

Liveability Monitor Free State



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The purpose of this index is to measure Free State
liveability at municipal level.

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Liveability Monitor

Free State

Executive summary

The Free State Liveability Monitor is the fourth delivery in a series. Previous provinces assessed in this way included Gauteng, North-West, the Western Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo, the purpose being to measure the liveability of a particular town or city at municipal level. And “liveability” may be defined as a person's ability to live a decent life in such a town or city. Apart from a description of the public services rendered, the relevant empirical features of the particular municipality are also included such as population density and structure, exactly because of the potential influence of demographics on service delivery and its attendant costs. Liveability is analysed by means of a set of key- and sub-indicators. The four key-indicators are demographics and socio-economic indicators, service delivery and governance. At the conclusion of each assessment, the particular municipality is awarded a score to indicate its liveability.

Not a single municipality in the province received an “excellent” assessment, and municipal governance, service delivery and liveability in the province were generally dismal. A few relative bright spots did exist, however, such as the Mangaung Metro and the Metsimaholo Local Municipality who performed well in terms of drinking water quality and housing as well as the supply and usage of electricity. Crime – especially violent crime – remained an acute problem in virtually all the municipalities, although figures fluctuated among municipalities and among areas within municipalities. While the standard of refuse removal was passable at most municipalities, drinking water quality in certain areas ranged from very poor to critical. Moreover, overall governance of the municipalities was clearly extremely problematical: audit opinions were simply withheld in many instances with others chronically underperforming. Corruption and mismanagement in the province were widespread.

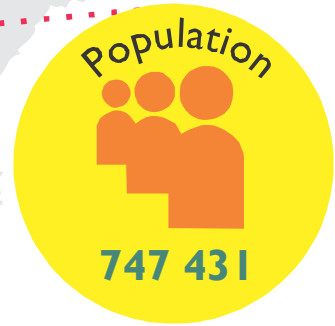
Some municipalities were awarded low scores, even though they had fared well to extremely well in certain areas. They failed so miserably in certain aspects, however, that their overall score was brought down as a result. Should their councils intervene strategically, they might be able to raise their liveability scores considerably. Yet some municipalities face structural challenges such as persistent low schooling levels and dire poverty.

The index is an ongoing project measuring liveability in all South African municipalities from time to time. As from the second round of assessment, we would be able to draw comparisons between the previous and the current state of affairs in each municipality: whether it has improved, stagnated – or perhaps even regressed.

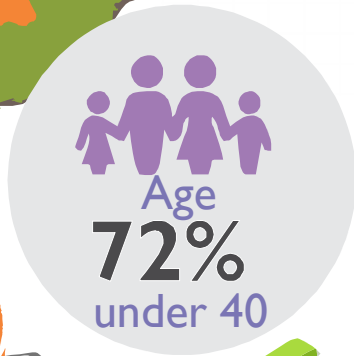
Liveability score: 6½ out of 10

Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa



Surface area
6283,99 km²



Population density
per km²
118



Audit opinion
2011/2012

Qualified with findings



Murder rate (per 100 000 people)



SERVICES

Piped water in houses

47%
of people



Use own refuse dump

10%
of people

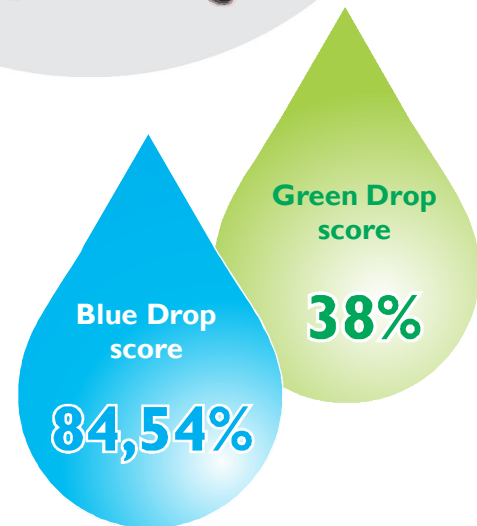


Use a pit toilet

12%
of people



Unemployment



Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

The population increased from 645 440 to 747 431 between 2001 and 2011, and the dependency burden – the ratio of people, per 100, of people under 15 and over 65 as against those between these ages – decreased from 50,4 to 47,4. The municipality is 6 283,99 km² in extent and the population density is rather high at 118 people per square kilometre. The number of households also rose sharply during the decade, from 185 013 to 231 921, and the average household size dropped from 3,4 to 3,1. More than 72% of residents are younger than 40 and 36,4% are younger than 20. The area is 74,4% rural.

The unemployment rates for Mangaung are more or less in line with national figures and falling. The official unemployment rate is 27,7% (2001: 40,1%) and the youth unemployment rate is 37,2% (2001: 49,1%). Approximately 74% of households have an annual income of less than R76 400, and the annual income of almost half is between R1 and R38 200. The annual income of 15,4% is in excess of R153 800. Education-wise, the figures compare very well with the rest of the province and the country. Only 4,3% of residents older than 20 did not receive any schooling and 30,1% did pass matric. A substantial 14,1% gained tertiary qualifications.

As to housing, 68,6% of households live in houses on separate stands and 3,2% in traditional housing, 3,1% in a flat in a block of flats and 2,2% in cluster housing. Approximately 18% live in informal housing, in either a backyard or elsewhere. The rest are negligible.

Services and facilities

The crime rate in Mangaung is quite high and violent crime is a problem. During 2011-'12 the murder rate was 41 per 100 000 people, while this rate was 291 for robbery with aggravating circumstances. Regarding property crime, it was 31 for residential property and 56 for business robbery. The municipality has 15 police offices, each having to serve some 50 000 people. A random selection of police offices revealed fairly big differences in crime rates among the various offices. At the Bloemspruit office, 76 murders, 74 murder attempts, 273 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 39 of business robbery and 525 of residential property were reported between April 2012 and March 2013. On the other hand, no murders, no murder attempts, no incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 3 of business robberies and 27 of residential property were reported during this period. At the Mangaung office, 24 murders, 29 murder attempts, 193 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 144 of business robbery and 468 of residential property were reported.

Mangaung, as an urbanised municipality with Bloemfontein as its core city, is adequately provided with medical facilities. There are scores of state clinics, and the Botshabelo Hospital is one of the state hospitals. The Universitas Hospital is a private/public partnership between the Free State Department of Health and Netcare, while the Bloemfontein Mediclinic and Life Pasteur Hospital are two of the many private facilities in the area.

With few exceptions, tap water is the only form of water supply. Close to 47% of households have indoor access to tap water, 35% have taps inside their stands and 17,3% have access to tap water from a point outside their stands. As to drinking water quality, the municipality scored 84,45% in the last Blue Drop measuring round and was placed in sixth position in the province. Although in itself a fine score, it does amount to some retrogression from 84,69% for 2011 and 95% for 2010. Two of the systems received only 32% for drinking water quality compliance in 2012. As to asset management, management and accountability, water security planning and management of the treatment process, Mangaung fared well to very well.

Regarding sanitation, 49,4% of households use a flush toilet and 2,9% use dry-toilet facilities. Approximately 19% make use of pit toilets with improved ventilation and 12% use pit toilets. Approximately 11% use the bucket system and 3,8% have no toilet facilities. Mangaung's last Green Drop score (which measures the quality of the purification and disposal of effluent) was only 38%, placing Mangaung in seventh place out of 20 municipalities. This is indicative of how bad the Free State is faring in this area.

The refuse removal situation seems quite satisfactory, with 80,4% of households enjoying a weekly refuse removal service by the municipality and 2,1% on another basis. Nearly 10% still have to use their own refuse dump and 5,4% have no refuse removal.

About 91% of households use electricity for lighting, 88,3% for cooking and 52,7% for heating.

Governance

There were no strategic vacancies in the municipality at the time of writing. Few convictions and suspensions were published despite numerous allegations of corruption, irregularities and mismanagement at the Mangaung Metro over the past few years.

The metro's audit opinion for the 2012-'13 round was "qualified with findings". The 2011-'12 audit opinion was also "qualified", and in 2010-'11 it was "refusal with findings". The latest assessment explained it as follows: *"The stagnation in the audit outcome of the metropolitan municipality (metro) was caused by the findings on various audit matters reported in previous years not being adequately addressed. Management acknowledged that it would take more than one year to resolve these matters. However, the entity's audit outcome improved due to management's increased involvement and commitment in addressing the findings of the previous year, which related mainly to the availability of documentation ... The metro's audit outcome reflected a lack of progress in addressing the findings in the six key risk areas reported in the previous year ... The financial statements submitted for audit purposes were of poor quality as the financial official who prepared the financial statements lacked a comprehensive understanding of the accounting standards. Consequently, both auditees made material corrections to their financial statements based on misstatements identified by the auditors ... The metro also still faces significant difficulties in the collection of debts, along with excessive distribution losses as a result of the deterioration in the water reticulation system and unmetered water and electricity connections."*

In November 2014 it was reported that the municipality had approved an additional 450 positions, with a potential additional cost to the taxpayer of R60 million a year. The ANC councillors won the resolution through their majority, arguing that the appointments were necessary for service delivery. The opposition objected on the grounds that the expenditure was both unnecessary and not budgeted for.

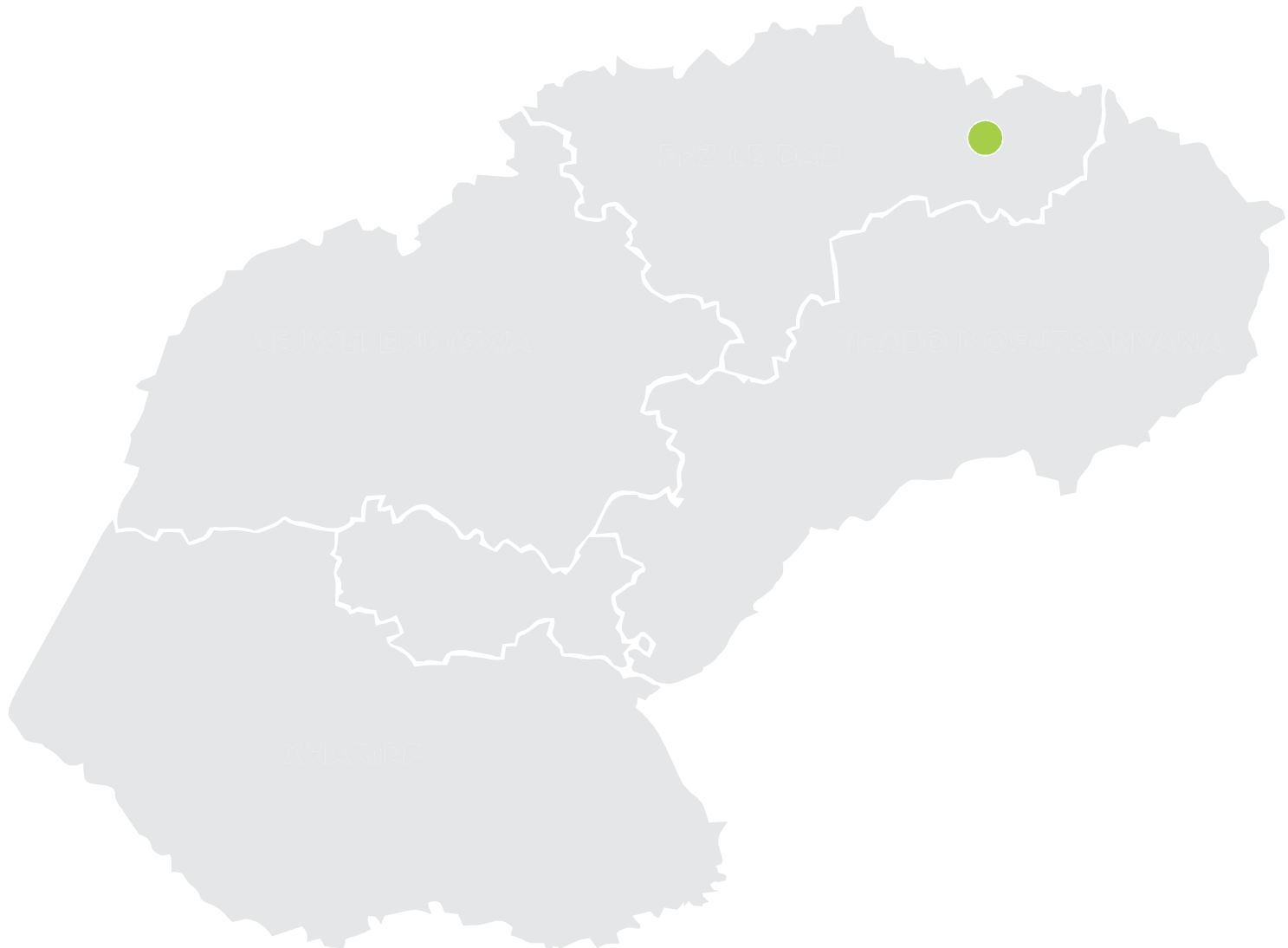
The municipality received a score of 6,86 out of 10 in the 80/20 municipal report for 2014 issued by the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR).

Liveability score: 2 out of 10

Mafube Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Mafube Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

The population increase in this municipality between 2001 and 2011 was minimal, growing from 56 637 to 57 876. The area is 3 971,36 km² in extent, and the population density is some 14,5 people per square kilometre. The dependency burden eased during the period, from 67,5 to 61,1, the number of families swelled from 14 465 to 16 460, and the average family size dropped from 3,8 members to 3,4. The youthful character of the municipality is reflected in the fact that 72,7% of residents are younger than 40. Approximately 95% of the area is classified as rural.

The official unemployment rate fell from a high 45% in 2001 to 33,4% in 2011, and the youth unemployment rate declined from 59,1% to 44,3%. Residents are generally impoverished, with 86,9% of households annually earning less than R76 400. The annual income of 61,9% is somewhere between R1 and R38 200, and 12,3% have no income. Only 6,3% earn more than R153 800 a year. Schooling is improving, although from a low base: 14,1% of residents older than 20 received no schooling (2001: 26,4%), and only 24,4% completed their schooling (2001: 14,3%).

As to housing, a substantial 64,7% of households live in houses on separate stands, 4,4% in traditional dwellings, 6,6% in informal housing in a backyard and 21,2% in informal structures elsewhere. The rest are negligible.

Services and facilities

Mafube has high crime levels. During 2011-'12 the murder rate was 30 per 100 000 while this rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances was 186. In terms of property crime, the rates were 36 for residential property and 44 for business robbery. The municipality is served by five police offices. Reporting figures vary from office to office but are generally rather low. For instance, 1 murder, 2 murder attempts, 3 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 10 of business robbery and 23 of residential property were reported between April 2012 and March 2013 at the Comelia office. Yet these figures were 14, 7, 88, 67 and 246 at the Namahadi office.

Only a few state clinics are situated within the municipality. Virtually all households have access to tap water: 43,6% inside their dwellings, 48,5% inside their stands, and 3,5% from an access point outside their stands. Only 2,4% use a borehole and the rest are negligible. Mafube's drinking water is appalling. The last Blue Drop score was 18,16%, which meant only the 18th position for the municipality (out of 20) in the province. Even more alarming is the sluggish progress

in solving the problem: the 2011 score was 15,25% and 10,6% in 2010. None of the municipality's three supply systems received a higher score than 25% for drinking water quality compliance.

