



**AFRIFORUM'S MUNICIPAL AUDIT
FOR THE FREE STATE**

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Introduction

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

In the municipal audit, we examine the demographics, socio-economic conditions, service delivery and the management of municipalities. Each report presents an analysis of the municipalities of a specific province, and each municipality is awarded an impression score out of 10. The follow-up reports on specific provinces also indicate which municipalities have improved and which municipalities have deteriorated, compared to the findings of previous reports.

The focus of this report is the Free State. The report and the facts presented paint a bleak picture of the state of the province's municipalities. Although the water is relatively clean and some municipalities fare better than others in certain respects, all of them – on balance – leave much to be desired. This includes the province's only metropolitan municipality, Mangaung, which is notoriously and increasingly plagued by service delivery challenges.

Dihlabeng Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:¹

- Total: 140 044 (128 704 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 27,3% under 15; 67,6% between 15 and 64; 5,1% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 8,3% (8,9% in 2011); matric 32,7% (26,3% in 2011); higher education 9,5% (10,6% in 2011)

Unemployment: No recent figures (28,7% in 2011)¹

Language (households): 75,5% Sotho; 11,6% Afrikaans²

Service delivery

Household service access:¹

- 42,2% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (43,8% in 2011).
- 80,6% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (74,2% in 2011).
- 90,3% of households use electricity for lighting (84,8% in 2011).
- 82,4% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (80,2% in 2011).
- 80,1% of households live in formal dwellings (76,7% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water tested by AfriForum in Bethlehem was classified as clean for five years in a row. The results for sewage showed that E. coli levels in Bethlehem exceeded 10 000 units in 2021.³

The landfill site in Bethlehem scored 32% in 2021 – still low, but an improvement on 2020's paltry 6%.⁴

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Qualified with findings*. The previous two were *Qualified*.⁵
- 27,3% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018/19.⁶
- A positive cash balance of R2 889 113 was recorded at the end of 2018/19. This is a continuous improvement on the previous years' balances.⁶
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 30,3% of operating expenditure.⁶

Dihlabeng's score: 4 out of 10

¹ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Dihlabeng Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1231/dihlabeng-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

² Stats SA. 2020. *Dihlabeng*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=dihlabeng-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

³ AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-lambert-blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-lm-eng.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁴ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁵ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁶ Municipal Money. 2020. *Dihlabeng*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-FS192-dihlabeng/>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Kopanong Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:⁷

- Total: 49 999 (49 171 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 26% under 15; 66,9% between 15 and 64; 7,1% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 10,7% (13,4% in 2011); matric 24,5% (20,7% in 2011); higher education 6,5% (6,4% in 2011)

Unemployment: 29% in 2016 (27% in 2011)⁸

Language (households): 36,8% Sotho; 33,8% Afrikaans; 20% Xhosa⁹

Service delivery

Household service access:⁷

- 33,9% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (46,7% in 2011).
- 80,1% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (82,1% in 2011).
- 94,2% of households use electricity for lighting (92,6% in 2011).
- 69,8% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (76,5% in 2011).
- 89,2% of households live in formal dwellings (91,4% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water and sewage was not recently measured in Kopanong.

Landfill sites in Kopanong were not recently measured.

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Outstanding*. The previous two were *Outstanding* (2018/19) and *Qualified* (2017/18).¹⁰
- As a result, no information about fruitless and wasteful expenditure, salaries or the latest cash balance is available.

Kopanong's score: 1 out of 10

⁷ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Kopanong Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1055/kopanong-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁸ Kopanong Local Municipality. 2019. *Kopanong Local Municipality: 4th generation integrated development plan 2020–2021*. Available at <https://kopanong.gov.za/download/4th-generation-of-idp-2020-21/>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁹ StatsSA. 2020. *Kopanong*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=kopanong-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

¹⁰ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%202020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Letsemeng Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:¹¹

- Total: 40 044 (38 628 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 24,9% under 15; 69,1% between 15 and 64; 6,1% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 12% (17,7% in 2011); matric 27,5% (18,7% in 2011); higher education 4,5% (4,8% in 2011)

Unemployment: 30,8% in 2021 (22,3% in 2011)¹²

Language (households): 60,7% Afrikaans; 11,9% Sotho; 10,3% Xhosa; 9,2% Tswana¹³

Service delivery

Household service access:¹⁴

- 46,3% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (49,8% in 2011).
- 69,5% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (72,8% in 2011).
- 95,8% of households use electricity for lighting (92,8% in 2011).
- 58,3% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (68% in 2011).
- 85,1% of households live in formal dwellings (83,2% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water and sewage was not recently measured in Letsemeng.

