

## Local Government Brief: June 2014

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*Local Government Briefs are monthly electronic updates for municipalities on critical areas of law, policy, facts and data affecting the sector.*

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### **Top ten municipalities delivering water to their households at or above RDP level**

#### **Introduction**

The South African Constitution, Act 106 of 1996, states that municipalities have the responsibility to make sure that all citizens are provided with services to satisfy their basic needs. The most important of which are:

- Water supply
- Sewage collection and disposal
- Refuse removal
- Electricity and gas supply
- Municipal health services
- Municipal roads and storm water drainage
- Street lighting
- Municipal parks and recreation

These services have a direct and immediate effect on the quality of the lives of the people in that community. For example, if the water that is provided is of a poor quality or refuse is not collected regularly, it will contribute to the creation of unhealthy and unsafe living environments. Poor services can also make it difficult to attract business or industry to an area and will limit job opportunities for residents.

## Service delivery standards/level

The most important factor to consider is the level [or standard] at which the service is provided. The choice of the level of a particular service is influenced by affordability as well as community needs. When municipalities make decisions about the level of services they should seriously consider the long-term viability of providing a service at that level.

If a municipality provides a service at a higher level the costs to provide the service increases and so does the price that the municipality will have to charge its customers. Since municipalities rely heavily on income received from users, if the costs are too high and people are unable to pay, the municipality will lose money and as will not be able to continue to provide the service. The following table lists the different service levels for the most important services<sup>1</sup>:

**Table 1: Service Levels**

Service Type	Level 1 Basic	Level 2 Intermediate	Level 3 Full
Water	Communal standpipes	Yard taps, yard tanks	In house water
Sanitation	(Sewage collection/disposal	VIP Latrine Septic tanks	Full water borne
Electricity	5-8 Amp or non-grid electricity	20 Amps	60 Amps
Roads	Graded	Gravel	Paved/tarred & kerbs
Storm-water drainage	Earth lined open channel	Open channel lined	Piped systems
Solid Waste disposal	Communal (Residents)	Communal (Contractors)	Kerbside

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.etu.org.za/toolbox/docs/localgov/munservice.html>

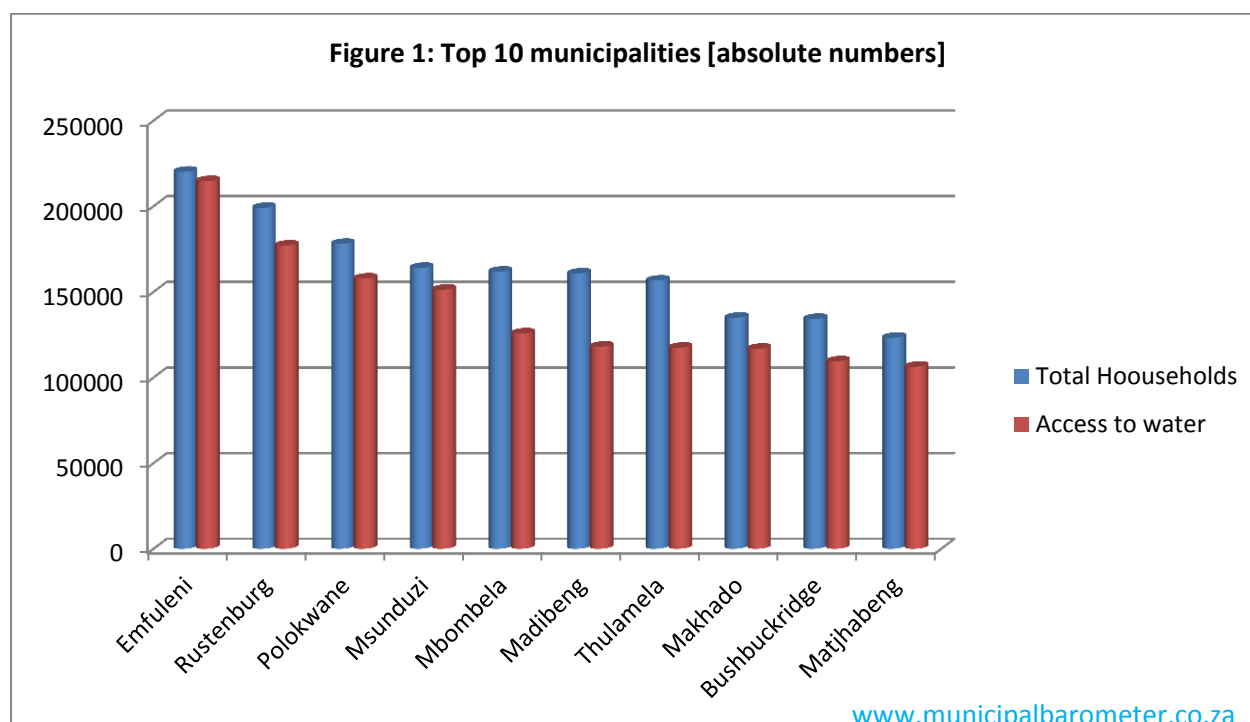
## Top ten municipalities

This edition presents the top ten best performing municipalities in relation to water service delivery in 2011. The data is extracted from the Municipal Barometer<sup>2</sup>, a web-portal initiated by SALGA and stakeholders to disseminate local governance and development data.

