure of more than R60 million was noted in the 2017/2018 report, as well as R1,2 million for that year alone. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure amounted to R4,2 million and the 2017/2018 financial year ended with a positive cash balance of R1 707 721.⁷⁶ Some 20% of the operating budget is spent on staff wages and salaries.

Lekwa-Teemane's score: 1,5 out of 10

⁶⁷ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1198/lekwa-teemane-local-municipality>.

⁶⁸ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1198/lekwa-teemane-local-municipality>.

⁶⁹ Stats SA. 2020. *Lekwa-Teemane*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=lekwa-teemane-municipality.

⁷⁰ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1198/lekwa-teemane-local-municipality>.

⁷¹ AfriForum. 2020. *Blue and green drop project November 2020*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Blou-en-groen_2020_Engels.pdf.

⁷² Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1198/lekwa-teemane-local-municipality>.

⁷³ AfriForum. 2020. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill site audit project for 2020*. Available at <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Landfill-site-audit-report.pdf>.

⁷⁴ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2020. *Consolidated General Report on the Local Government outcomes*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Reporting/MFMAReports/2017-2018MFMA.aspx>.

⁷⁵ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%208.pdf>.

⁷⁶ Municipal Money. 2019. *Lekwa-Teemane*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW396-lekwa-teemane/>.

Madibeng Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

Madibeng is one of North West's more populous municipalities and its population continues to grow. The population grew from 476 000 people belonging to 160 000 households in 2011 to 536 111 people in 193 000 households in 2016.⁷⁷ The percentage of the population under the age of 15 grew from 25,1% to 29,7%, whilst the percentage of those between 15 and 64 years increased from 69,3% to 66%. Those over 65 years stood at 4,7% of the population in 2016.

The percentage of those over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education fell from an already low 7,6% to 5,1%, and

those who obtained a National Senior Certificate exhibited consistent growth from 27,1% to 32,2%.⁷⁸ The percentage of those with tertiary education, however, decreased from 7,2% to 6,8%.

Although Tswana is by far the most dominant language in this municipality, spoken by 42,8% of the population, the language profile in terms of the other official languages is more evenly spread.⁷⁹ Households occupying a formal dwelling now comprise 63,3% of all households. There are no recent reliable statistics available on the unemployment rate in Madibeng. The last known unemployment rate was 30,4% in 2011 (with 38,2% youth unemployment).⁸⁰

Service delivery

The supply of water in Madibeng remains a problem due to the increase in population. Only 16% of households currently have access to piped water inside their dwelling compared with 22% in 2011.⁸¹ AfriForum's own audit showed that Brits did not comply with the minimum water quality standards in 2019 and 2020 after having complied with clean water requirements in the years 2016 to 2018.⁸² The percentage of households having access to a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system remained constant through

the years at a modest 27,3%. The percentage of those using electricity for lighting increased from 80% in 2011 to 88%.⁸³ Weekly refuse removal by the municipality increased from 25% to 35% of the households, but this remains extremely modest. A private refuse dump still seems to be by far the most common refuse disposal method for residents. AfriForum's audit shows that the Hartebeesfontein landfill site received a score of 26% for 2020.⁸⁴

Management

The last four financial years in this municipality show a worrying trend. During this time, Madibeng received a "disclaimer" audit opinion. It recorded an irregular expenditure of R61 million in 2017/2018 as well as fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R21,5 million. The Auditor-General made several damning statements. Among others, he contended that effective steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure, nor were reasonable steps taken to prevent fruitless and wasteful expenditure. Several

official and independent investigations into fraud and theft were also ongoing.⁸⁵ There was also a lack of response to improving internal controls. Vacancies and instability in key positions were also a major cause for its poor audit opinion.

The municipality had a fairly healthy cash balance of R33 691 839 at the end of the financial year in 2018, and close to 20% of its operating budget was spent on staff salaries and wages.⁸⁶

Madibeng's score: 2 out of 10

⁷⁷ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Madibeng Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1188/madibeng-local-municipality>.

⁷⁸ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Madibeng Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1188/madibeng-local-municipality>.

⁷⁹ Stats SA. 2020. *Madibeng*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=madibeng-municipality.

⁸⁰ Pelo, L.H. 2017. *The social and economic impact of mining in the Brits area of Madibeng municipality*. Unpublished dissertation, University of the Witwatersrand. Available at http://wiredspace.wits.ac.za/bitstream/handle/10539/27635/Pelo_HL_677042_BUSA_7417.pdf?sequence=1.

⁸¹ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Madibeng Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1188/madibeng-local-municipality>.

⁸² AfriForum. 2020. *Blue and green drop project November 2020*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Blou-en-groen_2020_Engels.pdf.

⁸³ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Madibeng Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1188/madibeng-local-municipality>.

⁸⁴ AfriForum. 2020. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill site audit project for 2020*. Available at <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Landfill-site-audit-report.pdf>.

⁸⁵ Municipal Money. 2019. *Madibeng*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW372-local-municipality-of-madibeng/>.

⁸⁶ Municipal Money. 2019. *Madibeng*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW372-local-municipality-of-madibeng/>.

Mahikeng Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

The Mahikeng municipality's population grew from 291 527 people belonging to 84 239 households in 2011 to 314 394 people in 103 333 households in 2016.⁸⁷ The working-age population (15–64) showed an increase between these years from roughly 64% to 71%, while those under the age of 15 showed a decrease to 24,4% (from 30,8%) and the percentage of those over 65 also decreased from 4,8% to 4,3%.