Landfill sites in Letsemeng were not recently measured.

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Qualified with findings*. The previous two were both *Qualified*.¹⁴
- 21% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018/19.¹⁵
- A positive cash balance of R3 703 777 was recorded at the end of 2018/19. This has been steadily improving over the last several years.¹⁵
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 56,3% of operating expenditure.¹⁵

Letsemeng's score: 1,5 out of 10

¹¹ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Letsemeng Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1056/letsemeng-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

¹² Letsemeng Local Municipality. 2019. *Draft integrated development plan 2021/2022*. Available at <http://www.letsemeng.fs.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/DRAFT-IDP-2021-2022.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

¹³ Stats SA. 2020. *Letsemeng*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=letsemeng-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

¹⁴ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

¹⁵ Municipal Money. 2020. *Letsemeng*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-FS161-letsemeng/>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Mafube Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:¹⁶

- Total: 57 574 (57 876 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 28,2% under 15; 64,6% between 15 and 64; 7,2% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 10,6% (14,1% in 2011); Matric 32,3% (24,4% in 2011); Higher education 6,3% (6,3% in 2011)

Unemployment: It is uncertain what the current or more recent unemployment rate in the municipality is. The last unemployment rate was 33,9% in 2011.

Language (households): Sotho 63,8%; Zulu 20,6%; Afrikaans 8,2%¹⁷

Service delivery

Household service access:¹⁶

- 32,3% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (39,8% in 2011).
- 79,1% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (77,2% in 2011).
- 95,6% of households use electricity for lighting (84,4% in 2011).
- 87,9% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (80,2% in 2011).
- 78,8% of households live in formal dwellings (70,8% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water and sewage was not tested by AfriForum for three years in a row (presumably due to access challenges). The drinking water quality in Frankfort, however, has been classified as clean for several years in a row, but its effluent showed *E. coli* levels exceeding 10 000 units for two years in a row.¹⁸

The Frankfort landfill site received 0% in AfriForum's 2021 report and 4% in the previous one. It was one of six sites singled out for special attention.¹⁹

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Outstanding*, as was the 2018/19 opinion.²⁰
- Due to these outstanding audits, information on for example staff salaries and wasteful expenditure is therefore unverifiable.

Mafube's score: 1,5 out of 10

¹⁶ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Mafube Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1039/mafube-local-municipality>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

¹⁷ StatsSA. 2020. *Mafube*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=mafube-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

¹⁸ AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

¹⁹ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 24 January 2021.

²⁰ Municipal Money. 2020. *Mafube*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-MAN-mangaung/>. Accessed on 24 January 2021.

Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:²¹

- Total: 353 452 (335 784 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 30,5% under 15; 64,5% between 15 and 64; 5% over 65.
- Education (20+): No schooling 6,9% (8,9% in 2011); matric 29,2% (26,8% in 2011); higher education 7,9% (7,9% in 2011)
- Unemployment: No recent figures (41,8% in 2011)

Language (households): 81,7% Sotho; 10,7% Zulu²²

Service delivery

Household service access:²¹

- 22,3% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (31,9% in 2011).
- 29,7% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (30,3% in 2011).
- 93,6% of households use electricity for lighting (89% in 2011).
- 21,1% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (24,8% in 2011).
- 76,7% of households live in formal dwellings (80,4% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water tested by AfriForum in Harrismith was classified as clean for seven years in a row. The sewage result showed that *E. coli* levels in Harrismith exceeded 10 000 units in 2021.²³

The landfill site in Bethlehem had a score of 24% in 2021 – still low, but a slight improvement on 2020's 18%.²⁴

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Outstanding*. The previous two were *Outstanding* and *Disclaimed*.²⁵
- The rest of the information on the municipality's finances is therefore not readily available. However, the AG noted the following in her latest report: "Only R42 million remained in the municipality's bank account and it was not able to account for the spending of the grants it had received."²⁵

Maluti-A-Phofung's score: 1 out of 10

²¹ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1051/maluti-a-phofung-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

²² Stats SA. 2020. *Maluti-A-Phofung*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=maluti-a-phofung-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

²³ AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

²⁴ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

²⁵ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%202020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:²⁶

- Total: 787 803 (775 184 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 29,7% under 15; 65% between 15 and 64; 5,3% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 5,2% (4,3% in 2011); matric 32,8% (29,1% in 2011); higher education 13,3% (13,1% in 2011)