The sanitation situation seems fine, however, with 86,1% of households enjoying flush toilets and 3,4% using dry-toilet facilities. More than 4% have no sanitation facilities and the rest are negligible. The drainage and purification of effluent is extremely poor and the municipality's last score was only 9,5% (15th out of 20 municipalities in the Free State). All five drainage systems received 0% for effluent quality compliance. The situation was described as follows in the assessment: ***“The Mafube Local Municipality has performed unsatisfactorily during the Green Drop assessments, indicating that wastewater services are not being managed according to the expectations of the regulation programme. The most prominent gaps are to be found in the lack of technical staff, as well as management aspects as reflected in the breach of essential planning, procedures and planning aspects.”***

According to *Volksblad* (21 February 2015), four court orders have been handed down already; in terms of the fourth order, raw sewage was discharged into the Wilge River, one of the Vaal Dam's major feeders, because of poor maintenance of the sewage treatment plant.

The refuse of 85,1% of households is removed weekly by the municipality; 10,6% of households have to use their own refuse dump and 2,6% have no refuse removal facilities. The rest are negligible. Approximately 84% of households use electricity for lighting, 75,2% for cooking and 58,1% for heating.

Governance

No information on vacancies at Mafube was available, and no confirmed cases of corruption could be found either.

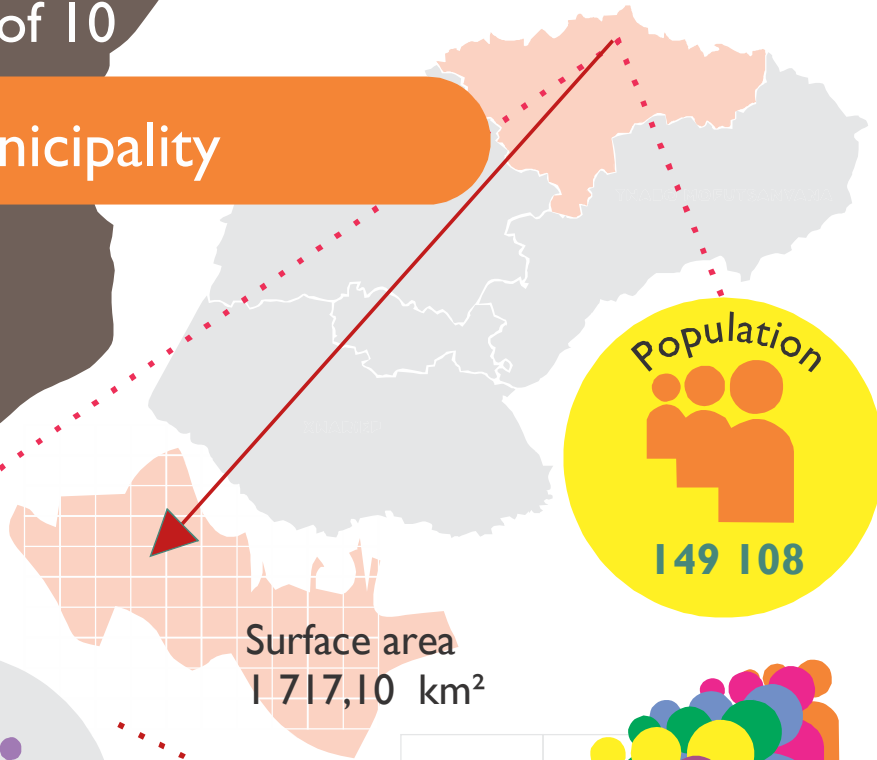
Mafube's finances and financial management count among the poorest in a province suffering from poor municipal governance. In 2014, Kimi Makwetu, the newly appointed Auditor-General (AG), designated the municipality as one of seven Free State municipalities that required urgent intervention. During the last three audit opinions, Mafube received a "restraint of opinion" because its accounting systems were too disorganised for auditing. The assessment included the following comments: *"Since the amalgamation of the municipality 12 years ago there has been persistent stagnation in its audit outcomes as the audit matters reported in previous years were not addressed. The CFO position was vacant for three months of the year under review and some of the senior managers, including the municipal manager and the mayor, were only appointed during the year under review. Urgent intervention on both provincial and political levels is needed to change the culture of repeated disclaimers . . . The financial statements submitted for audit purposes remained of poor quality, even though consultants were reappointed due to the lack of skills within the municipality. As a result, many repeat and new qualifications were reported. In addition, material corrections were made to the submitted financial statements based on misstatements identified by the auditors . . . The status of SCM remains unsatisfactory, primarily due to management's neglect to comply with SCM regulations and a lack of consequences for poor performance, which ultimately resulted in irregular expenditure of R120 110 781 (2012:*

R56 089 663) being incurred for the year. A qualified audit opinion was expressed in terms of the amount of irregular expenditure disclosed in the financial statements, as the full extent thereof could not be determined. The municipality was one of the major contributors to irregular expenditure."

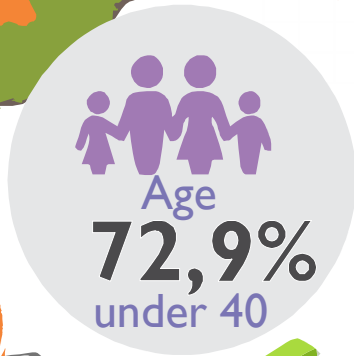
The municipality received a score of only 6,62 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 municipal report for 2014.

Liveability score: 6½ out of 10

Metsimaholo Local Municipality



Surface area
1 717,10 km²



Population density
per km²
87



Qualified



Murder rate (per 100 000 people)



SERVICES

Piped water in houses

73%
of people



Use own refuse dump

1,8%
of people

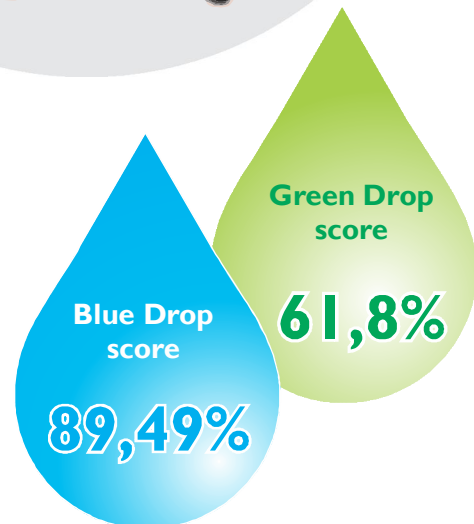
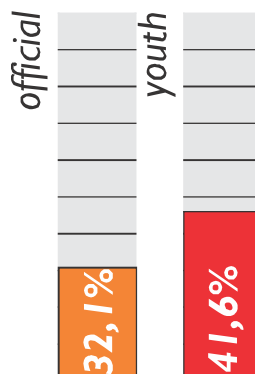


Use a pit toilet

8,7%
of people



Unemployment



Metsimaholo Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

The population increased from 115 955 to 149 108 between 2001 and 2011 while the dependency burden eased slightly, from 45,7 to 44,3. The municipal area is 1 717,10 km² and the population density is some 87 people per square kilometre. The number of families increased from 32 260 to 47 757, while the average household size decreased from 3,3 to 3,1 members. Age-wise, 72,9% of residents are younger than 40, and 34,7% are younger than 20. About 84% of the area is classified as rural.

During the decade, the official unemployment rate fell from 37% to 32,1% while the youth unemployment rate went down from 47,7% to 41,6%. Some 73% of households have an annual income of less than R76 400 and nearly 60% earn less than R38 200. Only 16,7% enjoy an annual income of more than R153 800. Schooling levels in the municipality are fair, with 5,6% (2001: 10,7%) who had no schooling and 29,8% (2001: 22,2%) who passed matric.

As to housing, 74% of households live in houses on separate stands and 5,3% reside in flats in blocks of flats. Almost 20% occupy informal structures in backyards or elsewhere. The rest are negligible.

Services and facilities

Local crime levels are high. During 2011-'12 the murder rate was 31 per 100 000 and this rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances was 213. As to property crime, this rate was 25 for residential property and 49 for business robbery. Each of the five police offices in the municipality serves around 30 000 people. The number of reported crimes fluctuates widely from office to office. At the Deneysville office only 5 murders, 8 murder attempts, 22 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances and 12 of business robbery were reported between April 2012 and March 2013 – yet also 111 of residential property. At the Oranjeville office, these figures were only 1, 1, 1, 7 and 42. These figures were 27, 51, 142, 126 and 466 at the Zamdela office.

The area is served by only five state clinics and the Metsimaholo state hospital.

Virtually all households have tap water: 73% enjoy indoor access, 16,3% have tap water inside their stands and 10,5% have access at an external point. The drinking water quality is excellent and the last Blue Drop score was 89,49%, after having been 48,86% in 2011 and 0% in 2010. This indicates swift improvement. The drinking water quality compliance at

all three systems was 100%. Moreover, asset management and accountability at all the systems obtained high scores.

As to sanitation, a large percentage (87,5%) use flush toilets, 1,4% use the bucket system and 8,7% have to use pit toilets. The municipality's last Green Drop score was a rather average 61,8% – yet it was still second best in the province. All three systems received only 20% for effluent quality compliance. According to the report, *“The Metsimaholo Local Municipality has performed unsatisfactorily during the Green Drop assessments, indicating that the wastewater services are not being managed according to the expectations of the regulation programme . . . Overall, the Green Drop requirements are largely not met, with the key gaps pertaining to water quality compliance and the credibility of the sample analysis.”*

As to refuse removal, 94,5% of households' refuse is removed weekly by the municipality, and that of 1,3% on another basis. Just more than 2% have no refuse removal.

Approximately 86% of households use electricity for lighting, 83,1% for cooking and 67,7% for heating.

Governance

Numerous vital positions were vacant at the time of writing such as administrative manager, personnel officer, risk coordinator, network administrator, financial systems administrator, and manager responsible for public safety. There were also vacancies for electricians, builders and joiners.

The municipality's last two AG opinions were “qualified”. The AG's report explained their motivation as follows: *“The stagnation in the portfolio's audit outcome could be attributed to the municipality again receiving a qualified audit opinion on irregular expenditure, although all the other qualifications of the previous year were cleared. Various noncompliance findings and findings on the usefulness and reliability of performance information at the municipality were, however, also reported again . . . The municipality did not improve its audit outcome due to a lack of progress made in addressing the findings in the six key risk areas reported in the previous year. The position of CFO was vacant for five months of the year under review. The financial statements submitted for audit purposes remained of poor quality, even though consultants were reappointed due to the lack of skills and vacant positions within the municipality. As a result, many material corrections were made to the submitted*

financial statements, based on misstatements identified by the auditors . . . The stagnation in key controls was caused by vacancies, skills shortages and the lack of consequences for poor performance.”

The municipality received a tolerable score of 7,04 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 report.

Liveability score: 4½ out of 10

Moqhaka Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Moqhaka Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

The current municipal population is 160 532 people (2001: 167 892). The dependency burden is 50,5 compared with 51 in 2001, and the area of 7 924,56 km² means a population density of 20,2 people per square kilometre. The number of families swelled from 41 514 to 45 661. Some 68% of residents are younger than 40, and 98,4% of the area is classified as “rural”.

The unemployment rate dropped from almost 40% to 35,2% between 2001 and 2011, and the youth unemployment rate fell from 54,6% to 47,2% during the same period. While 67,4% of the population earn less than R38 200 a year, this percentage is lower than for most other Free State municipalities. Less than 10% of households' annual income exceeds R153 800. Residents older than 20 with no schooling fell from 10,9% to 5,7% between 2001 and 2011, while the number of matriculants increased from 20% to 27,8%.

Regarding housing, 47% of households live in houses on separate stands, 3% in flats in blocks of flats, 10,1% in informal housing and 36,4% reside in workers' hostels.

Services and facilities

Crime levels are rather high. The murder rate is 20 per 100 000 people and the rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances, 158. This rate is 13 for residential property and 35 for business robbery. There are five police offices within Moqhaka, each serving approximately 31 000 people. Crime levels are very low at the Steynsrus office with only 2 murders, 1 murder attempt, 1 incident of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 12 of business robbery and 27 of residential property reported there between April 2013 to March 2014. Violent crime is also low at the Vierfontein and Viljoenskroon offices, but 75 incidents of business robbery and 92 of residential property were reported at Viljoenskroon during the period. The levels of violent crime and property crime are high at the Maobeng and Kroonstad offices.

The municipality is served by quite a number of state-operated medical facilities, such as the Boitumelo Hospital, as well as several clinics. The Netcare Kroon private hospital is the only private facility in the area.

Water quality is poor. The last Blue Drop score was 54,93% (in 2012); previously it was 21,76% in 2011 and 0% in 2010.

Tap water is commonplace, however, with 32,8% of households enjoying it indoors, 62% who have tap water inside their stands and only 2,3% who have to use an access point outside their stands.

For sanitation, 86,2% of households use a flush toilet, 5,9% use a pit toilet with improved ventilation, 3,9% use a pit toilet and 2,1% still use the bucket system. The last Green Drop score (in 2011) was only 41,9%. All three systems received 0% for effluent quality compliance. It was motivated as follows: **“The situation in Moqhaka is considered critical from a regulatory view and holds a high risk to public health and the environment.”**

The refuse of approximately 90% of households is removed weekly by the municipality, 6% use their own refuse dump, and 2,6% have no refuse removal facilities at all.

Governance

Several allegations of corruption and mismanagement had been made against the municipal manager, Mncedisi Mqwathi; however, nothing was proved or tried in court. The website was not functioning at the time of writing and therefore the number of vacancies in the municipality could not be ascertained.