The percentage of those over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education dropped from 10,3% to 7,1% while the percentage of those who obtained a National Senior Certificate increased from 26% to 30%.⁸⁸ Those with tertiary education slipped

back from 12,4% to 10,9%.

Tswana is the dominant language in the municipality, with close to 77% of the population using it as their mother tongue.⁸⁹ The prevalence of English (4,5%), Xhosa (3,8%), Sotho (3,4%) and other official languages is negligible.

The percentage of households occupying a formal dwelling decreased slightly from 87,3% to 86,8% of the total population. There are no recent employment statistics available for the municipality; the last known unemployment figure was 35,7% in 2011 (with 47,1% youth unemployment).

Service delivery

The percentage of dwellings with piped water inside a dwelling dropped significantly from almost 31% of households to around 23%.⁹⁰ AfriForum's own audit showed Mahikeng's drinking water to be clean in 2018, 2019 and 2020 and thus compliant with the minimum standards.⁹¹

While 29,2% of households had access to a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system in 2011, this had decreased to 24,5% in 2018.

In contrast, the share of households using electricity for lighting rose from 84,5% to 92,4%.⁹² As far as refuse removal is concerned, the percentage of households provided with weekly refuse removal fell slightly from 58,8% to 58,6%. A large percentage of households still make use of a private refuse dump. AfriForum's audit of landfill sites contains no information regarding sites in the municipality.⁹³

Management

Over the last five financial years, the municipality received four disclaimer opinions and one qualified opinion (2017).⁹⁴ The Auditor-General offered the following opinion in his 2017/2018 report on Mahikeng:

Leadership did not provide adequate oversight and monitoring of the control environment, financial performance, implementation of consequence management over recurring supply chain management transgressions and the implementation of post-audit action plans. This resulted in the weak financial viability and recurrence of material findings over financial and performance information and compliance with laws and regulations.

The municipality incurred irregular spending of R211 million in 2017/2018 and the accumulated irregular spending balance is

nearing R1 billion.⁹⁵ R107 million in unauthorised spending was incurred and R2,4 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure in 2017/2018. Vacancies in key positions, inadequate responses to poor performance and no response in improving internal controls all contributed to this woeful state of affairs. The AG made the following ominous remark in his 2018/2019 report: "The story of Mahikeng remains one of an uncertain future due to the municipality's inability to address several red flags."⁹⁶ The municipality had a negative cash balance of R24 155 463 at the end of June 2018. The capital expenditure budget was 100% underspent and close to 31% of the operating budget was spent on staff wages and salaries.⁹⁷

Mahikeng's score: 1 out of 10

⁸⁷ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Mahikeng Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1203/mahikeng-local-municipality>.

⁸⁸ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Mahikeng Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1203/mahikeng-local-municipality>.

⁸⁹ Stats SA. 2020. *Mahikeng*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=mafikeng-municipality.

⁹⁰ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Mahikeng Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1203/mahikeng-local-municipality>.

⁹¹ AfriForum. 2020. *Blue and green drop project November 2020*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Blou-en-groen_2020_Engels.pdf.

⁹² Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Mahikeng Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1203/mahikeng-local-municipality>.

⁹³ AfriForum. 2020. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill site audit project for 2020*. Available at <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Landfill-site-audit-report.pdf>.

⁹⁴ Municipal Money. 2019. *Mafikeng*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW383-mafikeng/>.

⁹⁵ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%208.pdf>.

⁹⁶ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2020. *Consolidated General Report on the Local Government outcomes*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201819/GR/MFMA%20GR%202018-19%20Final%20View.pdf>.

⁹⁷ Municipal Money. 2019. *Mafikeng*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW383-mafikeng/>.

Mamusa Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

The municipality's population and its segments have remained fairly static over the years. Between 2011 and 2016 the population of Mamusa rose from 60 355 people belonging to 14 625 households to 64 000 in 15 473 households.⁹⁸ The percentage of those under the age of 15 comprises 36% of the total population, down from 36,5% in 2011. Those between 15 and 64 account for 59,5% of the population (58,4% in 2011) and those over 65 comprise 4,5% (5% in 2011).

The percentage of those over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education dropped from 24,9% to 16% while those with

a National Senior Certificate grew from 17,3% to 23%. Those in the category of having tertiary education fell from 4,6% to 2,8%.⁹⁹ In terms of language, Tswana takes first place with 84,7% of the population using it as a home language. Afrikaans occupies a distant second place.¹⁰⁰

Those households occupying formal dwellings increased slightly from 82,5% to 83,5%. The unemployment rate in the municipality is roughly 35% and youth unemployment stands at 45,8%.¹⁰¹ These rates are well above the national average and pose a significant challenge.