Unemployment: 30,3% in 2019²⁷

Language (households): Sotho 51,9%; 15,8% Afrikaans; 12,3% Tswana²⁸

Service delivery

Household service access:²⁶

- 38,2% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (45,5% in 2011).
- 66,7% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (61,5% in 2011).
- 95,5% of households use electricity for lighting (91,5% in 2011).
- 78,9% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (77,8% in 2011).
- 87,1% of households live in formal dwellings (83,8% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water tested by AfriForum at eight places in Mangaung was classified as clean for several consecutive years, but the quality of sewage in the Metro showed levels of *E. coli* exceeding 10 000 units.²⁹

The Bloemfontein North landfill site scored 22% in AfriForum's 2021 report on landfill sites, while Bloemfontein South's site scored 28%. These were marginal improvements on 2020's already dismal scores.³⁰

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Outstanding*. The previous three were all *Qualified*.³¹
- 27,7% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018/19.³²
- A positive cash balance of R127 986 224 was recorded at the end of 2018/19. This was a deterioration on the two previous years' cash balance.³²
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 30% of operating expenditure.³²

Mangaung's score: 3 out of 10

²⁶ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/overview/8/mangaung-metropolitan-municipality>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

²⁷ Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality. 2021. *Integrated development plan 2021/2022*. Available at <http://www.mangaung.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2.-MAN-IDP-2021.2022-for-Council-31.05.2021-final.pdf>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

²⁸ StatsSA. 2020. *Mangaung*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1021&id=mangaung-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

²⁹ AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

³⁰ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

³¹ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%202020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

³² Municipal Money. 2020. *Mangaung*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-MAN-mangaung/>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

Mantsopa Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:³³

- Total: 53 525 (51 056 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 30% under 15; 65,1% between 15 and 64; 4,9% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 2,8% (5,7% in 2011); matric 31,3% (22,9% in 2011); higher education 8,7% (8,6% in 2011)
- Unemployment: No recent figures (29,2% in 2011)

Language (households): 80,8% Sotho; 9,7% Afrikaans³⁴

Service delivery

Household service access:³³

- 28,1% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (33,2% in 2011).
- 85,4% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (67,5% in 2011).
- 94% of households use electricity for lighting (91% in 2011).
- 68% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (78,2% in 2011).
- 83,7% of households live in formal dwellings (81,8% in 2011).

The quality of drinking water, sewage and landfill sites in Mantsopa was not recently audited.

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Qualified with findings*. The previous three were *Qualified*.³⁵
- 26% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018/19.³⁶
- A negative cash balance of R2 130 457 was recorded at the end of 2018/19. This is a significant deterioration on the previous years' balances.³⁶
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 38,6% of operating expenditure.³⁶

Mantsopa's score: 1,5 out of 10

³³ YES!MEDIA. 2019. Mantsopa Local Municipality – Demographic information. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1049/mantsopa-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

³⁴ Stats SA. 2020. *Mantsopa*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=mantsopa-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

³⁵ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

³⁶ Municipal Money. 2020. *Mantsopa*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-FS196-mantsopa/>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Masilonyana Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:³⁷

- Total: 62 770 (59 895 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 28% under 15; 66,7% between 15 and 64; 5,4% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 4,4% (7,7% in 2011); matric 25,9% (21,1% in 2011); higher education 6% (4% in 2011)

Unemployment: No recent figures (38,8% in 2011)³⁸

Language (households): 62,5% Sotho; 10,1% Xhosa; 8,9% Afrikaans³⁹

Service delivery

Household service access:³⁷

- 26,5% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (29,3% in 2011).
- 84,4% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (69,9% in 2011).
- 92,5% of households use electricity for lighting (93,3% in 2011).
- 65% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (52,9% in 2011).
- 84% of households live in formal dwellings (82,6% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water was not tested by AfriForum in Brandfort in 2021 and 2020, but in Theunissen and Winburg it was classified as clean for several consecutive years. The sewage was not recently tested in Theunissen, but in Winburg it showed levels of *E. coli* exceeding 10 000 units in 2021.⁴⁰

The landfill site in Winburg scored only 32% in 2021, while the site in Brandfort scored 34% and the one in Theunissen 12%.⁴¹

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Outstanding*, as were the two prior to this opinion.⁴²
- Due to these statuses, information on for example salaries and unauthorised expenditure is unavailable.