The AG's last eight audit opinions were “refusal with findings”, indicating chronic management problems in the municipality. According to the opinion, **“The municipality has been receiving a disclaimer of opinion for the past eight years as audit report matters of previous years were not being addressed. These included qualifications on fixed assets, receivables and disclosure notes, various noncompliance matters and findings on performance information. Additional qualifications on matters such as service charges, payables and expenditure have also been raised. The stagnation can largely be attributed to the instability in key positions as the CFO and SCM manager positions were vacant during the financial year.”**

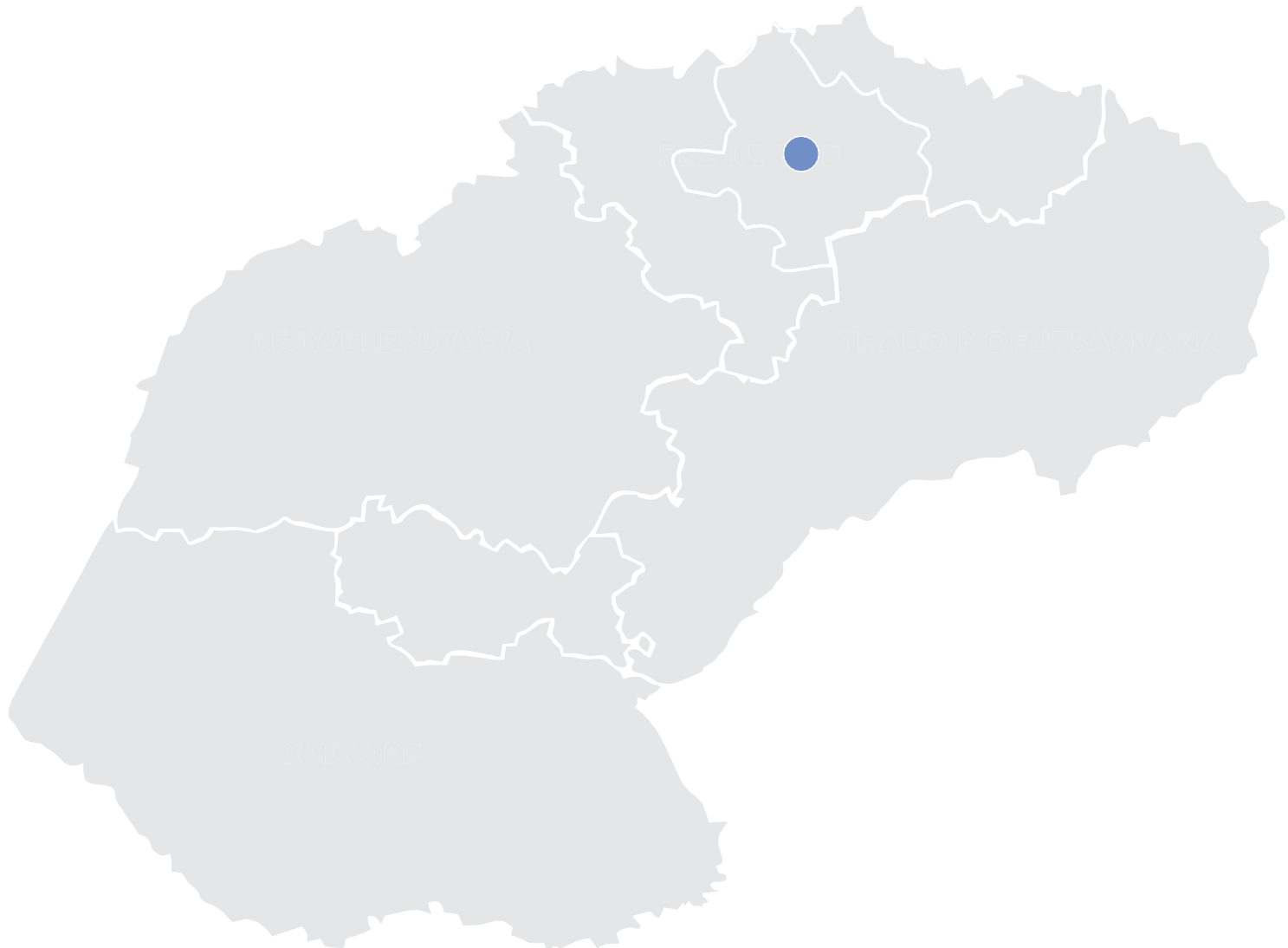
Moqhaka scored 6,94 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 report.

Liveability score: 3 out of 10

Ngwathe Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Ngwathe Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

The municipal population is 120 520 (2001: 118 810) and, with an area of 7 055,01 km², the population density is some 17 people per square kilometre. The dependency burden eased somewhat since 2001, from 60,5 to 60,2, and the number of families increased from 32 108 to 37 102. Household size dropped from 3,6 members to 3,2. Almost 70% of residents are younger than 40 and the municipality is about 90% rural.

The official unemployment rate remains stubbornly high at 35,3% and the youth unemployment rate is also high at 44,4%. Income levels are low, with 61,6% of households annually earning between R1 and R38 200 and 13% who have no income. Only 7,1% of households earn more than R153 800 a year. However, schooling seems fine: 8,5% of people older than 20 received no education and 25,8% hold a matric certificate.

Housing is rather formal, with 72,3% of households living in houses on separate stands and 2,3% in flats in blocks of flats. Around 21% occupy informal housing, in either backyards or elsewhere.

Services and facilities

Local crime is quite high in some respects. During 2011-'12 the murder rate was 15 people per 100 000. This rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances was 78, 3 for residential property and 35 for business robbery. There are seven police offices in the area, which means a client load of some 17 000 people per office. Crime rates are low at some stations: the Edenville office, for instance, recorded no murders, 2 murder attempts, 3 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 7 of business robbery and 23 of residential property between April 2013 and March 2014. At Heuningspruit, these figures were 0, 0, 1, 0 and 9. The crime levels were higher at other offices such as Tumahole where 6 murders, 12 murder attempts, 20 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 24 of business robbery and 124 of residential property were reported during the period.

There are no private medical facilities situated in the municipality, only several clinics and two state-operated hospitals (Parys and Tokollo).

Ngwathe has abundant tap water but the quality is poor.

Approximately 44% of households have tap water indoors, 47,4% have access to tap water inside their stands and 3,3% have to use an outside access point. The last Blue Drop score (2012) was only 20,59%, down from 45,37% in 2011 and 25% in 2010. Drinking water quality has therefore deteriorated even further.

In terms of sanitation, 70,2% of households make use of flush toilets and 5,3% use flush toilets with septic tanks. About 2% use ventilation-improved pit toilets, 6,7% use pit toilets and 13,5% still have the bucket system. The last Green Drop score was only 44,9%. Except for Heilbron, effluent quality compliance at all the plants was inferior. According to the report, ***“The Ngwathe Local Municipality has performed poorly for the 2010/11 Green Drop assessments, indicating that the wastewater services are not being managed according to the expectations of the regulation programme. With the exception of the Heilbron plant, the Green Drop requirements are largely not met and result in a low overall municipal score for Ngwathe.”***

Refuse removal, however, appears satisfactory: the municipality removes the refuse of 84,4% of households weekly, and that of 1,5% less regularly. Approximately 11% still use their own refuse dump and 2,8% have no refuse removal facilities.

As to the use of electricity, 92% of households use it for lighting, 88,1% for heating and 0% for cooking.

Governance

During the past couple of years, corruption and maladministration kept the municipality in the news. Former municipal manager Thabo Mokoena was responsible for one of the latest and most flagrant incidents: he appointed friends in municipal positions and then paid them outrageous salaries. That was the finding of a provincial task team, and Mokoena was dismissed. There were also a number of arrests due to alleged corruption and financial irregularities in 2011.

The municipality's website was inaccessible at the time of writing; information on vacancies was therefore not available.

The last three audit opinions by the AG were “refusal with findings”. Irregular expenditure during the last audit round amounted to R17 361 899, more than double the amount in 2012. That could be ascribed to the vacancy of the position of Chief Financial Officer. The report stated, among other things, *“Since the amalgamation of the municipality 12 years ago there has been persistent stagnation in its audit outcomes as a result of audit matters reported in previous years not being addressed. The municipality received a qualified audit opinion on most of the components in the financial statements, which is indicative of poor financial management. Urgent intervention on both provincial and political levels is needed to change the culture of repeated disclaimers . . . The financial statements submitted for audit purposes remained of poor quality even though the services of consultants were again obtained due to vacancies and the lack of skills at the municipality. The recurrent lack of supporting documents, inadequate monthly disciplines and the late appointment of consultants resulted in many repeat qualifications. Although the provincial treasury assisted the municipality during the audit process, their efforts were frustrated by the municipality's lack of key controls.”*

The municipality scored 6,78 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 report.

Liveability score: 1 out of 10

Masilonyana Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Population

63 334

Surface area
6 796,09 km²

Age
70%
under 40

Population density
per km²
9,3

**Audit
opinion**
2011/2012

Qualified

Murder rate (per 100 000 people)

100 000 **43**

SERVICES

Piped water in houses

56,6%
of people



Use own refuse dump

33,6%
of people

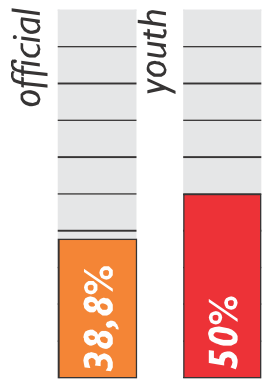


Use a pit toilet

1,9%
of people



Unemployment



Blue Drop
score
11,4%

Green Drop
score

0%

Masilonyana Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

The population lessened from 64 409 to 63 334 between 2001 and 2011, and an area of 6 796,09 km² means a population density of 9,3 people per square kilometre. During the period, the dependency burden swelled from 54,2 to 55,3 while the number of households rose marginally from 17 064 to 17 575. The average household size increased from 3,1 members to 3,3. More than 70% of residents are younger than 40, and the municipality is 84,6% rural.

The official unemployment rate of 38,8% is the second highest for a Free State municipality and high compared with the rest of the country. The youth unemployment rate of nearly 50% is extremely high. The income of more than three-quarters of households is less than R38 200 a year. Only 5,5% enjoy an annual income of more than R153 800. Some 9% of residents older than 20 received no education, and 23,1% completed matric.

On account of local mining operations, 36,8% of households reside in workers' hostels. More than 47% dwell in houses on separate stands and 11% in informal housing – in backyards or elsewhere.

Services and facilities

Crime in the municipality is rather high. In 2011-'12 the murder rate was 43 per 100 000 and for robbery with aggravating circumstances, 89. This rate for residential property was 16 and for business robbery, 33. The area has five police offices, each serving some 12 000 people. Crime rates were high at some stations such as Brandfort, where 15 murders, 16 murder attempts, 39 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 118 of business robbery and 156 of residential property were reported between April 2013 and April 2014. Stations such as Verkeerdevlei recorded very low crime rates: no murders, 1 murder attempt, 1 incident of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 6 of business robbery and 15 of residential property.

Only seven state clinics and a state hospital are situated within the municipality.

More than 90% of households have access to tap water: 56,6% indoors, 38,7% inside their stands, and 3,4% from an access point outside their stands. With a Blue Drop score of 11,4% in 2012, the municipality received the lowest ranking

in the Free State. It scored 6,49% in 2011 and 6,2% in 2010. Three of the five systems received 0% for drinking water quality compliance, and all five were zero-rated for management and accountability. According to Netwerk24 (11 March 2014), a water crisis had developed in the municipality. The DA petitioned that the municipality be declared a disaster area, and AfriForum took the municipality to court.

Some 64% of households use a flush toilet, 1,9% use a pit toilet and a substantial 30,2% have to use the bucket system for sanitation. The last Green Drop score was 0% and all five systems received 0% in respect of each indicator, for refusal to be rated. The assessment stated, *“The indifferent behaviour by Masilonyana Local Municipality towards a national programme to inform the public of local wastewater services performance, is deplorable ... From a regulatory point of view, wastewater services by Masilonyana present a high risk situation to public health and the environment.”*

While 57,9% of households' refuse is removed by the municipality on a weekly basis, more than a third (33,6%) have to use their own refuse dump.

A high percentage of households (93,2%) use electricity for lighting, 88,4% for cooking and 55,3% for heating.

Governance

Because the municipality's website was inaccessible at the time of writing, the extent of vacancies could not be ascertained.

The municipality's last two audit opinions were “qualified”. The report stated, among other things, *“The stagnation in the audit outcome was due to management's slow response in addressing the findings on audit matters reported in the previous year. The CFO was, moreover, only appointed in February 2013. The audit opinion included qualifications on immovable assets as well as various non-compliance matters and findings on performance information ... Management did not monitor the human resources processes satisfactorily, which resulted in a vacancy rate of 60%.”*

Leon Claassen, an analyst with Ratings Afrika, a consultancy analysing municipal finances, described Masilonyana as one of the ten worst municipalities in the country in respect of finances. According to Netwerk24 (3 July 2013), he said poor operational performance – with expenditure exceeding revenue – was to be blamed, as well as inadequate spending on the maintenance of infrastructure.

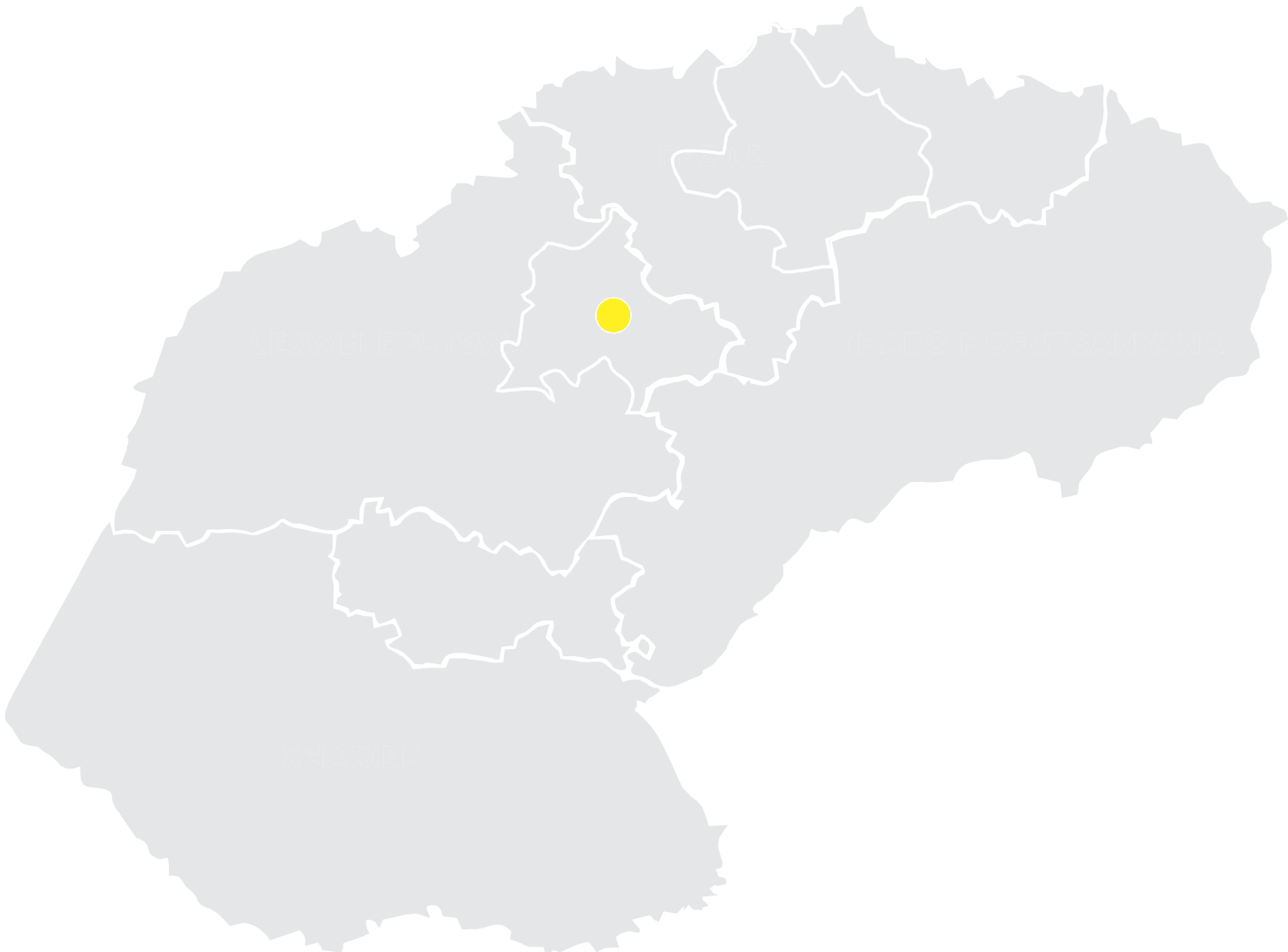
The municipality scored 6,56 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 report.