Service delivery

Water delivery seems to be a major problem in Mamusa. Only 13,3% of all households have access to piped water inside their dwelling; well below the 21,9% in 2011.¹⁰² The quality of drinking water has vacillated over the years. AfriForum classified it as clean in 2020, 2019, 2017 and 2015, but its phosphate levels were too high in 2018 and its nitrate levels above the permissible level in 2016.¹⁰³ Roughly 67% of households have a flush toilet connected to a

sewerage system while this figure was 59,3% in 2011. In 2011, 80,8% of households used electricity for lighting and it stands now at 83,1%. Weekly refuse removal has improved significantly over the years 2011 to 2018, from 45% to 71,1%.¹⁰⁴ Still, many households make use of private refuse dumps to dispose of household refuse. Schweizer-Reneke's landfill site scored a paltry 22% in AfriForum's latest audit and 8% the year before.¹⁰⁵

Management

Between 2015 and 2018, Mamusa has received a disclaimer opinion from the Auditor-General. There was insufficient appropriate audit evidence for receivables from exchange transactions, consumer debtors, property, equipment and scores of other items.¹⁰⁶ R6,7 million in irregular expenditure was recorded in 2017/2018, aside from fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R10,3 million and R5,8 million in unauthorised expenditure.¹⁰⁷ The AG expressed its

concern at the lack of oversight from the audit committee, the lack of an adequate oversight system and internal review mechanisms, among many other things. In 2018/2019, the audit was not finalised at the legislated date.¹⁰⁸

However, the municipality had a positive cash balance of more than R10 million at the end of June 2018.¹⁰⁹ Some 31% of the operating budget is spent on staff wages and salaries.

Mamusa's score: 2 out of 10

⁹⁸ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Mamusa Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1199/mamusa-local-municipality>.

⁹⁹ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Mamusa Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1199/mamusa-local-municipality>.

¹⁰⁰ Stats SA. 2020. *Mamusa*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=mamusa-municipality.

¹⁰¹ Mamusa Local Municipality. 2019. *Draft Integrated Development Plan 2018-2019*. Available at <http://www.mamusa.gov.za/sites/default/files/documents/MAMUSADraftIDP20182019.pdf>.

¹⁰² Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Mamusa Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1199/mamusa-local-municipality>.

¹⁰³ AfriForum. 2020. *Blue and green drop project November 2020*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Blou-en-groen_2020_Engels.pdf.

¹⁰⁴ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Mamusa Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1199/mamusa-local-municipality>.

¹⁰⁵ AfriForum. 2020. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill site audit project for 2020*. Available at <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Landfill-site-audit-report.pdf>.

¹⁰⁶ Municipal Money. 2019. *Mamusa*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW393-mamusa/>. Accessed on 6 August 2020.

¹⁰⁷ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%208.pdf>.

¹⁰⁸ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2020. *Consolidated General Report on the Local Government outcomes*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/2018-19%20PFMA%20Consol%20GR.PDF>.

¹⁰⁹ Municipal Money. 2019. *Mamusa*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW393-mamusa/>.

Maquassi Hills Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

The population of Maquassi Hills rose from 77 794 people belonging to 20 505 households in 2011 to 82 012 people in 24 706 households in 2016.¹¹⁰ The population segment under the age of 15 rose slightly from 33% to 33,8% during this period; those aged between 15 and 64 decreased minimally from 61,8% to 61,7%; and those aged over 65 fell from 5,2% to 4,4%.

The group of people over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education saw a decline from 23,5% to 14,7% of the population between 2011 and 2016.¹¹¹ Those who obtained a

National Senior Certificate rose from 18,9% to 22,9% and those with tertiary education decreased from 4,7% to 3,7%. In terms of language, Tswana predominates, with almost 72% of the population using it as their mother tongue. Afrikaans (10,6%) and Sotho (6,6%) are in a distant second and third place. The number of households occupying a formal dwelling increased from nearly 82% to 85,5%. There are no recent statistics available for unemployment in the municipality, and the last known official unemployment rate was 33,4% (with 42,6% youth unemployment) in 2011.¹¹²

Service delivery

The share of households with piped water inside their dwelling decreased from 32,2% of all households to 28,6%.¹¹³ AfriForum has classified the drinking water of Wolmaransstad (a major town in Maquassi Hills) as clean for the last six years.¹¹⁴ Households with access to a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system rose from 74,4% to 85,3%. Likewise, the percentage of

those using electricity for lighting rose from 82,8% to 84,8% but those provided with weekly refuse removal fell from 52,6% to 44,1%. Maquassi Hills scored a mere 8% in AfriForum's audit of landfill sites in 2020 and the municipality does not comply with the minimum standards.¹¹⁵

Management

The Auditor-General's 2017/2018 audit opinion was a disclaimer and was preceded by numerous qualified opinions in previous years. In the 2017/2018 financial year, the municipality incurred irregular expenditure of R355 million, unauthorised spending of R157 million and fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R530 000.¹¹⁶ Internal control deficiencies are rife, such as a lack of internal control mechanisms and a lack of oversight from the audit committee. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent irregular, unauthorised

as well as fruitless and wasteful expenditure. In 2018/2019, the AG's opinion was "disclaimed with findings".¹¹⁷ The municipality had a negative cash balance of R35 236 849 at the end of June 2018.¹¹⁸ A mere 15,4% of the operating budget is spent on staff wages and salaries – well below the norm. Although this may sound encouraging, it is probably the reason why Maquassi Hills relies so heavily on consultants for its financial management and also why it experiences so many service delivery problems.

Maquassi Hills's score: 2 out of 10

¹¹⁰ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Maquassi Hills Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1192/maquassi-hills-local-municipality>.

¹¹¹ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Maquassi Hills Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1192/maquassi-hills-local-municipality>.

¹¹² Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Maquassi Hills Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1192/maquassi-hills-local-municipality>.

¹¹³ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Maquassi Hills Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1192/maquassi-hills-local-municipality>.

¹¹⁴ AfriForum. 2020. *Blue and green drop project 2020*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Blou-en-groen_2020_Engels.pdf.