Masilonyana's score: 1 out of 10

³⁷ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Masilonyana Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1043/masilonyana-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

³⁸ Masilonyana Local Municipality. 2019. *Draft IDP 2017-2022*. Available at <http://www.masilonyana.fs.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Draft-IDP-Format-2017-2022.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

³⁹ StatsSA. 2020. *Masilonyana*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=masilonyana-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

⁴⁰ AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁴¹ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁴² Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%202020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Matjhabeng Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:⁴³

- Total: 429 113 (407 020 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 25% under 15; 70,2% between 15 and 64; 4,8% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 3% (4,4% in 2011); matric 33,8% (27,2% in 2011); higher education 7,9% (8,3% in 2011)

Unemployment: 150 000 adults were reportedly unemployed in Matjhabeng in 2021 (37% in 2011).⁴⁴

Language (households): 62,2% Sotho; 11,9% Afrikaans; 11,9% Xhosa⁴⁵

Service delivery

Household service access:⁴³

- 53,3% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (54,8% in 2011).
- 84,6% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (81% in 2011).
- 94,7% of households use electricity for lighting (91,1% in 2011).
- 72,7% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (86,1% in 2011).
- 84,5% of households live in formal dwellings (78,5% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water tested by AfriForum in Allanridge, Hennenman, Odendaalsrus and Welkom was classified as clean for four years in a row. However, the sewage tested in Welkom showed *E. coli* levels exceeding 10 000 units for three consecutive years.⁴⁶

The landfill sites in Allanridge, Odendaalsrus and Welkom had respective scores of 4%, 52% and 48% in 2021. The Virginia transfer station did not receive a score.⁴⁷

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Qualified with findings*. The previous two were *Outstanding* and *Qualified*.⁴⁸
- 20,2% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018/19.⁴⁹
- A positive cash balance of R763 086 was recorded at the end of 2018/19. This is a deterioration over the previous year.⁴⁹
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 59,2% of operating expenditure.⁴⁹

Matjhabeng's score: 1,5 out of 10

⁴³ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Mathabeng Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1044/matjhabeng-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁴⁴ Seleka, N. 2021. *Matjhabeng municipality: Rampant looting, illegal mining and theft could wipe out ailing entity*. News24, 5 September. Available at <https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/matjhabeng-municipality-rampant-looting-illegal-mining-and-theft-could-wipe-out-ailing-entity-20210905>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁴⁵ Stats SA. 2020. *Matjhabeng*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=matjhabeng-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

⁴⁶ AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁴⁷ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁴⁸ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%202020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁴⁹ Municipal Money. 2020. *Matjhabeng*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-FS184-matjhabeng/>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Metsimaholo Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:⁵⁰

- Total: 163 564 (149 108 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 23,7% under 15; 71% between 15 and 64; 5,3% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 9,3% (5,7% in 2011); matric 33,2% (29,8% in 2011); higher education 9,8% (12,4% in 2011)
- Unemployment: No recent figures (32,1% in 2011)

Language (households): Sotho 57,9%; 16,2% Afrikaans⁵¹

Service delivery

Household service access:⁵⁰

- 65,3% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (71,7% in 2011).
- 73,6% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (74% in 2011).
- 86,3% of households use electricity for lighting (86,4% in 2011).
- 78,3% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (78,9% in 2011).
- 87,4% of households live in formal dwellings (83,9% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water tested by AfriForum in Sasolburg was classified as clean for several consecutive years. The sewage showed levels of *E. coli* exceeding 1 000 units, but it must be added that this is a slight aberration to a string of results that showed the effluent to be clean.⁵²

The Sasolburg landfill site scored a wretched 14% in AfriForum's 2021 report on landfill sites. Also, it was one of a handful of municipalities that were singled out for extraordinary intervention.⁵³

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Qualified with findings*. The previous two were both *Qualified*.⁵⁴
- 24,7% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018/19.⁵⁵
- A positive cash balance of R13 877 103 was recorded at the end of 2018/19. However, this was a slight deterioration on the previous years' cash balance.⁵⁵
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 16,9% of operating expenditure.⁵⁵

Metsimaholo's score: 3,5 out of 10

⁵⁰ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Metsimaholo Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1040/metsimaholo-local-municipality>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

⁵¹ Stats SA. 2020. *Metsimaholo*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=metsimaholo-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

⁵² AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

⁵³ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

⁵⁴ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

⁵⁵ Municipal Money. 2020. *Metsimaholo*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-FS204-metsimaholo/>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

Mohokare Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:⁵⁶

- Total: 35 840 (34 146 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 29% under 15; 63,9% between 15 and 64; 7,1% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 8,9% (11% in 2011); matric 27,4% (17,9% in 2011); higher education 5,8% (6,1% in 2011)
- Unemployment: No recent statistics available (31,4% in 2011)

Language (households): 63% Sotho; 23,1% Xhosa; 8,8% Afrikaans⁵⁷

Service delivery

Household service access:⁵⁶

- 22,9% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (37,2% in 2011).
- 88,7% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (70,5% in 2011).
- 92,4% of households use electricity for lighting (89,7% in 2011).
- 75,4% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (63% in 2011).
- 93,6% of households live in formal dwellings (86,6% in 2011).