Liveability score: 5 out of 10

Matjhabeng Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Matjhabeng Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

The municipal population of 406 461 is huge; however, it does amount to a decline compared with 2001's 408 170. The area of 5 155,46 km² means a population density of some 79 people per square kilometre. The population density has remained the same at 46,9 over the past 15 years. The number of families currently stands at 123 195, and the average household size is 3,1 people. Approximately 70% of the people are younger than 40, and the municipality is 72% rural.

Although the official unemployment rate in the area is a high 37%, it does amount to a decline against the 46,5% in 2001. The youth unemployment rate is almost 50%, which does not augur well for the stability of the municipality, especially regarding crime. Almost 65% of households' annual income is below R38 200 and 10,7% earn more than R153 800 a year. The education profile seems fine: only 4,6% of residents younger than 20 did not receive any formal education and 28% did complete matric.

Almost 60% of households live in houses on separate stands and 3,7% occupy flats in blocks of flats. Nearly 23% live in informal housing – in backyards or elsewhere – and 8,7% in workers' hostels.

Services and facilities

Local crime is very high. In 2011/12 the murder rate was 55 per 100 000 and for robbery with aggravating circumstances, 305. As to property crime, it was 42 for residential property and 48 for business robbery. The municipality has nine police offices, each having to serve nearly 40 000 people. Stations such as Allanridge and Ventersburg had low crime rates; other stations recorded very high crime rates. For instance, 34 murders, 22 murder attempts, 75 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 12 of business robbery and 125 of residential property were reported at the Bronville office. Meloding, Odendaalsrus, Virginia, Welkom and Thabong also recorded very high levels of violent and property crime.

Because of the large population and concentration of people, a wide range of medical facilities exists. There are a number of state clinics and hospitals such as the Thusanong Hospital. Private facilities include the Welkom Mediclinic and the Ernest Oppenheimer Hospital.

The water supply and quality picture seems satisfactory. More than 60% of households enjoy tap water indoors,

30,7% have access to water inside their stands, and 7% have to use an outside access point. Matjhabeng's last Blue Drop score was 94,72% – the highest in the province, and a vast improvement on 2011's 79,91% and 2010's 47,3%. Except for one system, all the others scored 100% for drinking water quality compliance. Moreover, all of them gained 100% for management and accountability, which is a very positive sign.

As for sanitation, 78,4% of households use flush toilets but 6,8% still have to use pit toilets and 11,1% have to use bucket toilets. The rest are negligible. Yet, to the extent that the drinking water is good, to that extent the effluent is lacking. The last Green Drop score was 14,2%. Out of 11 purification plants only one, Virginia (18%), did not receive zero for effluent quality.

In respect of refuse removal, the municipality weekly removes the refuse of 89,1% of households. Around 8% still have to use their own refuse dump.

More than 91% of households use electricity for lighting, 87,7% for cooking and 64,8% for heating.

Governance

The municipality's website contained no information on vacancies.

As to corruption, in 2013 the Free State Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance ordered an investigation into the municipality after allegations of corruption had become known. The parliamentary monitoring group reported as follows on the investigation: ***“Interviews had been conducted with senior officials and there were attempts to analyse relevant records and documentation, and site investigations. Once again, the investigation was hindered by non-availability of some documentation, especially on procurement and bidding. It was suspected that some of the information about directorships in companies might be outdated, and the investigation in some cases had not been conclusive. It was, however, known that the municipality suffered loss and damage through incompetence in supply chain management, inadequate management of contracts, non-compliance with the local government framework and weak project management. This had led to financial distress of the municipality, whilst the municipal manager was often also under political pressure to accede to certain decisions.”***

Despite recent allegations of corruption in the municipality, there have been no court cases or convictions.

The municipality's last three AG opinions were "refusal". The report stated, among other things, *"Since the amalgamation of the municipality 12 years ago there has been persistent stagnation in its audit outcomes, which could be attributed to management's slow response in addressing the matters in the audit reports of previous years. Furthermore, the positions of CFO and SCM manager have been vacant for more than four and two years, respectively. Urgent intervention at both provincial and political levels is needed to change the culture of repeated disclaimers."*

The municipality scored 6,86 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 report.

Liveability score: 1½ out of 10

Nala Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Demographic and socio-economic context

Between 2001 and 2011 the population decreased dramatically, from 98 264 to 81 220 (-1,9% annually), and the area of 4 128,79 km² means a population density of some 20 people per square kilometre. The current dependency burden is a rather high 62,4 and increasing – presumably because people of working age are seeking better opportunities elsewhere. Between 2001 and 2011, the number of households dropped from 25 839 to 21 703, and the average household now consists of 3,7 members. The municipality is 88,4% rural and 72,9% of residents are younger than 40.

The official unemployment rate of 35,9% is still high and higher than in the rest of the country; however, a sharp decline in the course of time has been noted. The youth unemployment rate is 47,6% (2001: 61,1%). Poverty seems rampant, with nearly 80% of households earning less than R38 200 per annum. Only 6,2% earn more than R153 800 a year. The education profile is likewise depressing: 7,9% of residents older than 20 did not finish their school years, and only 22,9% completed matric.

Only 52,2% of households in the municipality live in houses on separate stands and 2,7% in flats in blocks of flats. The informal component is very high: 36,6% live in structures which are not in a backyard and 5,5% indeed dwell in backyard structures.

Services and facilities

Violent crime seems high. During 2011-'12 the murder rate was 30 per 100 000 people and this rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances was 160. As to property crime, this rate was 8 and the rate for business robbery, 46. The area is served by only two police offices, each having to serve more than 40 000 people. Between April 2013 and March 2014, 8 murders, 20 murder attempts, 28 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 58 of business robbery and 128 of residential property were reported at the Wesselsbron office. At the Bothaville office, these figures were 16, 9, 83, 97 and 286.

Several clinics and one hospital – all state-operated – are the only medical facilities in the municipality.

Tap water is commonplace, yet only 32,1% of households enjoy it indoors. Some 57% have tap water inside their stands, 5% use an outside access point, 3,7% use boreholes and the rest are negligible. The drinking water quality is fair. With its last Blue Drop score of 67,23% in 2012, the municipality took 10th position out of 20 in the province.

The previous scores were 58,29% and 63,6%. The assessment stated, among other things, ***“The E.coli failures apparent in the compliance data submitted by Nala infer that the water possesses an unacceptable risk for human consumption.”***

Regarding sanitation, only 33,6% of households use flush toilets while 9,1% have to use pit toilets. The majority (52,6%) still depend on the bucket system. More than 3% indicated that they have no sanitation facilities. Even more alarming is the municipality's last Green Drop score of 20,4%. Both Wesselsbron and Bothaville systems were zero-rated for effluent quality compliance, the submission of results and the credibility of sample analyses. The situation was plainly described in the report as follows, ***“The Nala Local Municipality has not impressed during the Green Drop assessments, indicating that the wastewater services are not being managed according to the expectations of the regulation programme ... The gaps in the current performance reach into most aspects of the wastewater business and it is difficult to find but one requirement that is on par with good practice.”***

Refuse removal seems acceptable: 83,3% of households' refuse is removed weekly by the municipality, 13,2% have to use their own refuse dump, and 2% have no refuse removal facilities.

More than 90% of households use electricity for lighting, 85,5% for cooking and 54,1% for heating.

Governance

There were no vacancies in the municipality at the time of writing.

The municipality made the news, especially in 2013, because of corruption, tender irregularities and mismanagement. For instance, the treasury deferred payments to the municipality at the end of 2012. Numerous allegations of corruption (Corruption Watch, 13 February 2013) were made, one of which referred to the purchase of “soft drinks” at a cost of R1,4 million – an amount that had been earmarked for the upgrading of toilets. In 2010, the treasury had requested KPMG to investigate allegations of fraud and corruption against the municipality; the firm's findings led to the dismissal of municipal manager David Shongwe. Many other officials and councillors were also involved. Another official, Dibusang Denny Mekgoe, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for stealing R60 000 from the municipality in 2008. The former mayor, Mpai Mogorosi, appropriated municipal funds amounting to R230 000 to have a security wall erected for a relative.

In its latest audit round the AG was unable to express an opinion; the audit could not be concluded owing to the non-submission of financial statements. This is an extremely alarming state of affairs.

The municipality scored 6,58 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 report.

Liveability score: 1 out of 10

Tokologo Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Population



28 986

Surface area
9325,86 km²



Age
72%
under 40

Population density
per km²
3,1



Audit opinion
2011/2012

Qualified



Murder rate (per 100 000 people)

100 000

41



SERVICES

Piped water in houses

52,9%
of people



Use own refuse dump

25,4%
of people

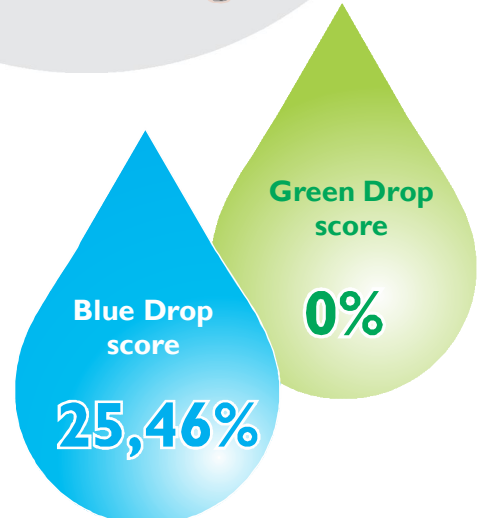
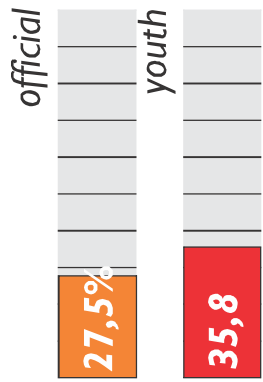


Use a pit toilet

4,6%
of people



Unemployment



Tokologo Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

Between 2001 and 2011, the number of residents declined from 32 455 to 28 986 and the current population density is only 3,1 people per square kilometre. The dependency burden is a high 62,4. The number of families dropped from 8 847 to 8 698, while the average household contracted from 3,6 members to 3,2. More than 72% of residents are younger than 40, and 93,4% of the area is classified as rural.

The unemployment rate climbed slightly, from 26,8% in 2001 to 27,5% in 2011. The youth unemployment rate also rose, from 33,1% to 35,8%. More than 76% of households' annual income is less than R38 200 and only 6,7% earn more than R153 800 a year. The education picture is not a rosy one. A high percentage, in absolute and relative terms, of 20,8% of residents older than 20 did not complete their schooling, and only 17,8% completed matric.

Housing-wise: a goodly 70,5% occupy houses on separate stands. The informal component – 26,4% in backyards or elsewhere – is substantial.

Services and facilities

Crime in Tokologo, although rather high, does not match the levels seen elsewhere in the Free State. The murder rate in 2011-'12 was 41 per 100 000 and this rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances was 53. For residential property it was 12 and for business robbery, 27. There are three police offices in the area, each serving nearly 10 000 people – a favourable ratio. Between April 2013 and March 2014, only 4 murders, 3 murder attempts, 4 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 29 of business robbery and 42 of residential property were reported at the Boshof office. At the Dealesville office, these figures were lower still at 3, 0, 1, 17 and 20. At the Hertzogville office it was 1, 2, 2, 23 and 53.

Only a few state clinics exist within the municipality – there are no state hospitals or private facilities.

Tap water is fairly commonplace and 52,9% of households enjoy the commodity indoors, 33,8% inside their stands, 7,7% from an access point outside their stands, and 3,7% from boreholes. The quality of the drinking water is poor. The last Blue Drop score in 2012 was only 25,46% (meaning 15th position out of 20 municipalities in the Free State). The two previous scores were 20,35% and 11,8%. The Boshof, Dealesville and Hertzogville systems scored respectively 0%, 10% and 5% for drinking water quality compliance.

Local sanitation can best be described as a crisis. Only 19% of

households use flush toilets and 1,4% use flush toilets with septic tanks. Almost a quarter (23,6%) use ventilation-improved pit toilets, 4,6% use ordinary pit toilets, 34% use the bucket system, and 16,8% have no sanitation facilities at all. The last Green Drop score was zero. All three systems received 0% for each rating indicator. The Department of Water Affairs expressed the following criticism, *“The passive approach and lack of responsibility displayed by Tokologo Local Municipality in terms of its wastewater services is deplorable. The municipality provided no evidence in support of the wastewater service delivery in the municipal area. From a regulatory point of view, wastewater services by Tokologo present a high risk situation to public health and the environment.”*

AfriForum more than once pointed out that sewage treatment in die municipality, more specifically in Hertzogville, had become a crisis. Prompted by the water problems in Dealesville, brought about by the municipality's failure to maintain infrastructure, AfriForum acquired and installed a pump to solve the problem. The costs were recovered from the Tokologo municipality.

Refuse removal is likewise problematical. The refuse of only 48,1% of households is removed by the municipality on a weekly basis. More than 25% have to use their own refuse dumps, and 22,1% have no refuse removal facilities.

More than 84% of households use electricity for lighting, 78,9% for cooking and 58,8% for heating.

Governance

There were no vacant technical or managerial positions in the municipality at the time of writing.

The last two audit opinions were “qualified” and shed light on the vacant positions in the municipality. According to the report, *“The stagnation in the audit outcome was caused by audit matters reported in the previous year not being addressed due to vacancies in middle management . . . The status of SCM remains unsatisfactory, primarily due to management's neglect to comply with SCM regulations, a lack of consequences for poor performance and the vacancy of the SCM manager position for 24 months, which ultimately resulted in irregular expenditure of R13 949 004 (2012: R5 154 096) being incurred for the year.”*

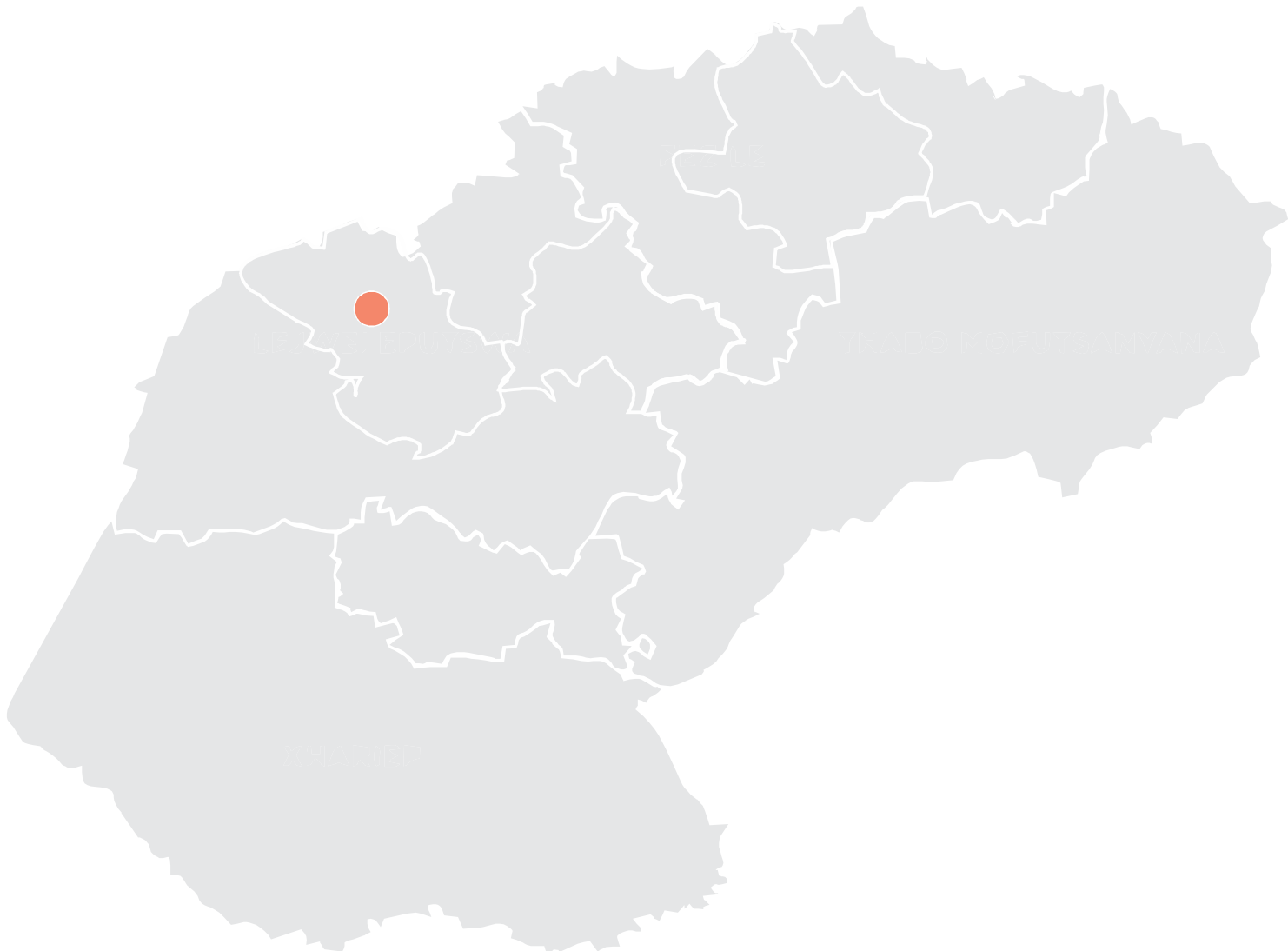
Tokologo scored only 5,64 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 report.