¹¹⁵ AfriForum. 2020. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill site audit project for 2020*. Available at <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Landfill-site-audit-report.pdf>.

¹¹⁶ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%208.pdf>.

¹¹⁷ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2020. *Consolidated General Report on the Local Government outcomes 2018-2019*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Reporting/MFMAReports/MFMA2018-2019.aspx>.

¹¹⁸ Municipal Money. 2019. *Maquassi Hills*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW404-maquassi-hills/>.

Moretele Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

Moretele's population stands at 191 306 people belonging to 55 762 households; this was 188 533 in 52 744 households in 2011.¹¹⁹ The population aged under 15 comprises 35,6% of the total population and has grown from 2011's percentage of 30,9%. Those aged between 15 and 64 now account for 56,6% (in 2011: 60,9%) of the population and people aged over 65 comprise 7,8% of the residents (in 2011: 8,2%).

Those over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education comprise 6,1% of the population and this indicator has improved over the years.¹²⁰ The number of those who obtained a National Senior Certificate has improved slightly and this figure now

stands at 29,6%, while the number of those with a tertiary education level has also shown slight improvement and currently comprises 4,8% of the population.

Tswana is still the dominant language with 51,6% of the population as native speakers, but much less so than elsewhere in North West.¹²¹ Tsonga is the second most spoken language with 18,4% and Pedi stands at 13,8%. Roughly 87% of households reside in a formal dwelling and this has improved slightly over the years. The last known unemployment rate was 45,9% in 2011 and the youth unemployment rate at that time was 57,2%.¹²²

Service delivery

A negligible 1,5% of households in the municipality have access to piped water inside their dwelling and even this low number has seen deterioration over the years.¹²³ AfriForum did not audit the water quality in any place in Moretele in 2020. Equally woeful is the fact that only 1,9% of the households have access to a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system.

Electricity, however, shows a completely different picture: 97% of

households use it for lighting and this percentage has seen a rather remarkable improvement over the years.¹²⁴ What is even more remarkable is that while only 1% of households were provided with weekly refuse removal in 2011, this figure jumped to close to 70% in 2016. AfriForum did not audit any landfill sites in this municipality in 2020.

Management

The Auditor-General's last opinion was "qualified with findings" and the preceding four were "qualified". In the 2017/2018 financial year, Moretele recorded irregular spending of R166,1 million, the unauthorised expenditure of R17,5 million and fruitless and wasteful

expenditure of R160 000.¹²⁵ It had a positive cash balance of R14 628 722 at the end of June 2018; staff wages and salaries comprised 19,5% of operating expenditure.¹²⁶

Moretele's score: 1,5 out of 10

¹¹⁹ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Moretele Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1189/moretele-local-municipality>.

¹²⁰ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Moretele Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1189/moretele-local-municipality>.

¹²¹ Stats SA. 2020. *Moretele*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=moretele-municipality.

¹²² Stats SA. 2020. *Moretele*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=moretele-municipality.

¹²³ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Moretele Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1189/moretele-local-municipality>.

¹²⁴ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Moretele Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1189/moretele-local-municipality>.

¹²⁵ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%208.pdf>.

¹²⁶ Municipal Money. 2019. *Moretele*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW371-moretele/>.

Moses Kotane Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

The population of Moses Kotane municipality has only risen slightly between 2011 and 2016, from 242 554 people belonging to 75 193 households to 243 648 in 80 654 households.¹²⁷ The share of the population aged under 15 comprises 33,2% and this has steadily increased over the years. Those aged between 15 and 64 now account for 59,5% of the population and this is also declining, while those over 65 comprise 7,3%.

Those over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education stand at 7,5% of the population and this has come down from 9,3%.¹²⁸ Those who obtained a National Senior Certificate now

comprise more than 30% of the population and those with tertiary education constitute 4,2%; this percentage has declined. Tswana is by far the leading language in Moses Kotane, with 90,5% of native speakers; Zulu and Xhosa come in as a distant second and third with 4% and 3,3% respectively.¹²⁹ Close to 86% of households occupy a formal dwelling and this has risen from 78,3% a decade ago. The municipality's IDP documents make repeated mention of the high unemployment rate in the municipality, especially among youth.¹³⁰ The official unemployment rate is a vexing 51%, an increase on the already high figure of 37,9% in 2011.

Service delivery

Only 9% of households enjoy piped water inside their dwellings. This figure was 18,6% in 2011 and has thus dwindled.¹³¹ AfriForum did not test the water in the municipality in 2020 and the quality of drinking water remains unclear. A mere 10,5% of households have a flush toilet connected to a

sewerage system and this has even decreased over the years. However, 92,5% of households in Moses Kotane use electricity for lighting and 75,5% are provided with weekly refuse removal. AfriForum did not assess any landfill sites in the municipality in 2020.

Management

The Auditor-General's two audit opinions in 2016/2017 as well as in 2017/2018 were "disclaimed with findings". Irregular expenditure of R14,9 million was recorded in 2017/2018 and the accumulated sum is a whopping R436,4 million.¹³² Unauthorised spending of R151,3 million was also incurred. All root causes, such as a lack of negative consequences or deterrents for poor performance, and instability in key positions, were responsible for the challenges experienced with the management of the municipality's finances. The 2018/2019 audit opinion was "qualified with findings".¹³³

The AG did praise the prudent use of consultants and the recent willingness to change course: "Management took the opportunity to address some of the matters identified during the status of records review and this ultimately resulted in an improved audit outcome from disclaimed to qualified." It had a negative cash balance R233 319 512 at the end of June 2018, and nearly 20% of the operating budget goes to staff wages and salaries.¹³⁴

Moses Kotane's score: 3,5 out of 10

¹²⁷ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Moses Kotane Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1190/moses-kotane-local-municipality>.