The drinking water in Zastron was classified as clean by AfriForum in 2021, but the sewage was not recently tested in Mohokare.⁵⁸

Landfill sites in Mohokare were not recently audited.

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Qualified with findings*. The previous two were both *Qualified*.⁵⁹
- 29,1% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018/19.⁶⁰
- A positive cash balance of R8 702 308 was recorded at the end of 2018/19.⁶⁰
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 28,7% of operating expenditure.⁶⁰

Mohokare's score: 3 out of 10

⁵⁶ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Mohokare Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1057/mohokare-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁵⁷ Stats SA. 2020. *Mohokare*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=mohokare-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

⁵⁸ AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁵⁹ Auditor General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁶⁰ Municipal Money. 2020. *Mohokare*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-FS163-mohokare/>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Moqhaka Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:⁶¹

- Total: 154 732 (160 532 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 24,5% under 15; 67,8% between 15 and 64; 7,7% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 3,8% (5,4% in 2011); matric 31,5% (27,8% in 2011); higher education 6,7% (8,6% in 2011)
- Unemployment: No recent figures (35,2% in 2011)

Language (households): Sotho 69,4%; 12,6% Afrikaans⁶²

Service delivery

Household service access:⁶¹

- 48,6% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (57,7% in 2011).
- 89,7% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (85,6% in 2011).
- 96,3% of households use electricity for lighting (93,3% in 2011).
- 84% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (84,9% in 2011).
- 85,9% of households live in formal dwellings (88,7% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water tested by AfriForum in Viljoenskroon and Kroonstad was classified as clean for the last several years. The sewages quality in Viljoenskroon was not tested in 2020 and 2021, but in Kroonstad, the *E. coli* levels exceeded 10 000 units in 2021 and were, not regarded as clean to varying degrees for several years prior.⁶³

The landfill sites in Kroonstad and Steynsrus scored respectively 14% and 10% in 2021. Neither have ever achieved passable scores since AfriForum started to audit landfill sites.⁶⁴

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Qualified with findings*. The 2018/19 opinion was *Qualified*.⁶⁵
- 28,7% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018/19.⁶⁶
- A positive cash balance of R8 574 172 was recorded at the end of 2018/19. This cash balance has been steadily improving throughout the years.⁶⁶
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 20% of operating expenditure.⁶⁶

Moqhaka's score: 2,5 out of 10

⁶¹ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Moqhaka Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1041/moqhaka-local-municipality>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

⁶² Stats SA. 2020. *Moqhaka*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=moqhaka-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

⁶³ AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

⁶⁴ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

⁶⁵ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%202020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

⁶⁶ Municipal Money. 2020. *Moqhaka*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-FS201-moqhaka/>. Accessed on 24 January 2022.

Nala Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:⁶⁷

- Total: 78 515 (81 220 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 30,6% under 15; 63,3% between 15 and 64; 6,1% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 8,4% (7,9% in 2011); matric 21,3% (22,2% in 2011); higher education 7,4% (5,6% in 2011)
- Unemployment: No recent figures (35,9% in 2011)

Language (households): 72,8% Sotho; 8,7% Xhosa; 7,3% Afrikaans⁶⁸

Service delivery

Household service access:⁶⁷

- 29,6% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (40,4% in 2011).
- 85,5% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (69,7% in 2011).
- 91,3% of households use electricity for lighting (90,3% in 2011).
- 82% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (79,5% in 2011).
- 77,2% of households live in formal dwellings (77,6% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water tested by AfriForum in Bothaville was classified as clean for three consecutive years and has been of good quality over the last decade. Drinking water quality was not measured in Wesselsbron over the past few years. The sewage in Bothaville showed *E. coli* levels exceeding 10 000 units in 2021 and had elevated levels for several previous years.⁶⁹