Liveability score: 4 out of 10

Tswelopele Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Tswelopele Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

Standing at 53 714 in 2001, the population had since dwindled to 47 625 in 2011, and the current population density is 7,2 people per square kilometre. The number of households fell accordingly, from 12 430 to 11 992, while the size of households decreased from 4,2 to 3,8 members. During the decade, the dependency burden eased from 67,4 to 64,5. Almost three-quarters of residents are younger than 40, and the area is nearly 100% rural.

Although the official unemployment rate declined over the years, at 34,8% it is still very high and much higher than the national average. The current youth unemployment rate is a distressing 46,2%. The annual income of more than three-quarters of households is below R38 200, and only 6,6% earn in excess of R153 800 a year. More than 13% (2001: 26,1%) of residents older than 20 did not complete their schooling while 20,5% passed matric.

Nearly 70% of households live in houses on separate stands, 1,3% in traditional dwellings and 2,5% in formal structures in a backyard. Almost 27% occupy informal housing – in a backyard or elsewhere.

Services and facilities

Violent crime is quite high in Tswelopele. During 2011-'12 the rate for murder was 46 per 100 000 people and for robbery with aggravating circumstances, 27. As to property crime, this rate was 5 for residential property and 11 for business robbery. There are only two police stations in the area, each having to serve some 24 000 people. At the Bultfontein office, 10 murders, 5 murder attempts, 4 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 42 of business robbery and 106 of residential property were reported between April 2013 and March 2014. At the Hoopstad office, these figures were 5, 3, 10, 36 and 81.

There are no private medical facilities in the municipality; it is only served by several state clinics and one state hospital (Mohau).

Almost 40% of households enjoy tap water indoors, 52,2% have access to tap water inside their stands, and 7,7% have to use an access point outside their stands. The drinking water quality is excellent. The last Blue Drop score of 92,42% in 2012 was ranked second best in the province. The two previous scores had been only 54,71% and 49,9%, indicating a marked improvement. Both systems, Bultfontein and Hoopstad, scored 100% for drinking water quality compliance. In addition, both scored 96% for management and accountability.

In respect of sanitation, almost 60% of households enjoy the use of flush toilets. A further 3,8% use dry-toilet facilities, 7,9% use pit toilets and 22,5% still use the bucket system. The last Green Drop score of 46,4% was pitiable. The two systems received respectively 13% and 0,5% for effluent quality compliance. The municipality nevertheless deserves praise for improvements, especially regarding management.

Refuse removal in the area seems generally satisfactory: 80,3% of households' refuse is removed weekly by the municipality. Yet, 18,3% of households still have to use their own refuse dump.

Regarding the use of electricity, 91,9% use it for lighting, 79,9% for cooking and 60,7% for heating.

Governance

There were no vacancies in the municipality at the time of writing.

In October 2014, Netwerk24 reported an amount of R1,1 million having been spent on cars for the mayor and speaker of the council – despite the municipality budgeting for a shortfall of R100 million this year. Furthermore, despite several allegations, not a single case of corruption or mismanagement could be confirmed.

The municipality's finances appear not too distressing, however. The last two audit opinions were "unqualified with findings". The stagnation in the audit opinion was attributed to unheeded audit recommendations from the previous year. These included several compliance issues as well as findings on performance information. Moreover, consultants are heavily relied on while the transfer of skills to permanent staff is not carried out effectively.

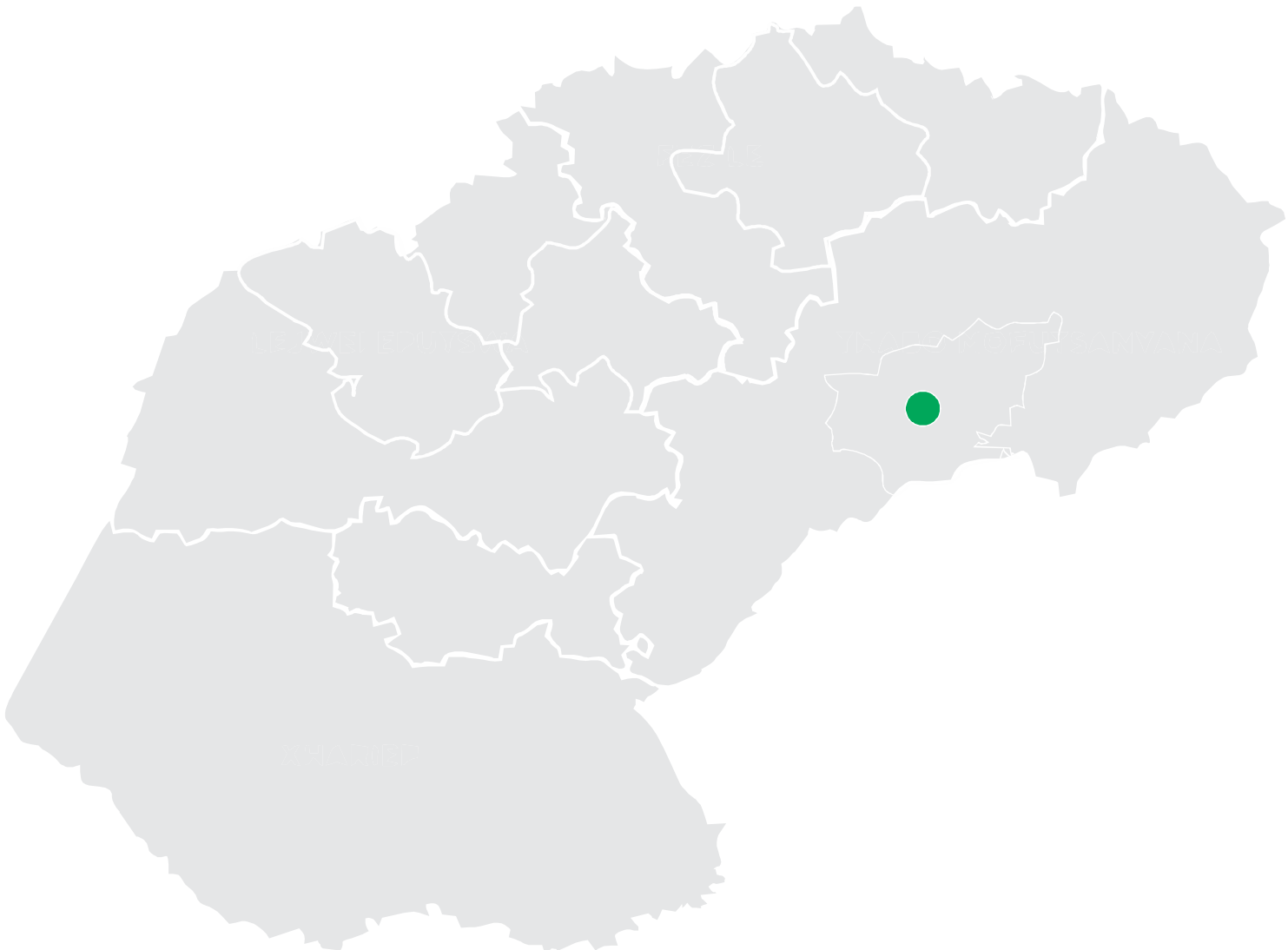
The municipality scored 6,65 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 index.

Liveability score: 5 out of 10

Dihlabeng Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Dihlabeng Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

This municipality had also experienced a declining population over the years, from 129 338 in 2001 to 128 704 in 2011, and the population density is now 26,3 people per square kilometre. During the period, the dependency burden eased from 56,8 in 2001 to 53,5 in 2011, the number of families increased from 33 116 to 38 593, and the average household size dropped from 3,8 to 3,2. More than 70% of residents are under 40, and the municipality is almost 80% rural.

The official unemployment rate is currently a high 28,7%; however, it has declined from almost 40% in 2001. The youth unemployment rate at nearly 40% is alarming, particularly because of the population's youthfulness. More than 65% of households' annual income is below R38 200, with only 11,3% earning more than R153 800 a year. Education figures are fair: only 8,9% of residents older than 20 left school prematurely and 26,8% did indeed complete their matric.

The housing situation is on the positive side: 76,4% of households live in houses on separate stands, 7,6% live in traditional dwellings, 11,5% occupy informal housing (in backyards of elsewhere) and the rest are negligible.

Services and facilities

Violent crime is high in Dihlabeng. During 2011-'12 the murder rate was 24 per 100 000 and the rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances, 106. In respect of property crime, this rate was 9 for residential property and 24 for business robbery. The municipality is served by five police offices, each bearing a client load of more than 25 000 people. At the Bethlehem office, 25 murders, 22 murder attempts, 129 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 208 of business robbery and 591 of residential property were reported between April 2013 and March 2014. At the Clarens office, these figures were much lower with only 2 murders, 2 murder attempts, 3 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 10 of business robbery and 26 of residential property.

There are a number of private medical facilities in the area, including the Bethlehem private day clinic and the Corona private medical centre. In addition, there are state hospitals such as the Dihlabeng Hospital as well as several state clinics.

Almost 60% of households have tap water inside their dwellings, 31,4% have taps inside their stands, and 3,4% have water access from a point outside their stands. 3,3% use boreholes. Drinking water quality is fair. The last Blue Drop

score in 2012 was 68,59%, which gained Dihlabeng the ninth position out of 20 Free State municipalities. The two previous scores were only 30,76% and 4,9%, and therefore the 2012 score amounted to a vast improvement. The five systems in Dihlabeng received 100% for drinking water quality.

Sanitation-wise, almost three-quarters of the households use a flush toilet, 8,6% use pit toilets and 9,6% have to use the bucket system. More than 3% have no sanitation facilities. The last Green Drop score was an unsatisfactory 32%. All five systems received 0% for their effluent quality. The report stated, among other things, *“The Dihlabeng Local Municipality has performed unsatisfactorily during the Green Drop assessments, indicating that wastewater services are still not being managed according to the expectations of the regulation programme. The complete lack of monitoring presents proof of inefficient wastewater management at the most fundamental levels, and this evidently poses a tremendous risk to public health and the receiving environment.”*

Refuse removal seems fine, with more than 80% of households' refuse removed weekly by the municipality. Only 12,4% use their own refuse dump and 4,6% have no refuse removal facilities.

Almost 85% of households use electricity for lighting, 75% for cooking and only 50,8% for heating.

Governance

No vacancies were advertised on the municipality's website at the time of writing. As in the case of many Free State municipalities, more than a few allegations about corruption had been made; however, nothing was proved or tried in court.

The municipality's financial management seems fair and an exception in a province suffering from extremely poor management at municipal level. Although not yet wholly unqualified, the last two audit opinions by the AG were “qualified with findings”. Unauthorised expenditure deteriorated while irregular as well as fruitless and wasteful expenditure improved. The report stated, *“The municipality disclosed a material loss of R58 381 254, incurred during the financial year due to the writing off of irrecoverable receivables, which is indicative of a material financial health and service delivery risk.”*

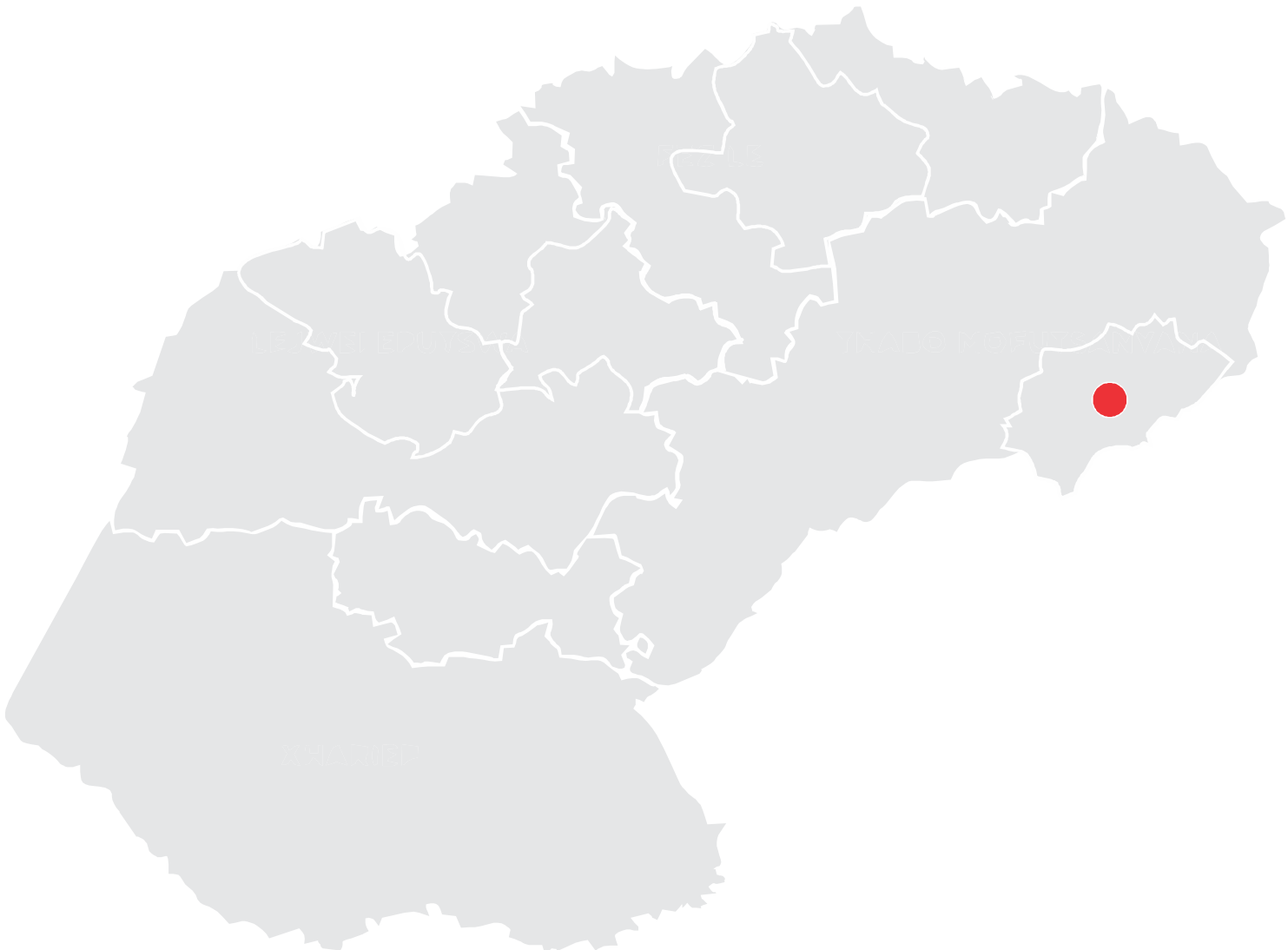
The municipality scored 6,81 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 report.