¹²⁸ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Moses Kotane Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1190/moses-kotane-local-municipality>.

¹²⁹ Stats SA. 2020. *Moses Kotane*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=moses-kotane-municipality.

¹³⁰ Moses Kotane Local Municipality. 2020. *Final IDP/Budget for the Financial Year 2017/2022*. Available at https://archive.org/details/2017-18_02_final_02_local_municipalities_nw375_moses_kotane_nw374_moses_kotane_final_idp_2017-18_pdf.

¹³¹ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Moses Kotane Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1190/moses-kotane-local-municipality>.

¹³² Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%208.pdf>.

¹³³ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2020. *Consolidated General Report on the Local Government outcomes*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Reporting/MFMAReports/2017-2018MFMA.aspx>.

¹³⁴ Municipal Money. 2019. *Moses Kotane*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW375-moses-kotane/>.

Naledi Local Municipality

Demography and socio-economic indicators

The population in Naledi increased from 66 781 people belonging to 18 572 households to 68 803 people in 20 692 households between 2011 and 2016.¹³⁵ The percentage of those under the age of 15 is decreasing and is now close to 30% of the population. Those aged between 15 and 64 constitute 65,7% and this section is slowly growing, while the number of those aged 65 and above is also in decline and they now comprise 4,6% of the population. The number of those older than 20 who did not complete their school education is decreasing and they now account for only 10,2% of the population.¹³⁶ Those who obtained a National Senior Certificate are seeing a steady growth and they make up 30% of the population, while the number of those with tertiary education is decreasing and

currently comprises 7,3% of the population.

In terms of language, the landscape looks familiar: Tswana is the dominant language with 67,8% of the population using it as a home language.¹³⁷ However, Afrikaans-speakers form a significant portion of the population at 23,4% while the prevalence of other official languages is insignificant.

Close to 85% of the households live in formal dwellings and this has seen a steady increase over the years. The municipality's website did not function during the writing of this report and a reliable recent unemployment rate could not be obtained. The last known rate was 26,1% in 2011 (with 35,5% youth unemployment rate).

Service delivery

The number of households with piped water inside their dwelling has increased slightly over the years and now stands at 39,2%.¹³⁸ AfriForum's water tests indicated that Naledi's water quality has shown variations over the years and is rather problematic.¹³⁹ In Stella, the nitrate level is too high and thus the minimum standards were not complied with. Its water was only classified as clean in 2017 and during no other year between 2014 and 2019. In Vryburg, the drinking water was classified as clean in 2019 and 2015 to 2017, but the municipality experienced problems with, among others, E. coli bacteria contamination during 2014 and 2018.

Households with a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system increased from 65,4% to 69,4% of the total population.¹⁴⁰ Those using electricity for lighting jumped from 76,7% to 80,2%. Households provided with weekly refuse removal now constitute 67,8% whereas it was 66,4% in 2011. AfriForum's audit of landfill sites showed huge deficiencies. In Stella, no scores were provided in 2020 and the municipality scored poorly in the preceding years. Vryburg's 2020 score was 28% and this score has seen a dramatic deterioration since 2015's 92%.¹⁴¹

Management

Naledi's audit opinions have also shown deterioration over the years, from being "unqualified with emphasis of matters" in 2015 to being a "disclaimer", "qualified" and then turning qualified in 2018/2019 for not initially being finalised at the legislated date, before being classified as "disclaimed with findings".¹⁴² Irregular expenditure of R67,8 million was recorded in 2017/2018 while the accumulated irregular total comes to roughly R227 million.¹⁴³ Unauthorised

expenditure ran up to R62 million in 2017/2018, and fruitless and wasteful spending totalled nearly R30 million. All key root causes were highlighted as contributing hereto.

At the end of June 2018, Naledi had a positive cash balance of R2 591 295, but a large percentage exceeding 40% went to staff wages and salaries.¹⁴⁴

Naledi's score: 3,5 out of 10

¹³⁵ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Naledi – Demographic Information*. Available at by <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1201/naledi-local-municipality>.

¹³⁶ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Naledi – Demographic Information*. Available at by <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1201/naledi-local-municipality>.

¹³⁷ Stats SA. 2019. *Naledi*. Available at by http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=naledi-municipality.

¹³⁸ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Naledi – Demographic Information*. Available at by <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1201/naledi-local-municipality>.

¹³⁹ AfriForum. 2019. *ABlue and green drop project November 2020*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Blou-en-groen_2020_Engels.pdf.

¹⁴⁰ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Naledi – Demographic Information*. Available at by <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1201/naledi-local-municipality>.

¹⁴¹ AfriForum. 2020. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill site audit project for 2020*. Available at by <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Landfill-site-audit-report.pdf>.

¹⁴² Auditor-General of South Africa. 2020. *Consolidated General Report on the Local Government outcomes*. Available at by <https://www.agsa.co.za/Reporting/MFMAReports/2017-2018MFMA.aspx>.

¹⁴³ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at by <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%208.pdf>.

¹⁴⁴ Municipal Money. 2019. *Naledi*. Available at by <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW392-naledi/>.

Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

The municipality's population increased from 152 664 people belonging to 41 355 households in 2011 to 157 690 people in 48 070 households in 2016.¹⁴⁵ Those aged under 15 comprise 26,7% of the total population, those aged between 15 and 64 represent 66,7% (which has seen quite a significant increase over the years), and those older than 65 stands at 6,6%.

Those older than 20 who did not complete their school education decreased from 20,4% to 15,5%. Those who obtained a National Senior Certificate increased from 20,7% to 28,8% and those with

tertiary education saw a slight decrease from 6% to 5,8%.¹⁴⁶ In terms of language, Tswana reigns supreme as the home language of 84% of the population. Afrikaans (4,4%) and English (3,7%) occupy a distant second and third place.¹⁴⁷ Those households occupying formal dwellings shrunk from 81% of the population to 78%. Ample mention is made of high poverty and unemployment rates in the municipality's IDP documents, but no indication of the exact unemployment rates is available.

Service delivery

Households with access to piped water inside their dwelling decreased from 19% to 17%.¹⁴⁸ AfriForum's probes of drinking water showed that Zeerust's drinking water was clean for the last five years.¹⁴⁹

The share of the population using electricity for lighting increased

impressively from 81,2% to 88,6%; yet those with access to a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system grew from 22,1% to only 26%.¹⁵⁰ In addition, households provided with weekly refuse removal stand at only 21,4%, although this shows a slowly rising percentage. Zeerust's landfill site scored 16% in AfriForum's 2020 audit.¹⁵¹

Management

The Auditor-General's last two opinions were "disclaimed with findings" and the two preceding ones were "qualified". Irregular spending amounted to R12,5 million in 2017/2018, and the accumulated sum totalled R153 million at the end of June 2018.¹⁵² Unauthorised spending amounted to R23,3 million and fruitless and

wasteful spending totalled R6 million. Every possible key root cause was listed as a contributing factor to these poor outcomes. The municipality had a positive cash balance of R14 651 208 and it spent 37,62% on staff wages and salaries during 2017/2018.¹⁵³

Ramotshere Moiloa's score: 2 out of 10

¹⁴⁵ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ramotshere Moiloa – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1204/ramotshere-moiloa-local-municipality>.

¹⁴⁶ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ramotshere Moiloa – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1204/ramotshere-moiloa-local-municipality>.

¹⁴⁷ Stats SA. 2019. *Ramotshere Moiloa*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=ramotshere-moiloa-municipality.

¹⁴⁸ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ramotshere Moiloa – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1204/ramotshere-moiloa-local-municipality>.

¹⁴⁹ AfriForum. 2020. *Blue and green drop project November 2020*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Blou-en-groen_2020_Engels.pdf.

¹⁵⁰ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ramotshere Moiloa – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1204/ramotshere-moiloa-local-municipality>.

¹⁵¹ AfriForum. 2020. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill site audit project for 2020*. Available at <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Landfill-site-audit-report.pdf>.

¹⁵² Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%208.pdf>.

¹⁵³ Municipal Money. 2019. *Ramotshere Moiloa*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW385-ramotshere-moiloa/>.

Ratlou Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

Ratlou's population decreased from 107 339 people belonging to 26 889 households to 106 108 people in 29 120 households between 2011 and 2016.¹⁵⁴ Those aged under 15 comprise 32,4% of the population; those between 15 and 64 years of age 60,8%; and those over the age of 65 represent 6,7%.

The number of people over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education has seen a decrease from 28,9% to 19%. Those who obtained a National Senior Certificate grew from 11,2% to 13,8% and those with tertiary education comprise 2,3% of

the population.

Tswana is the dominant language, with 87,6% of the population speaking it as their home language. Sotho comes in second with 3,7%, while the percentage of any other official languages is negligible.¹⁵⁵ Households in formal dwellings fell from 89,9% to 81,8%. The last known unemployment rate was 44% and youth unemployment stood at 52,4%.¹⁵⁶ These are incredibly high percentages, even in the light of today's record-high national unemployment rate.

Service delivery

Households with piped water inside their dwelling dwindled from a mere 5,2% of the population to comprising only 0,7%.¹⁵⁷ AfriForum does not measure the quality of drinking water in the municipality and it thus remains unknown.

Moreover, a negligible 0,4% of the households have a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system and this percentage has decreased

over the years. However, 83,8% of the households in Ratlou use electricity for lighting and this has remained virtually constant throughout the years.¹⁵⁸ Only 0,1% of households are provided with weekly refuse removal, and AfriForum does not audit any landfill sites in the municipality.

Management

The Auditor-General's audit opinions for the three years before the 2018/2019 financial year were "qualified with findings". In 2018/2019 it deteriorated even further with an opinion of "disclaimed with findings".¹⁵⁹ For the 2017/2018 financial year, irregular spending amounted to R43,3 million and the accumulated irregular expenditure totalled R109,11 million.¹⁶⁰ There has been a slow response to improving internal controls; instability and vacancies in key positions prevail and there is a lack of negative consequences or deterrents for poor performance. Discussing the numerous internal control deficiencies, the AG stated the following:

"Significant control deficiencies were identified, which resulted in various non-compliance findings and misstatements in the annual financial statements and annual performance report."¹⁶¹ Ratlou had a positive cash balance of R45 107 972 at the end of June 2018, and some 42% of the operating budget goes towards staff wages and salaries.¹⁶² In light of the prevalent norms for spending on wages and salaries, and the dire situation regarding service delivery in the municipality, this level of expenditure is unjustified.