The landfill site in Bothaville had a score of 4% in 2021.⁷⁰

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Qualified with findings*. The previous two were *Disclaimer of opinion* and *Qualified*.⁷¹
- 30% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018/19.⁷²
- A positive cash balance of R24 873 260 was recorded at the end of 2018/19. This is a significant improvement over the previous years.⁷²
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 9,4% of operating expenditure.⁷²

Nala's score: 3 out of 10

⁶⁷ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Nala Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1045/nala-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁶⁸ Stats SA. 2020. *Nala*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=nala-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

⁶⁹ AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁷⁰ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁷¹ Auditor General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁷² Municipal Money. 2020. *Nala*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-FS185-nala/>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Ngwathe Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:⁷³

- Total: 118 907 (120 520 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 27,7% under 15; 63,8% between 15 and 64; 8,5% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 4,8% (8,5% in 2011); matric 28,3% (25,8% in 2011); higher education 7% (6,4% in 2011)
- Unemployment: No recent figures (35,2% in 2011)

Language (households): Sotho 67,8%; 13,2% Afrikaans⁷⁴

Service delivery

Household service access:⁷³

- 30,5% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (44,7% in 2011).
- 81% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (74,5% in 2011).
- 94,3% of households use electricity for lighting (92% in 2011).
- 84,4% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (81,9% in 2011).
- 85,9% of households live in formal dwellings (81,3% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water in Vredefort was not tested by AfriForum in 2021 and 2020, but in Parys, Koppies and Heilbron it was clean for four consecutive years. The quality of sewage in Heilbron and Parys both showed levels of *E. coli* exceeding 10 000 units in 2021.⁷⁵

The landfill site in Edenville received no score in 2021, but AfriForum gave the sites in Heilbron and Parys respective scores of 2% and 10%.⁷⁶

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Qualified with findings*. The 2018/19 opinion was *Qualified*.⁷⁷
- 23,8% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018/19.⁷⁸
- A positive cash balance of R39 678 197 was recorded at the end of 2018/19. This is a significant improvement over the previous years.⁷⁸
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 45,6% of operating expenditure.⁷⁸

Ngwathe's score: 3 out of 10

⁷³ YES!MEDIA. 2019. Ngwathe Local Municipality – Demographic information. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1042/ngwathe-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁷⁴ Stats SA. 2020. Ngwathe. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=ngwathe-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

⁷⁵ AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁷⁶ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁷⁷ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁷⁸ Municipal Money. 2020. Ngwathe. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-FS203-ngwathe/>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Nketoana Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:⁷⁹

- Total: 64 893 (60 324 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 30,1% under 15; 64,4% between 15 and 64; 5,5% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 8,5% (12,7% in 2011); matric 29,2% (20,4% in 2011); higher education 6,5% (6,7% in 2011)
- Unemployment: No recent figures (30,4% in 2011)

Language (households): 75,2% Sotho; 10,6% Zulu; 8,6% Afrikaans⁸⁰

Service delivery

Household service access:⁷⁹

- 20% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (28,2% in 2011).
- 78,1% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (61,1% in 2011).
- 90% of households use electricity for lighting (84,7% in 2011).
- 81,7% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (72,2% in 2011).
- 80,5% of households live in formal dwellings (73,5% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water in Petrus Steyn and Reitz was classified as clean for the past three years. The sewage in Petrus Steyn was not recently measured, while in Reitz it showed elevated levels of *E. coli* over the past three years.⁸¹

The landfill site in Petrus Steyn was also not measured in 2021 or even recently, but in Reitz, the site scored 14% in 2021 and 12% in 2020.⁸²

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019-'20 was *Outstanding*. The previous two were *Disclaimed* (2018/19) and *Qualified* (2017/18).⁸³
- 26,9% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018/19.⁸⁴
- A positive cash balance of R372 909 698 was recorded at the end of 2018/19. This is a significant improvement on the previous years' balances.⁸⁴
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 50,2% of operating expenditure.⁸⁴

Nketoana's score: 2,5 out of 10

⁷⁹ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Nketoana Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1052/nketoana-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁸⁰ Stats SA. 2020. *Nketoana*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=nketoana-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

⁸¹ AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁸² AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁸³ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁸⁴ Municipal Money. 2020. *Nketoana*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-FS193-nketoana/>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Phumelela Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:⁸⁵

- Total: 50 054 (47 772 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 28,9% under 15; 65,5% between 15 and 64; 5,6% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 5,6% (11,3% in 2011); matric 23,2% (19,4% in 2011); higher education 4,6% (6,5% in 2011)
- Unemployment: No recent figures (25,3% in 2011)

Language (households): 55,2% Zulu; 32% Sotho; 10,6% Zulu; 7,4% Afrikaans⁸⁶

Service delivery

Household service access:⁸⁵

- 28,1% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (30,6% in 2011).
- 64,5% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (59,3% in 2011).
- 79,1% of households use electricity for lighting (74,9% in 2011).
- 61% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (65,1% in 2011).
- 69,6% of households live in formal dwellings (73% in 2011).