Liveability score: 4 out of 10

Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

The local population, though numerous, also declined between 2001 and 2011, from 360 549 to 335 784. The population density is 77,4 people/km² and the dependency burden is 61,2. During the period, the number of households went up rather drastically, from 90 349 to 100 228, while household size dropped from 3,9 to 3,3. Almost 75% of residents are younger than 40, and the area is 81,8% rural.

The official unemployment rate is still very high at 41,8%, though that's much lower than 2001's 57,5%. The youth unemployment rate is 53% and was almost 68% in 2001. This is a disturbing situation, given residents' youthfulness and therefore the possibility of heightened crime. More than 80% of households earn less than R38 200 a year, and slightly more than 5% earn an annual income of more than R153 800. Only 8,9% of residents older than 20 did not complete their schooling, and 26,8% did indeed matriculate.

More than 70% of households live in houses on separate stands and 18,3% occupy traditional dwellings. Some 8% live in informal housing.

Services and facilities

Crime in Maluti-a-Phofung is on the high side. The murder rate during 2011/12 was 24 per 100 000 and the rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances, 134. Regarding property crime, this rate was 23 for residential property and 17 for business robbery. The municipality with its large population is served by six police offices, each with a client load of some 56 000 people. Crime levels are high at the Harrismith office: 16 murders, 7 murder attempts, 142 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 117 of business robbery and 382 of residential property were reported there between April 2013 and March 2014. The Kestell office recorded drastically different figures: only 4 murders, nil murder attempts, 9 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 17 of business robbery and 70 of residential property.

There are no private clinics or hospitals in the area – only several clinics and the state-operated Elizabeth Ross Hospital.

Tap water is used by virtually all the households, although only 28% enjoy indoor access. More than 50% have taps inside their stands and 20,1% have water access from an outside point. The drinking water quality is very good and the municipality's last Blue Drop score was 86% – fluctuating

between 88,94% in 2011 and 65,8% in 2010. It was therefore of a reasonable quality throughout. Of the three systems, only QwaQwa did not receive 100% for drinking water quality. All three scored 100% for management and accountability. The report stated, *“Maluti-a-Phofung, assisted by MAP Water, once again confirmed that they are competent and committed to continuously provide drinking water of excellent quality to residents within their area of supply.”*

Only 28,6% of households use a flush toilet, 10% use some form of dry-toilet facility, almost 60% use pit toilets, and 1,8% have no sanitation facilities. The last Green Drop score was a fair 67%; however, the systems' effluent quality oscillated between 0% at the Wilge/Harrismith and Moeding systems to 73% at Kestell and Tshiame. All the systems scored 80% for asset management.

Refuse removal leaves much to be desired: only 27,8% of households' refuse is removed weekly by the municipality. Moreover, nearly 55% have to use their own refuse dump, and 11,5% have no refuse removal facilities at all.

Fewer than half of households use electricity for heating, 81% for cooking and close to 90% for lighting.

Governance

Some vital vacancies existed at the time of writing, i.e. for senior accounting manager, human-resource manager, senior manager for budgeting and revenue, and supply-chain manager.

The municipality's last audit opinion was “refusal”. The report stated, among other things, *“The stagnation in the audit outcome of the municipality over the past five years has been caused by audit matters reported in previous years not being addressed and the position of the CFO remaining vacant for seven months in the period under review. Urgent intervention at both provincial and political levels is needed to change the culture of repeated disclaimers.”*

The municipality's score in the SAIRR's 80/20 report was only 5,61 out of 10.

Liveability score: 3 out of 10

Mantsopa Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Mantsopa Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

Between 2001 and 2011, the local population decreased from 55 342 to 51 056, and the current population density is 11,8 people/km². The dependency burden is 59,2. During the period, the number of households increased from 13 772 to 15 170, and the average household now consists of 3,3 people. More than 72% are younger than 40 and the area is 81% rural.

As to the economy, the official unemployment rate now stands at 29,2% (2001: 35,5%), and the youth unemployment rate at 34,6%. Almost 73% of households earn less than R38 200 per annum. Only 8,2% of households' annual income exceed R153 800. Schooling seems fine: only 5,7% of people older than 20 did not complete their schooling while 22,9% did finish matric.

Approximately 74% of households live in houses on separate stands and 4,7% occupy traditional dwellings. More than 15% live in informal housing – in backyards or elsewhere – and 3,2% stay in informal structures in backyards.

Services and facilities

Crime in Mantsopa is high, yet lower than in the rest of the province or the district. During 2011/12 the murder rate was 12 per 100 000 and the rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances, 50. For residential property it was 9 and for business robbery 10. Five police offices are situated within the municipality, each having to serve some 10 000 people. At the Excelsior office only 1 murder, 1 murder attempt, 4 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 13 of business robbery and 21 of residential property were reported between April 2013 and March 2014. At the Hobhouse station, the figures were equally low. At Ladybrand, however, these figures were 13, 7, 15, 95 and 236.

Except for the private Riemland Clinic and the two state hospitals in the area, there are only several state clinics.

Tap water is commonplace, with 41,1% enjoying indoor usage and 50,8% having water access inside their stands. More than 4% have access to tap water outside their stands and 2,5% use boreholes. Mantsopa's water quality is poor. The last Blue Drop score was 47,09% while the two previous scores were 38,48% and 27,5%. It does at least indicate improvement, albeit slow. Three of the four systems received only 23% for drinking water quality. The taps ran dry in June 2014, however.

For sanitation, only 53,8% of households use flush toilets and 3% use flush toilets with a septic tank. Slightly more than 31% use the bucket toilet system, 3,7% use pit toilets and 4,7% have no sanitation.

More than 80% of households' refuse is removed weekly by the municipality, and that of 2% on another basis. More than 11% have to use their own refuse dump, and 4,8% have no refuse removal at all.

Approximately 91% of households use electricity for lighting, 79,3% for cooking and only 39% for heating.

Governance

Some important positions, such as that of municipal engineer, were vacant at the time of writing.

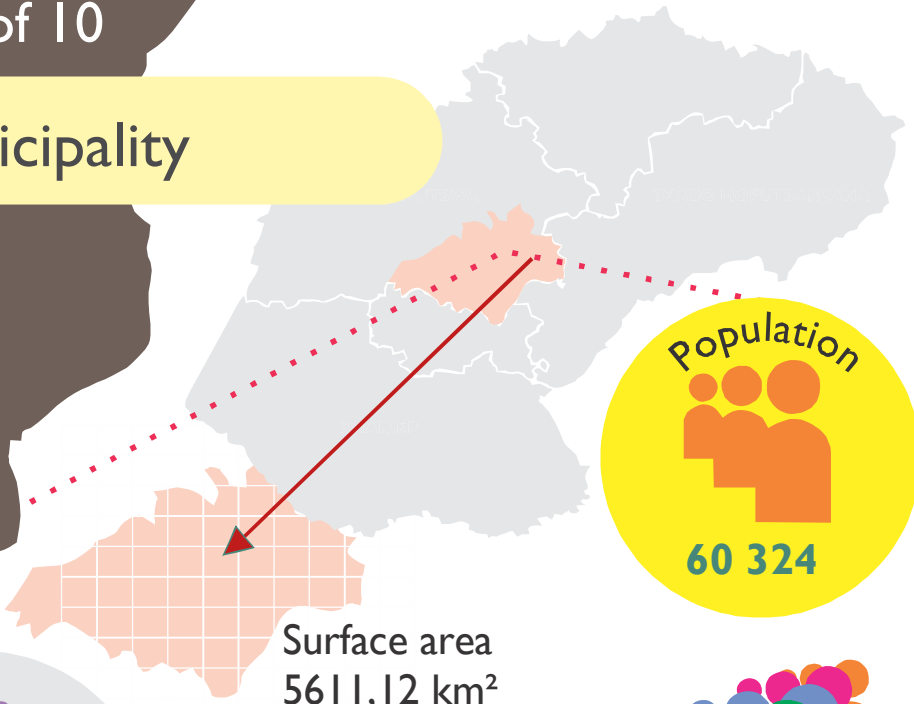
While no recent incidents of corruption could be confirmed, this municipality made the news in 2011 as one of South Africa's most corrupt municipalities with the embezzlement of R2 billion. Although Premier Ace Magashule had been aware of this since 2009, he did nothing about it. According to a report by a forensic firm, among other things, an amount of R1,5 million had been approved for refurbishment at the mayor's residence; this was labelled "personal enrichment" (Times Live, 12 June 2011).

The last two audit opinions were "refusal with findings". The report stated, "**The stagnation in the audit outcome that regressed two years ago from a qualified opinion to a disclaimer was caused by senior management's lack of skills and competencies, which led to matters in the previous year's audit report not being addressed. The matters reported in the previous year included qualifications on non-current and current assets, current liabilities, expenditure, and irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure, as well as various non-compliance matters and findings on performance information. In addition, new qualifications were raised, which included service charges and disclosure notes.**"

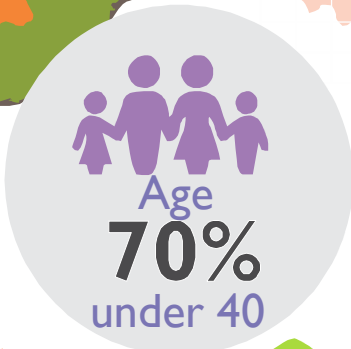
The municipality scored 6,88 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 report.

Liveability score: 2 out of 10

Nketoana Local Municipality



Surface area
5611,12 km²



Audit opinion
2011/2012

Unqualified with findings



SERVICES

Piped water in houses
45%
of people



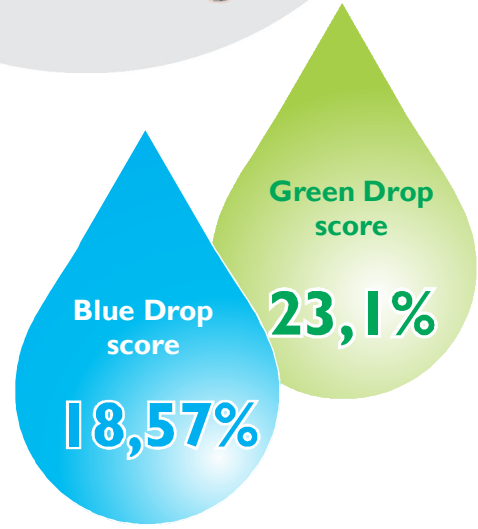
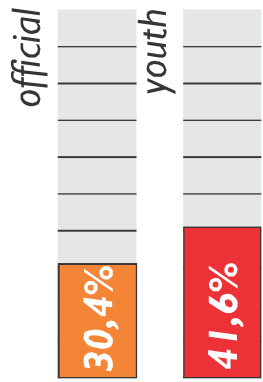
Use own refuse dump
25%
of people



Use a pit toilet
21%
of people



Unemployment



Nketoana Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

Between 2001 and 2011, the population declined from 61 951 to 60 324, and the population density is only some 11 people per square kilometre. The number of households swelled from 14 904 to 17 318, yet the average household size dwindled from 4,1 to 3,4. The dependency burden now stands at 61,6. The municipality's population is quite youthful, with more than 70% of residents still under 40. The municipality is 96,3% rural.

During the decade, the official unemployment rate eased from 37,7% to 30,4%, and the youth unemployment now stands at 41,6% – high for a municipality with a relatively young population. 12,7% of residents older than 20 did not complete their schooling and 20,4% did indeed complete matric. Almost 75% of households earn less than R38 200 a year, and only 6,6% earn more than R153 800 a year.

Some 56,4% of households live in a house on a separate stand and 5,9% in a traditional dwelling. More than 30% of the people occupy informal housing – in a backyard or elsewhere. The rest are negligible.

Services and facilities

The murder rate for 2011-'12 was 15 per 100 000 and this rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances was 22. For residential property the rate was 5 and for business robbery, 15. The area has four police offices, each serving some 15 000 people. During the recent past, the major types of violent and property crime have been fairly low. At the Lindley office, for instance, no murders, 2 murder attempts, 1 incident of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 12 of business robbery and 28 of residential property were reported between April 2013 and March 2014. Property crime at the Reitz office was an exception, with 43 incidents of business robbery and 88 of residential property reported there.

The state-operated Reitz Hospital and more than 10 state clinics are the only medical facilities in the municipality.

Nearly 45% of households have tap water indoors, 33,6% have water access inside their stands, and 15,9% have access to a tap outside their stands. The quality from the drinking water is shocking. The last Blue Drop score was 18,57% and the two previous scores had been 6,33% and 20,5%. All four systems received 0% for drinking water quality, and 14% for

management and accountability. The distressing assessment read as follows: *“The DWA (Department of Water Affairs) notes with serious concern that drinking water quality management at Nketoana Local Municipality was again found to be unsatisfactory and, in general, the municipality showed little interest or commitment to improve service delivery... The DWA concludes from the poor drinking water quality management systems that drinking water supplied to residents within the jurisdiction of Nketoana presents an unacceptable risk to public health.”*

According to AfriForum's national Blue and Green Drop branch project, Petrus Steyn's drinking water ranks among the poorest in the country.

The sanitation system leaves much to be desired: only 21% of households use a flush toilet and 6,2% use a flush toilet with a septic tank. Some 21% use a pit toilet and 41,7% still have to use the bucket system. More than 5% of households have no sanitation facilities. Effluent quality is likewise miserable, with the last Green Drop score a meagre 23,1%. All four systems scored 0% for, among others, effluent quality and the submission of test results. All the systems scored 80% for management, however.

The lowly score was motivated as follows, *“The most pertinent gaps are the 0% scores related to lack in monitoring systems, compromised credibility of results, non-submission of results, poor planning and lack of basic design and flow information. The only score that justified a positive comment would be that asset management aspects were being addressed, albeit only on paper and not in practice.”*

Nearly two-thirds of households' refuse is removed weekly by the municipality. Almost a quarter have to use their own refuse dump, and 10,3% have no refuse removal at all.

Nearly 85% of households use electricity for lighting, almost three-quarters for cooking, and close on 55% for heating.

