

# Press Release

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South African Institute of Race Relations

*The power of ideas*

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## The best and the worst

Seven of the top ten performing municipalities, based on service delivery indicators, are in the Western Cape. Eight of the ten worst performing municipalities are in the Eastern Cape. This is according to the *80/20 Report: Local Government in 80 indicators After 20 Years of Democracy*, published by the South African Institute of Race Relations (IRR) in Johannesburg today.

The report examines the structure, roles, and responsibilities of local government in South Africa, lists 80 indicators for each of the 278 municipalities, analyses the data collected, proposes solutions to the problems facing local government, and finally ranks all 278 municipalities.

Ten of the 80 indicators were used to rank the municipalities. These indicators are the unemployment rate, the proportion of people aged 20 and older who have passed grade 12, the poverty rate, the number of houses which are owned but not fully paid off, the proportion of households that use electricity for lighting, the proportion of households that have access to piped water inside the dwelling or yard, the proportion of households that do not have access to piped water within one kilometre of the household, the proportion of households that have their refuse removed by the local authority or a private company, the proportion of households that have a flush or chemical lavatory, and the number of households that have no lavatory.

The author of the report, Georgina Alexander, said 'Local government is the first point of contact between citizens and the Government. It is the sphere of government that has the most direct impact on the day-to-day lives of South Africans. The problems facing local government are vast, but three main systemic issues have been identified. These key problem areas are political appointments, lack of capacity, and lack of accountability. In many cases the three key problems in local government overlap.

10 Best and 10 worst performing municipalities in South Africa					
10 Best performing (score above 7.5)			10 Worst performing (score below 3.0)		
Municipality	Province	Score	Municipality	Province	Score
Saldanha local	WC	7.88	Ntabankulu local	EC	2.56
Siyancuma local	NC	7.86	O R Tambo district	EC	2.56
Overstrand local	WC	7.66	Mbhashe local	EC	2.61
Umdoni local	KZN	7.65	Mbizana local	EC	2.73
Drakenstein local	WC	7.62	Msinga local	KZN	2.73
Mossel Bay local	WC	7.61	Engcobo local	EC	2.88
Swartland local	WC	7.61	Ezinqoleni local	KZN	2.9
Stellenbosch local	WC	7.55	Amathole district	EC	2.91
Gamagara local	NC	7.54	Emalahleni local	EC	2.95
Cape Town metropolitan	WC	7.53	Port St Johns local	EC	2.96

Ends