Neither the quality of the drinking water and sewage, nor the quality of the landfill sites in Vrede was measured by AfriForum (or any other entity) over the past few years.⁸⁷

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Unqualified with findings*. The previous two were *Outstanding* (2018/19) and *Qualified* (2017/18).⁸⁸
- 30,2% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018/19.⁸⁹
- A positive cash balance of R3 600 574 was recorded at the end of 2018/19; yet, this is a deterioration on the previous year's balance.⁸⁹
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 62,2% of operating expenditure.⁸⁹

Phumelela's score: 3,5 out of 10

⁸⁵ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Phumelela Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1053/phumelela-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁸⁶ Stats SA. 2020. *Phumelela*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=phumelela-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

⁸⁷ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁸⁸ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁸⁹ Municipal Money. 2020. *Phumelela*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-FS195-phumelela/>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Setsoto Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:⁹⁰

- Total: 117 362 (112 038 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 30,5% under 15; 63,9% between 15 and 64; 5,7% over 65,
- Education (20+): No schooling 4,2% (8,6% in 2011); matric 27,6% (22,5% in 2011); higher education 8,9% (6,6% in 2011)

Unemployment: No statistics available

Language (households): 86% Sotho; 7% Afrikaans⁹¹

Service delivery

Household service access:⁹⁰

- 15,2% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (31,3% in 2011).
- 64,1% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (56,7% in 2011).
- 92,5% of households use electricity for lighting (88,7% in 2011).
- 58,3% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (55,3% in 2011).
- 76,6% of households live in formal dwellings (70,1% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water in Senekal was classified as clean for the past four years. The sewage in Senekal was not recently measured.⁹²

The landfill site in Senekal received a score of 18% in 2021 and 22% in 2020.⁹³

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Qualified with findings*. The previous two were *Disclaimed*.⁹⁴
- 15,2% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018-'19.⁹⁵
- A positive cash balance of R29 385 854 was recorded at the end of 2018/19. This is a significant improvement on the previous years' balances.⁹⁵
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 56,6% of operating expenditure.⁹⁵

Setsoto's score: 3 out of 10

⁹⁰ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Setsoto Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1054/setsoto-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁹¹ Stats SA. 2020. *Setsoto*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=setsoto-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

⁹² AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁹³ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁹⁴ Auditor General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁹⁵ Municipal Money. 2020. *Setsoto*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-FS191-setsoto/>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Tokoloko Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:⁹⁶

- Total: 29 149 (28 986 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 28,5% under 15; 66% between 15 and 64; 5,5% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 11,9% (20,8% in 2011); matric 23,9% (17,8% in 2011); higher education 4,5% (5,1% in 2011)

Unemployment: 26,8% in 2014 (27,5% in 2011)⁹⁶

Language (households): 55,3% Tswana; 18,1% Afrikaans; 10,5% Xhosa⁹⁷

Service delivery

Household service access:⁹⁶

- 8% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (22,7% in 2011).
- 27,3% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (18,5% in 2011).
- 91,5% of households use electricity for lighting (84,2% in 2011).
- 37,1% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (45,1% in 2011).
- 80,9% of households live in formal dwellings (83,8% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water tested by AfriForum in Boshof, Dealesville and Hertzogville was classified as clean in 2021. The quality of sewage in Hertzogville showed levels of *E. coli* exceeding 1 000 units.⁹⁸

The landfill sites in Boshof, Dealesville and Kroonstad had respective scores of 14, 38 and 62 in 2021.⁹⁹

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Outstanding*. The previous three were *Disclaimed*.¹⁰⁰
- The rest of the information on unauthorised expenditure and salaries is therefore not available, but the Auditor-General contended in her latest report that "the municipality operates in crisis mode."