Ratlou's score: 0,5 out of 10

¹⁵⁴ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ratlou Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1205/ratlou-local-municipality>.

¹⁵⁵ Stats SA. 2019. *Ratlou*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=ratlou-municipality.

¹⁵⁶ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ratlou Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1205/ratlou-local-municipality>.

¹⁵⁷ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ratlou Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1205/ratlou-local-municipality>.

¹⁵⁸ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Ratlou Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1205/ratlou-local-municipality>.

¹⁵⁹ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Consolidated General Report on the Local Government outcomes*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Reporting/MFMAReports/2017-2018MFMA.aspx>.

¹⁶⁰ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%20B.pdf>.

¹⁶¹ Municipal Money. 2019. *Ratlou*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW381-ratlou/>.

¹⁶² Municipal Money. 2019. *Ratlou*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW381-ratlou/>.

Rustenburg Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

As a prominent mining area, the municipality would naturally attract newcomers looking for work. The population of Rustenburg hence climbed from 550 000 people belonging to roughly 200 000 households to 626 522 people in 262 576 households between 2011 and 2016.¹⁶³ The population under the age of 15 is a growing segment and now comprises 28% of the total population. Those between 15 and 64 comprise almost 70% of the population and those over 65 represent 3%.

Those over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education comprise 4,7% of the population. Those who obtained a National Senior Certificate constitute 34,6% and this group continues to grow. The number of those with tertiary education is dipping slightly and currently constitutes 7,4%.¹⁶⁴

Due to the constant influx of people from outside the area to work in its mining sector, Rustenburg's linguistic profile is somewhat more diverse than that of other municipalities in North West. Yet Tswana remains the dominant language with 52,4% of the residents using it as their home language. Afrikaans is second with 9,6%; Xhosa is third with nearly 10%; Tsonga fourth with 5,4% and English fifth with 5,2%.¹⁶⁵

The number of households occupying formal dwellings has remained static over the years at roughly 68%. There are no recent municipal statistics available on unemployment in Rustenburg, but the 2011 percentage was 26,4% and youth unemployment was standing at 34,7% at the time.¹⁶⁶

Service delivery

Unfortunately, households with piped water inside their dwellings now comprise only 28,5% whereas this stood at 35,8% in 2011.¹⁶⁷ Rustenburg's drinking water was classified as clean between 2014 and 2020 by AfriForum.¹⁶⁸

The number of households with a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system stayed virtually unchanged at close to 53%.¹⁶⁹

Those households using electricity for lighting now comprise 83,7% of the population and is slowly growing. The percentage of households provided with weekly refuse removal has gradually declined but is still standing at a solid 67,1%. The Rustenburg site scored 94% in AfriForum's audit of landfill sites.¹⁷⁰

Management

The Auditor-General expressed serious reservations about Rustenburg's financial statements in his 2017/2018 audit report and lamented the poor quality of its financial statements:¹⁷¹

Rustenburg and Matlosana did not submit financial statements on 31 August 2018 as required by legislation, due to challenges with their financial systems. These financial statements were subsequently submitted for auditing, but the audit of Rustenburg had not yet been finalised by the cut-off date of 31 January 2019 for inclusion in this report.

Hence, the audit could not be finalised at the legislated date.

The 2018/2019 opinion was ultimately given as "qualified with findings". During this financial year, Rustenburg was also one of the main municipal contributors to overall irregular expenditure; non-compliance with procurement process requirements was the main reason for this.

Rustenburg had a positive cash balance exceeding R230 000 000 at the end of the financial year in June 2018.¹⁷² Close to 15% of operating expenditure goes to staff wages and salaries.

Rustenburg's score: 3 out of 10

¹⁶³ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Rustenburg Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1191/rustenburg-local-municipality>.

¹⁶⁴ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Rustenburg Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1191/rustenburg-local-municipality>.

¹⁶⁵ Stats SA. 2019. *Rustenburg*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=rustenburg-municipality.

¹⁶⁶ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Rustenburg Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1191/rustenburg-local-municipality>.

¹⁶⁷ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Rustenburg Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1191/rustenburg-local-municipality>.

¹⁶⁸ AfriForum. 2020. *Blue and green drop project November 2020*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Blou-en-groen_2020_Engels.pdf.

¹⁶⁹ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Rustenburg Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1191/rustenburg-local-municipality>.

¹⁷⁰ AfriForum. 2020. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill site audit project for 2020*. Available at <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Landfill-site-audit-report.pdf>.

¹⁷¹ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%208.pdf>.

¹⁷² Municipal Money. 2019. *Rustenburg*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-NW373-rustenburg/>.

Tswaing Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic indicators

The population of Tswaing has risen by around 5000 people between 2011 and 2016, from 124 218 people belonging to 30 634 households to 129 052 people in 35 300 households.¹⁷³ The number of those under the age of 15 decreased by approximately 7 percentage points to 29,4% of the population. The reverse was true for people between 15 and 64, with an increase to 65,4%. The percentage of people aged over 65 grew to 5,3%.

Those over the age of 20 who did not complete their school education dropped by several percentage points over the years to approximately 16%.¹⁷⁴ Those with a National Senior Certificate rose

to roughly 20% and those with tertiary education dropped to 4,1%. Tswana is the largest language in Tswaing, with over 83% of the population being native speakers. Afrikaans is the second largest language with 6,7% of the speakers. The percentages of the rest of the official languages are negligible.