Governance

No vacancies were advertised on the municipality's website at the time of writing. Moreover, no recent confirmed cases of corruption could be traced in the media.

The municipality is doing quite well in its financial management. Its last three audit opinions were "unqualified with findings". Although the findings were still alarming, they came as a breath of fresh air in a province and a district notorious for irregularities and poor management. The report stated, among other things, *"These included various non-compliance matters and findings on performance information, which are the only matters still preventing a clean audit report . . . The financial statements submitted for audit purposes remained of poor quality, even though consultants were again appointed due to a lack of technical skills at the municipality and the vacancy of the CFO position at year-end. As a result, many material corrections were made to the submitted financial statements, based on misstatements identified by the auditors. The services of consultants engaged to provide financial and performance reporting assistance at a cost of R732 336 (2012: R308 764) added some value to the auditee. However, the information provided to the consultants to prepare financial statements was, in many instances, incomplete. Limited skills transfer took place owing to low competency levels and the CFO vacancy at year-end . . . The status of SCM remains unsatisfactory, primarily due to management's neglect to comply with SCM regulations and a lack of consequences for poor performance, which ultimately resulted in irregular expenditure of R17 869 263 (2012: R8 627 946) being incurred for the year."*

The municipality received a score of 6,31 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 report.

Liveability score: 2 out of 10

Phumelela Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Demographic and socio-economic context

Between 2001 and 2011 the local population dwindled from 51 928 to 47 772, and the population density is only 5,8 people per square kilometre. The dependency burden is 60,5 (2001: 68,9). The number of households increased slightly during the decade, from 12 131 to 12 888, while the average household size dropped from 4,2 to 3,6. Around 72% of the population are younger than 40 and the municipality is almost completely rural.

The current official unemployment rate is 25,3%, which roughly corresponds with the national unemployment rate. Between 2001 and 2011, the youth unemployment rate declined from 48,8% to 34,6%. Only 11,3% of residents older than 20 did not complete their schooling, while 19,4% indeed passed matric. Almost three-quarters of households earn less than R38 200 per annum, and not even 6% of households enjoy an annual income of more than R153 800.

As to housing, 63% of residents live in houses on separate stands and almost 16% in traditional dwellings. More than 15% occupy informal housing and the rest are negligible.

Services and facilities

Robbery with aggravating circumstances is a problem in Phumelela, recorded in 2011-'12 as 105 per 100 000 people. For murder, this rate was 13, for residential property only 2 and for business robbery 57. The municipality has five police offices, each having to serve around 9 000 people. At the Memel office, the reporting figure for murder between April 2013 and March 2014 was only 1, for attempted murder 1, for robbery with aggravating circumstances only 4, for business robbery 10, and for residential property, 28. At the Verkykerskop office, these figures were even lower: 0, 0, 0, 1 and 9. However, at the Vrede office, property crime was high: 43 incidents of business robbery and 106 of business robbery were reported there.

The municipality's medical facilities are measly. With no private facilities, only five clinics and the Phumelela Hospital have to serve the entire area.

Almost half the households enjoy tap water indoors, 35,9% have tap water inside their stands and 5,6% have to use an external access point. More than 6% use a borehole. The municipality's last Blue Drop score was 17,9% – second worst of the province's 20 municipalities. It was nevertheless an improvement on 2011's 3,82% and 2010's 0%. All three systems scored nil for drinking water quality and only 16% for

management and accountability. In the report, this situation was explained as follows, *“Regardless of previous requests, monitoring of drinking water quality as a legal requirement is yet to be done. In the absence of any compliance monitoring data to assess the quality of drinking water, the DWA is obliged to inform consumers that it has no confidence that the water supplied poses no health risks.”*

Only 44,9% of households enjoy the use of a flush toilet. More than 14% use a pit toilet and 21,2% still have to rely on the bucket system. Just more than 11% have no sanitation facilities. The last Green Drop score was a mere 5%. All three systems scored nil for, among others, monitoring, the credibility of water samples, the submission of test results and drinking water quality. The report described the situation as follows, *“The gaps in the current performance reach into all aspects of wastewater service delivery and it is difficult to find but one requirement that is on par with good practice ...The situation in Phumelela is considered critical from a regulatory point of view and holds high risk to public health and the environment.”*

Slightly more than 70% of households' refuse is removed weekly by the municipality while 14,2% have to use their own refuse dump. Nearly 15% have no refuse removal.

Almost 75% of households use electricity for lighting, 55,7% for cooking, and 40,4% for heating.

Governance

There were no vacancies at the time of writing, and no confirmed recent cases of corruption could be found in the media.

In March 2014, AfriForum revealed that Phumelela owed Eskom an amount of R7 million. The municipality's last three audit opinions were moreover all "refusal with findings". The assessment stated, *"Since the amalgamation of the municipality 12 years ago there has been persistent stagnation in its audit outcomes as a result of audit matters reported in the previous years not being addressed. The recurrence of a disclaimer in the current year was caused by the CFO position remaining vacant for the entire year under review. Urgent intervention on both provincial and political levels is needed to change the culture of repeated disclaimers."*

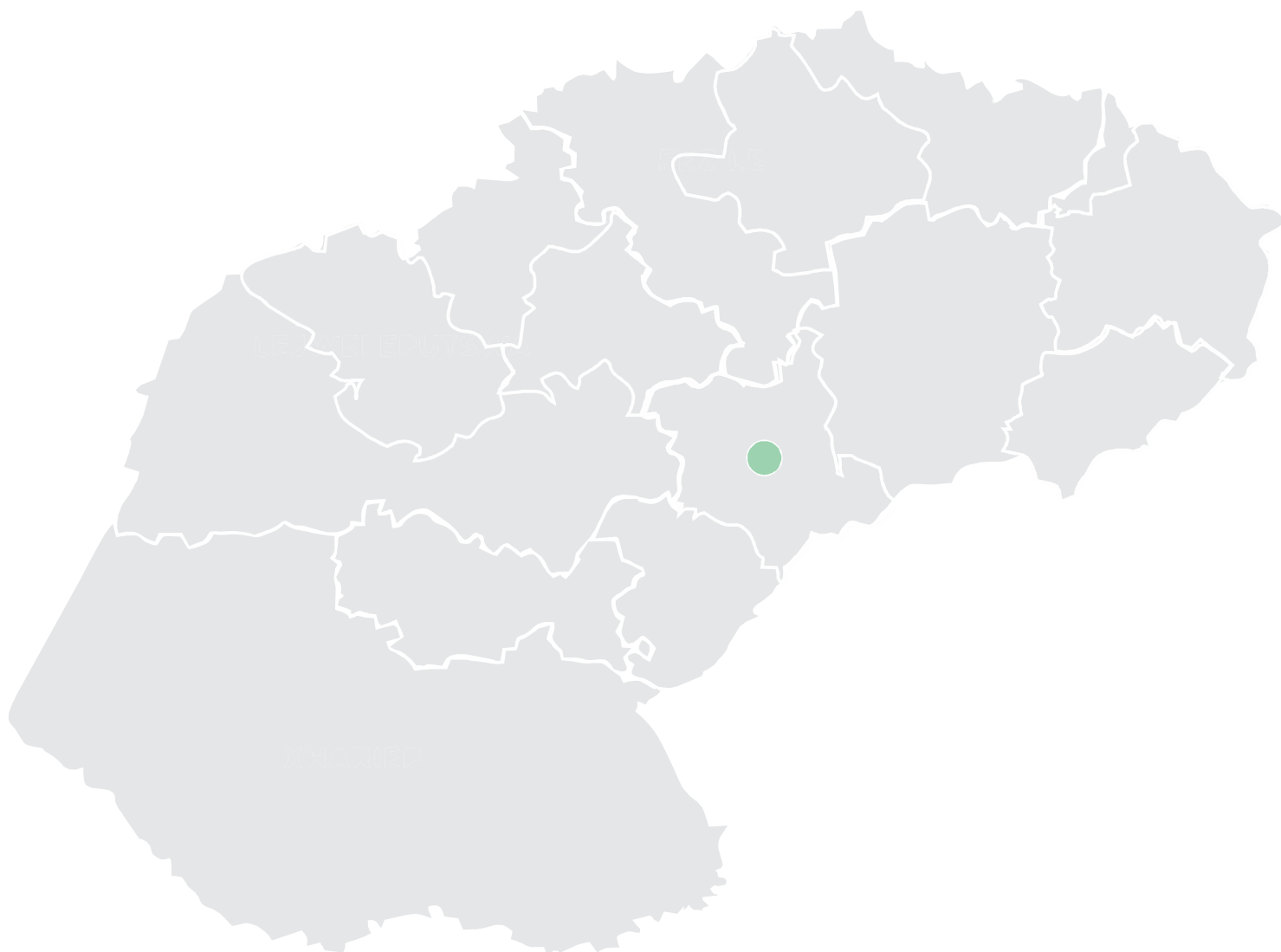
Phumelela's score in the SAIRR's 80/20 report was 6,65 out of 10.

Liveability score: 1 ½ out of 10

Setsoto Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Demographic and socio-economic context

The local population declined between 2001 and 2011, from 123 194 to 112 597, and the population density is almost 19 people per square kilometre. The dependency burden is currently 61,1. The number of households increased somewhat during the decade, from 32 746 to 33 687, while the average household size fell from 3,6 to 3,3 members. Almost three-quarters of the population are younger than 40, and the area is 97,4% rural.

The official unemployment rate is high at 35,7% (2001: 41,1%) and the youth unemployment rate stands at 46,1% (2001: 51,7%). Almost 80% of households' annual income is less than R38 200 and a mere 6,5% earn more than R153 800 a year. Only 8,7% of residents older than 20 did not complete their schooling, and 22,9% did indeed pass matric.

As to housing, 57,7% of households live in houses on separate stands and 8,9% occupy traditional dwellings. More than 30% live in informal housing.

Services and facilities

Violent crime appears to be a problem in Setsoto. During 2011-'12 the murder rate was 17 per 100 000 while this rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances came to 80. With regards to property crime, this rate for residential property was 23 and for business robbery, 19. There are four police offices in the area, each having to serve some 28 000 people. The Cocolan and Marquard offices recorded relatively low crime figures. At the Ficksburg office, the figures were much higher with 16 murders, 7 murder attempts, 63 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 77 of business robbery and 279 of residential property reported there between April 2013 and March 2014. The Senekal office recorded equally high figures, at respectively 10, 8, 22, 46 and 110.

The municipality has 3 state hospitals and 13 state clinics at its disposal, yet not one private clinic or hospital. According to the municipality's latest integrated development plan (IDP), the clinic doctors are only available on certain days; there is also a severe shortage of nursing staff. People from rural areas have to travel vast distances over bad roads to reach these facilities.

Almost all households have access to tap water, but only 29,2% are able to enjoy it indoors. Nearly 63% have access to tap water inside their stands, and 3,4% have to use an outside access point. Almost 3% use a borehole. The quality of the drinking water is excellent. The last Blue Drop score was 89%, which gained the municipality fourth position in the

province. The two previous scores were 88,64% and 33,1% – indicative of fine progress in a short space of time. The four systems all scored 100% in respect of drinking water quality.

Only 30,3% of households use flush toilets and almost 40% have to use the bucket system. Nearly 10% still rely on pit toilets, 12,8% use pit toilets with improved ventilation, and 6,5% have no sanitation facilities. Setsoto's last Green Drop score was only 23,4% and all four systems scored nil for the submission of test results and for drinking water quality. The report motivated the findings as follows, *“The predominant gaps are found in technical skills, qualitative and quantitative monitoring, credibility of analytical results, effluent quality compliance and bylaws and incident management.”*

The municipality removes the refuse of 55,5% of households weekly and that of 12,2% on another basis. Some 20% use their own refuse dumps while 12% have no refuse removal at all.

Nearly 90% of households use electricity for lighting, 81,5% for cooking and 45,8% for heating.

Governance

Although a number of vacancies existed at the time of writing, they were not all key positions. These included a legal manager, an occupational safety manager and two senior electricians.

Despite recent riots and allegations of corruption in Setsoto, there were no confirmed cases, suspensions or convictions.

The last two AG opinions for Setsoto were “qualified”. The position of Supply Chain Executive had been vacant, which resulted in irregular expenditure of R68 million having been incurred. Unauthorised spending amounting to almost R154 million was also incurred.

The municipality's score in the SAIRR's 80/20 report was 6,46 out of 10.

Liveability score: 2 out of 10

Kopanong Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Kopanong Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

The population contracted from 56 079 to 49 171 between 2001 and 2011. The population density is only some three people per square kilometre, and the dependency burden is 57,4. The number of households has dropped from 17 527 to 15 643 since 2001, and the average household size is three people. Almost 70% of the population are younger than 40. The area is fairly urbanised, with only 69,3% classified as rural.

Although the official unemployment rate is still high at 27%, it is much better than 2001's 37,7%. The youth unemployment rate also fell from 44,4% to 33,8% during the decade. While 13,4% of residents older than 20 received no schooling, 20,7% did indeed pass matric. As regards income, 71,6% of households earn less than R38 200 per annum and only 7,7% enjoy an annual income of more than R153 800 per annum.

The housing situation seems satisfactory, with more than 85% of households living in houses on separate stands. The informal component is nearly 12% and the rest are negligible.

Services and facilities

Crime in Kopanong is high – in fact, the highest of all the local municipalities in the Xhariep district. The murder rate of 73 per 100 000 people and this rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances of 311 are the highest in the province; the same rating goes for property crime at 44 for residential property and 65 for business robbery.

Particularly odd, however, is the fact that 11 police offices are situated in the area and that the municipality enjoys a favourable ratio of approximately one police office per 5 000 people. A random selection of police offices shows the difference in crime figures from office to office. At the Bethulie office, 4 murders, 1 murder attempt, 3 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 31 of business robbery and 33 of residential property were reported between April 2013 and March 2014. At the Fauresmith office, these figures were 0, 0, 2, 13 and 10. At the Kopanong office, they stood at 37, 30, 156, 21 and 383.

The area is served by only a few state clinics and a state hospital, the Diamond Hospital.

Almost two-thirds of households enjoy tap water indoors, 21,2% have tap water access inside their stands, and 8,5%

have access from an outside point. A relatively high percentage (5,6%) use boreholes. Kopanong's last Blue Drop score was 68,7% in 2012, which meant a ranking of eighth position in the province. The two previous scores fluctuated somewhat, at 43,81% and 60,2%. Although the nine systems received poor to average scores for drinking water quality, they scored fairly well in management and accountability.

According to the assessment, *“Kopanong Local Municipality displayed noteworthy improvements in their approach to drinking water quality management. This was evident in an improved score for almost all of the supply systems.”*

The sanitation situation also seems favourable: 77,5% of households use flush toilets. Approximately 9% use the bucket system and 5,8% have no sanitation facilities. The rest are negligible. However, the process of treating and discharging effluent is deplorable. The last Green Drop score (the municipality's first) was a paltry 1,2%. Needless to say, most indicators scored nil in this exercise, which were motivated as follows: *“Regrettably, the WSA performed poorly during the Green Drop assessments, indicating that the wastewater services are not being managed effectively and that the expectations of the regulation programme are largely not being met.”*

More than 80% of households' refuse is removed weekly by the municipality while 12,8% have to use their own refuse dump; 4% have no refuse removal at all.

A substantial 92,2% of households use electricity for lighting, 83,7% for cooking and 47,8% for heating.