Tokoloko's score: 0,5 out of 10

⁹⁶ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Tokoloko Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1046/tokoloko-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁹⁷ Stats SA. 2020. *Tokoloko*. Available at http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=tokoloko-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

⁹⁸ AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

⁹⁹ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

¹⁰⁰ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Tswelopele Local Municipality

Demographics and socio-economy

Population:¹⁰¹

- Total: 47 373 (47 625 in 2011)
- Age distribution: 31% under 15; 63,7% between 15 and 64; 5,3% over 65
- Education (20+): No schooling 10,1% (13,2% in 2011); matric 21,4% (20,5% in 2011); higher education 6,3% (5,3% in 2011)

Unemployment: 32,3% in 2014 (34,8% in 2011)¹⁰²

Language (households): 53,4% Sotho; 19,7% Xhosa; 11,9% Tswana¹⁰³

Service delivery

Household service access:¹⁰¹

- 12,5% of households have access to piped water inside their dwelling (31,9% in 2011).
- 78% of households have a flush toilet connected to sewerage (76,8% in 2011).
- 94,8% of households use electricity for lighting (91,9% in 2011).
- 84,3% of households enjoy weekly refuse removal (76,7% in 2011).
- 80,1% of households live in formal dwellings (80,4% in 2011).

The quality of the drinking water tested by AfriForum in Bultfontein was classified as clean in 2021 and for several years prior. No scores were provided for Tswelopele's sewage in 2021 or previous years.¹⁰⁴

The landfill site in Bultfontein had a score of 28% in 2020 and 2021.¹⁰⁵

Management

- The Auditor-General's audit opinion for 2019/20 was *Unqualified with findings*. The previous two were *Qualified*.¹⁰⁶
- 33,9% of the operating budget was spent on salaries in 2018/19.¹⁰⁷
- A positive cash balance of R8 891 030 was recorded at the end of 2018/19. This is a deterioration compared to the previous year.¹⁰⁷
- Unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure comprised 33,4% of operating expenditure.¹⁰⁷

Tswelopele's score: 2 out of 10

¹⁰¹ YES!MEDIA. 2019. *Tswelopele Local Municipality – Demographic information*. Available at <https://municipalities.co.za/demographic/1047/tswelopele-local-municipality>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

¹⁰² Tswelopele Local Municipality. 2017. *Integrated development planning 2017/2022*. Available at <http://www.lejweleputswa.fs.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/IDP-2017-2022-.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

¹⁰³ Stats SA. 2020. *Tswelopele*. http://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=993&id=tswelopele-municipality. Accessed on 28 January 2022.

¹⁰⁴ AfriForum. 2021. *Blue and green drop project 2021*. Available at <https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/20210921-Lambert-Blou-en-groendruppelverslag-2021-LM-ENG.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

¹⁰⁵ AfriForum. 2021. *AfriForum report on the municipal landfill audit project for 2021*. Available at https://afriforum.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/AfriForums-municipal-landfill-audit-report_2021.pdf. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

¹⁰⁶ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

¹⁰⁷ Municipal Money. 2020. *Tswelopele*. Available at <https://municipalmoney.gov.za/profiles/municipality-FS183-tswelopele/>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.

Conclusion

The Free State presents one of the most shocking examples of municipal mismanagement in the country. The audit results obtained by the province's municipalities are a tell-tale sign of the dysfunction that prevails in these areas. Many of the audit results are *Outstanding* (sometimes consecutively) and there were no clean audits in the province for two consecutive years. As the Auditor-General noted on the Free State in her latest municipal audit report: "The lack of leadership tone for accountability contributed to an environment that was vulnerable to misappropriation, wastage and the abuse of state funds."¹⁰⁸ Although metrics such as housing and electricity do not seem woeful, these are provincial competencies and not municipal ones. Other metrics such as the share of households that have piped water inside their dwellings and refuse removal are often dreadfully low, but in some cases quite impressive.

As with similar previous reports, the issues of data and measurement remain problematic. In terms of water and sewage quality, the only usable data is that which is collected by AfriForum. As is illustrated in this report, the civil rights organisation does not and cannot test the drinking water and sewage in every municipality. Hence, the quality of these metrics in some municipalities in the Free State remains unknown. The government indicated in 2021 that it intends to issue its blue and green drop reports in future. This will help in inducing accountability. The same challenge exists with landfill sites, but no government initiative is on the cards to audit these. In respect to unemployment – an issue of major concern – recent data is frequently unavailable and it seems that only the census data will alleviate this problem.

¹⁰⁸ Auditor-General. 2021. *Consolidated general report on the local government outcomes MFMA 2019-'20*. Available at <https://www.agsa.co.za/Portals/0/Reports/MFMA/201920/2019%20-%2020%20MFMA%20Consolidated%20GR.pdf>. Accessed on 25 January 2022.