The percentage of households living in formal dwellings stands at almost 81%, up from 77,5% in 2011.¹⁷⁵ Tswaing's IDP document for 2019-2020 states that the latest unemployment rate is 28,7% and youth unemployment stands at over 40%.¹⁷⁶

Service delivery

Between 2011 and 2016, the percentage of households with access to piped water dropped significantly from 21,4% to 9,1%.¹⁷⁷ The quality of drinking water is especially worrisome. AfriForum's 2020 report states that Tswaing's water remains contaminated in Delareyville and Sannieshof.¹⁷⁸ For the second consecutive year it poses health risks for communities in these municipalities. The drinking water in Ottosdal tested clean in 2019 and 2020. The percentage of households using electricity for lighting has seen

an appreciable increase over the years from 73,3% to 88,1%.¹⁷⁹ The same is true for households with a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system, which increased from 32,1% to 38,2%. Likewise, the percentage of households with weekly refuse removal has risen from 16,3% to 29,1%. AfriForum's audit report on landfill sites show that all of Tswaing's landfill sites are in dire straits. The Delareyville site scored 28% in 2020 and 10% or less in the preceding years; Sannieshof's site scored 34% in 2020.¹⁸⁰

Management

The Auditor-General's audit opinion for Tswaing in the 2018/2019 financial year was "unqualified with findings" – the same as in 2017/2018.¹⁸¹ Furthermore, Tswaing was one of the greatest municipal offenders in 2018/2019 regarding the percentage of creditors greater than cash balance at year-end: a whopping 21 179%.

What is encouraging is the municipality's positive cash balance of R93 848 at the end of June 2018.¹⁸² However, the unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure made up a perturbing 48,31% of operating expenditure. Almost 28% of the operating expenditure goes to staff salaries and wages.

Tswaing's score: 1 out of 10

¹⁷³ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Tswaing Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1206/tswaing-local-municipality>.

¹⁷⁴ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Tswaing Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1206/tswaing-local-municipality>.

¹⁷⁵ Yes! Media. 2019. *Municipalities of South Africa: Tswaing Local Municipality – Demographic Information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1206/tswaing-local-municipality>.

¹⁷⁶ Tswaing Local Municipality. 2020. *Adopted Integrated Development Plan 2019-2020*. Available at <https://www.tswaing.gov.za/images/Tswaing%20IDP%202019-20.pdf>.

¹⁷⁷ Tswaing Local Municipality. 2020. *Adopted Integrated Development Plan 2019-2020*. Available at <https://www.tswaing.gov.za/images/Tswaing%20IDP%202019-20.pdf>.

¹⁷⁸ AfriForum. 2020. *Blue and green drop project November 2020*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Blou-en-groen_2020_Engels.pdf.

¹⁷⁹ Tswaing Local Municipality. 2020. *Adopted Integrated Development Plan 2019-2020*. Available at <https://www.tswaing.gov.za/images/Tswaing%20IDP%202019-20.pdf>.

¹⁸⁰ AfriForum. 2020. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill site audit project for 2020*. Available at <https://www.afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Landfill-site-audit-report.pdf>.

¹⁸¹ Auditor-General of South Africa. 2020. *Consolidated General Report on the Local Government outcomes*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Reporting/MFMAReports/2017-2018/MFMA.aspx>.

¹⁸² Auditor-General of South Africa. 2019. *Provincial overviews*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/PFMA/201819/GR/PFMA2018-19%20-%20Section%208.pdf>.

Summary

The information contained in this report should be sufficient to incontrovertibly depict a province in municipal crisis. From the quality of water and landfill sites to financial management and the lack of employment, the state of the North West province's municipalities is generally doleful. Some indicators, such as schooling and housing, seem to indicate some continuing improvement. These are, however, provincial competencies and not those of the municipalities. North West's municipalities also have the dubious honour of being under near-constant provincial administration owing to their financial woes and inability to deliver services. Unfortunately, this did not result in improved management or more beneficial circumstances on ground level.

This ties in with a related problem: The long-standing and even deteriorating nature of these challenges. Moreover, some improvements are undermined by the more troublesome features present in these municipalities. For example, improved secondary schooling makes little difference to young people if there are few employment opportunities available and economic activity is stagnating. The overriding problem is that state-subsidised services do not seem to lead to wider social mobility and decreased dependence on government.

One of the most disconcerting aspects is the lack of official information on many of the facets of municipal governance. The

government has not been issuing reports relating to the quality of drinking water and effluent for many years. Unemployment figures are largely outdated and not suited to immediate and contemporary decision-making. Hence, citizens and residents are not cognisant of what they are drinking and how their rights are possibly being violated.

This hampers the task of the public, the business sector, non-governmental organisations and even the state itself to hold those in power accountable and aid in improving the situation in municipalities. Indeed, especially in North West and under the noxious reign of former Premier Supra Mahumapelo, the provincial administration and its municipalities removed all hindrances to looting and corruption. The damage wrought on a province already fraught with bad governance will last for a very long time – if not indefinitely.

The mantle of accountability and regeneration has largely fallen on civil society organisations like AfriForum. Through its various reports on aspects of municipal governance and the practical work done by its branch structures in the province, AfriForum acts as a vital bulwark against total decay in the North West. Due to the absence of any political will to remedy these ills, it is up to the citizenry and their organised efforts to turn the tide.