Governance

There were no vacancies in the municipality at the time of writing. No confirmed cases of corruption by municipal officials could be traced in the media.

The AG's opinion had improved from "refusal" in 2011-'12 to "qualified" in 2012-'13. According to the assessment, *"The sustainability of the improved audit outcome is questionable as no progress has been made in addressing the findings of the previous year in the six key risk areas, except in the area relating to performance reporting. The financial statements submitted for audit purposes were of poor quality and material corrections were made based on misstatements identified by the auditors, which resulted in the improved audit outcome ... Although SCM processes improved and resulted in a reduction of irregular expenditure, the status of SCM remained unsatisfactory and ultimately resulted in irregular expenditure of R25 531 266 (2012: R59 806 579) being incurred for the year. Notwithstanding these challenges, the municipality has not provided for a SCM manager position on its establishment."*

Unauthorised expenditure of nearly R55 million was incurred, as well as irregular spending of more than R25 million and fruitless expenditure of R4,8 million.

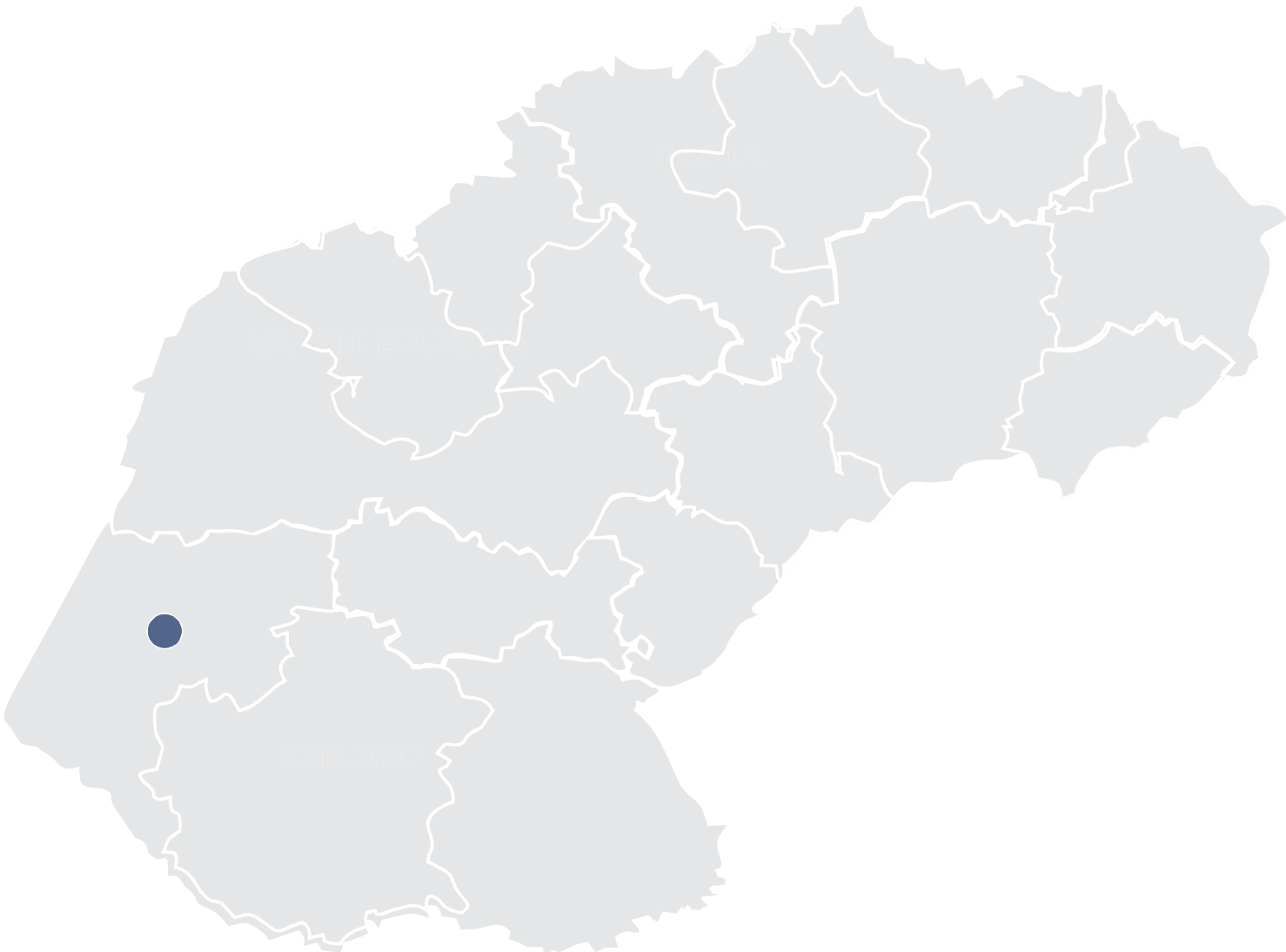
The municipality scored 7,02 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 report.

Liveability score: 1 ½ out of 10

Letsemeng Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Letsemeng Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

Between 2001 and 2011 the local population decreased from 42 847 to 38 628, and the current population density is nearly four people per square kilometre. The dependency burden is 54,2 and, while still high, it is still lower than in the rest of the province. The number of households also declined in this decade, from 11 949 to 11 242, and the average household now consists of 3,3 members. More than 70% of residents are younger than 40, and the municipality is 83,2% rural.

At 22,3% the unemployment rate is the lowest in the province; the rate has dropped quite sharply since 2001, when it stood at 31,7%. The youth unemployment rate is 27,7% (2001: 40,3%). As to annual income, more than 70% of households earn less than R38 200 and only 7,7% earn more than R153 800. Moreover, the education situation does not appear to be sound: 17,7% of residents older than 20 did not receive any schooling, and 18,7% actually passed matric.

Exactly 80% of households live in houses on separate stands and nearly 20% occupy informal housing, in backyards or elsewhere.

Services and facilities

With a murder rate of 31 per 100 000 people, crime in the municipality is rather high. This rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances is 54, for residential property 4 and for business robbery, 45. Five police offices are situated within the municipality, each serving some 7 500 people. At the Jacobsdal office, only 6 murders, no murder attempts, 4 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 29 of business robbery and 43 of residential property were reported between April 2013 and March 2014. At the Luckhoff office, these figures were only 5, 1, 0, 7 and 19. At the Koffiefontein office violent crime was also low, but the reporting figures for business robbery were 31 and for residential property, 104.

There are no hospitals within the municipality, but all residents have access to clinics. Koffiefontein, Jacobsdal and Luckhoff have mobile state clinics at their disposal.

More than half the residents enjoy tap water indoors, 25% have tap water inside their stands and 12% have water access from an external point. Nearly 7% use boreholes. The municipality's last Blue Drop score was 49,98%, which

gained it 13th position in the province. However, the scores were erratic: the two previous scores had been 54,69% and 42,8%. All five systems scored only 45% for drinking water quality and 47% for management and accountability.

Almost two-thirds of households use a flush toilet, 16% have to use a pit toilet with improved ventilation and nearly 10% only have a pit toilet at their disposal. More than 4% indicated they had no sanitation facilities at all. Letsemeng's last Green Drop score was a measly 30,4% and the five systems' effluent quality compliance and asset management were dismal. The assessment stated, ***“The Letsemeng Local Municipality has performed unsatisfactorily during the Green Drop assessments, indicating that the wastewater services are not being managed according to the expectations of the regulation programme.”***

As to refuse removal, the municipality services 64% of households weekly but more than 30% have to use their own refuse dump. Nearly 4% have no refuse removal.

Nearly 93% of households use electricity for lighting, 88% for cooking and 62,9% for heating.

Governance

There were no new vacancies in the municipality at the time of writing. Several key positions did exist, however, such as that of Chief Financial Manager – vacant since the end of 2014. The municipality's last two audit opinions were qualified. The following comments shed more light on these key vacancies, ***“The stagnation in the audit outcome was caused by the municipal manager and the CFO not prioritising the audit matters reported in the previous year. The municipal manager was redeployed during November 2013 and the CFO position was vacant for the last three months of the financial year. The municipality again received a qualified audit opinion and various non-compliance matters and findings on performance information were also identified.”***

The municipality's score in the SAIRR's 80/20 report was 6,72 out of 10.

Liveability score: 2 out of 10

Mohokare Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Mohokare Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

Between 2001 and 2011 the population declined slightly, from 36 321 to 34 146, and the current population density is 3,8 people per square kilometre. The dependency burden is 62,9. The number of households has increased from 9 403 to 10 793 since 2001, while the average household size has dropped from 3,5 to 3,1. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of residents are younger than 40, and the municipality is almost completely rural.

During the decade, the official unemployment rate dropped from 35,9% to 31,4% and the youth unemployment rate from 47,5% to 40%. Some 76% of households' annual income falls below R38 200, with only 7% earning more than R153 800. Approximately 11% of residents older than 20 received no schooling and 17,9% completed matric.

More than three-quarters of households live in houses on separate stands, and almost 30% occupy informal housing in backyards or elsewhere.

Services and facilities

With a murder rate of 26 per 100 000, violent crime in Mohokare is quite high. This rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances is 69, for residential property 16 and for business robbery, 42. There are four police offices in the area, each serving more than 8 000 people. The reporting figures between April 2013 and March 2014 were fairly low at all the stations, with the exception of Zastron, where 4 murders, 8 murder attempts, 11 cases of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 59 of business robbery and 152 of residential robbery were reported.

The two state hospitals in the area – Stoffel Coetzee and Embekweni – are supplemented by several state clinics. There are no private medical facilities, however.

Only 20% of households enjoy tap water indoors while almost 70% have access to water inside their stands. About 5% use an access point outside their stands, and 3,5% use boreholes. The drinking water quality is fine. The last Blue Drop score was 77,04%, meaning seventh position for the municipality out of 20 in the Free State. The two previous scores were 80,1% and 46,3%. The three systems all received 93% for drinking water quality. The report stated, *“The DWA applauds the commitment of the municipal manager of Mohokare Local Municipality; drinking water quality management that was shown as receiving the required attention to ensure continued service delivery improvements.”*

Almost 60% of households use flush toilets and 3,3% use flush toilets with septic tanks. Some 4% use pit toilets and 22,5% still have to use the bucket system. Nearly 12% have no sanitation facilities. Mohokare's last Green Drop score was a rather average 58,6%. Although two of the three systems scored 100% for effluent quality compliance, all three of them received only 10% for management.

The refuse of more than two-thirds of households is removed weekly by the municipality, and that of 12,3% is removed on another basis. Nearly 15% have to use their own refuse dump; 4,3% enjoy no refuse removal at all.

Almost 90% of households use electricity for lighting, 76% for cooking and 28,6% for heating.

Governance

The municipality's website was not functioning at the time of writing and information on vacancies was therefore inaccessible. No recent confirmed incidents of corruption could be found in the media.

During the last two rounds, the AG's audit opinion of Mohokare varied from “refusal” to “qualified”. However, the report cautioned, *“Although there was an improvement in the audit outcome, the sustainability thereof is questionable as no progress has been made in addressing the findings on the six key risk areas reported in the previous year. The financial statements submitted for audit purposes were of poor quality and material corrections were made as identified by the auditors ... Consultants were again engaged to provide financial reporting assistance at a cost of R2 511 244 (2012: R2 115 475). The municipality may become overdependent on consultants as a result of vacancies in senior positions within the finance and SCM (supply chain management) units.”*

Unauthorised expenditure amounting to R41,5 million, irregular expenditure of R20,2 million as well as fruitless and wasteful expenditure totalling R2,2 million were also incurred.

Mohokare scored 6,48 out of 10 in the SAIRR's 80/20 report.

Liveability score: 3½ out of 10

Naledi Local Municipality

Suid-Afrika
South Africa

Vrystaat



Naledi Local Municipality

Demographic and socio-economic context

The local population had shrunk from 27 479 in 2001 to 24 314 in 2011. The population density is 7,1 people per square kilometre and the current dependency burden is 64,7. The number of households had risen from 7 575 in 2001 to 7 690 in 2011, and the average household consists of 3,1 people. Nearly 73% of the population are younger than 40, and the municipality is 97,8% rural.

Regarding the local economy, the official unemployment rate had fallen from 37,1% in 2001 to 26,4% in 2011. The youth unemployment rate is 34,8%. Incomes are very low: nearly 80% of households annually earn less than R38 200 and only 6,1% enjoy earnings of more than R153 800 per annum.

Nearly three-quarters of households live in houses on separate stands and 2,6% occupy traditional dwellings. Nearly 20% live in informal housing in backyards or elsewhere.

Services and facilities

Naledi's murder rate is 21 per 100 000 people, and this rate for robbery with aggravating circumstances is 66. For residential property this rate is 7 and for business robbery, 42. The area is served by three police offices, each having to attend to approximately 8 100 people. At the Vanstadensrus office, the reporting figures in respect of the major types of violent and property crimes were very low between April 2013 and March 2014. At the Wepener office 2 murders, 2 murder attempts, 11 incidents of robbery with aggravating circumstances, 19 of business robbery and 47 of residential property were reported. At the Dewetsdorp office, these figures were 2, 2, 1, 19 and 32.

The local population is served by only four state clinics.

More than 50% of households have tap water indoors, 42,7% have tap water inside their stands, and 5,2% have to use a tap outside their stands. The last Blue Drop score was 51,03% which meant only the 12th place for the municipality out of 20 in the Free State – an improvement on 2011's 38,48% and 2010's 27,5%. The three systems' drinking water quality varied from 100% to 89% and 17%. The scores for management and accountability were 23%, 23% and 8% respectively. The report explained the problem as follows, **“Technical competence and management commitment appears to be a challenge within the Naledi Local Municipality.”**

The sanitation situation seems positive, with 86,7% of households using flush toilets and only 4,5% still having to use pit toilets. Five percent indicated a total lack of sanitation facilities.

Refuse removal, too, appears to be in fairly good shape. Almost 80% of residents' refuse is removed weekly by the municipality while 18,5% have to use their own refuse dump.

As to the use of electricity, 93,8% use it for lighting, 82,8% for cooking and 43,5% for heating.

Governance

There were no new vacancies at the time of writing.

During the last three audit rounds, the AG issued an extremely negative opinion on the municipal governance, i.e. “refusal with findings”. The report stated, among other things, **“Since the amalgamation of the municipality 12 years ago there has been persistent stagnation in its audit outcomes, which could be attributed to failure to address the audit report matters of previous years due to a lack of skills and competencies. These matters included qualifications on property, plant and equipment, receivables, payables and revenue, various non-compliance matters and findings on performance information. Urgent intervention at both provincial and political levels is needed to change the culture of repeated disclaimers.”**

Moreover, irregular expenditure totalling R5,6 million as well as wasteful and fruitless expenditure amounting to R4,9 million were incurred.

The municipality's score in the SAIRR's 80/20 report was 6,5 out of 10.

Liveability index

Sources

Sources:

- Various media sources
- Gaffney's Local Government in South Africa Official Yearbook (2011-2013)
- The 2010-'11, 2012 and 2013 editions of the South African Survey issued by the South African Institute of Race Relations
- Data from the 2011 Census
- The various municipalities' Integrated Development Plans (IDPs)
- Blue Drop and Green Drop Reports
- The Auditor General's audit reports
- South African Police Service (SAPS) data
- The SAIRR's 80-20 report on local governance