It is envisaged that by having access to these data municipalities will be able to make informed decision and thereby improve their planning and programming.

These municipalities have the highest number of households with access to water. These are Emfuleni, Rustenburg, Polokwane, Msunduzi, Mbombela, Madibeng, Thulamela, Makhado, Bushbuckridge and Matjhabeng. These municipalities are located Gauteng, North West, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KZN provinces. It is worth noting that these municipalities have performed very well despite their workloads, huge amount of households in requirement of the service. See figure 1 and table 1.1

**Figure1: Top ten municipalities with the highest number of households that are receiving water at or above RDP level in terms of absolute numbers**



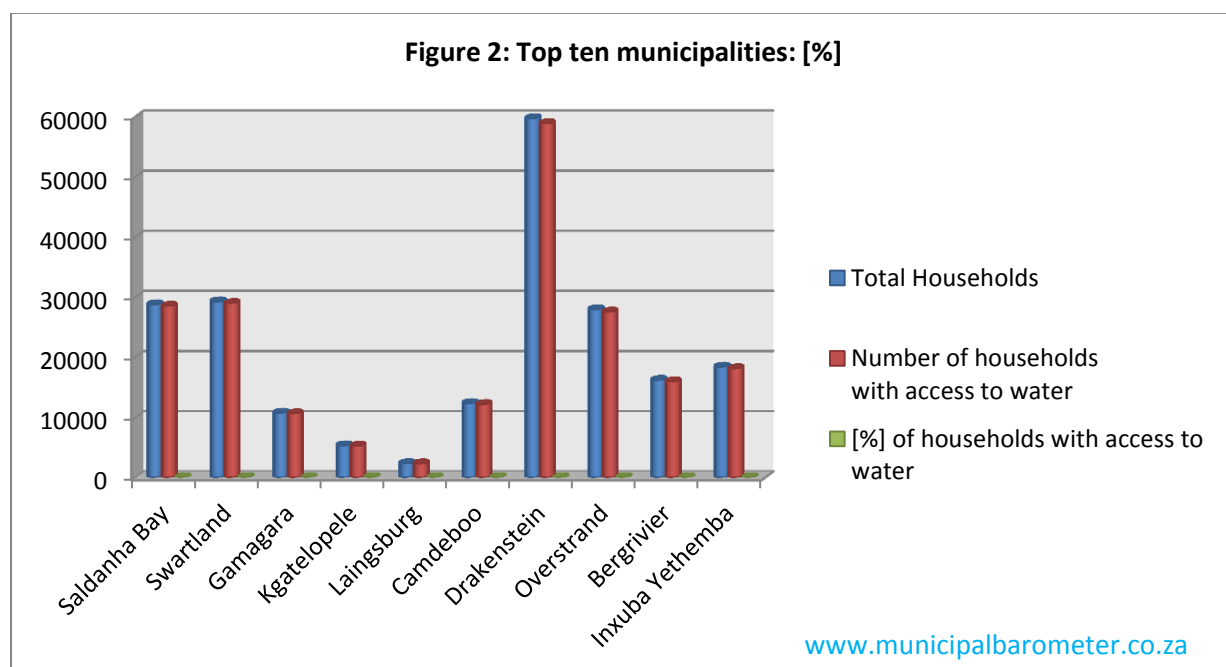
<sup>2</sup> [www.municipalbarometer.co.za](http://www.municipalbarometer.co.za)

**Table 1.1 Top ten municipalities with the highest number of households that are receiving water at or above RDP level in terms of absolute numbers**

Rank	Local Municipality	Total Households	Access to water at or above RDP level	Access to water below RDP level [households]
1.	Emfuleni	220135	214 666	5 469
2.	Rustenburg	199044	177 044	22 000
3.	Polokwane	178001	157 770	20 231
4.	Msunduzi	163993	151 284	12 709
5.	Mbombela	161773	125 739	45 006
6.	Madibeng	160724	118 010	34 985
7.	Thulamela	156594	117 376	51 471
8.	Makhado	134889	116 767	40 636
9.	Bushbuckridge	134197	109 419	50 769
10.	Matjhabeng	123195	106 313	5 819

However, the picture becomes completely different when the municipalities' performance is assessed based on percentages. See figure 2 and table 2.1. The leading municipalities are located in the Western Cape Province, followed by Eastern and Northern Cape Provinces respectively.

**Figure 2: Top ten municipalities with the highest number of households that are receiving water at or above RDP level in terms of percentages**

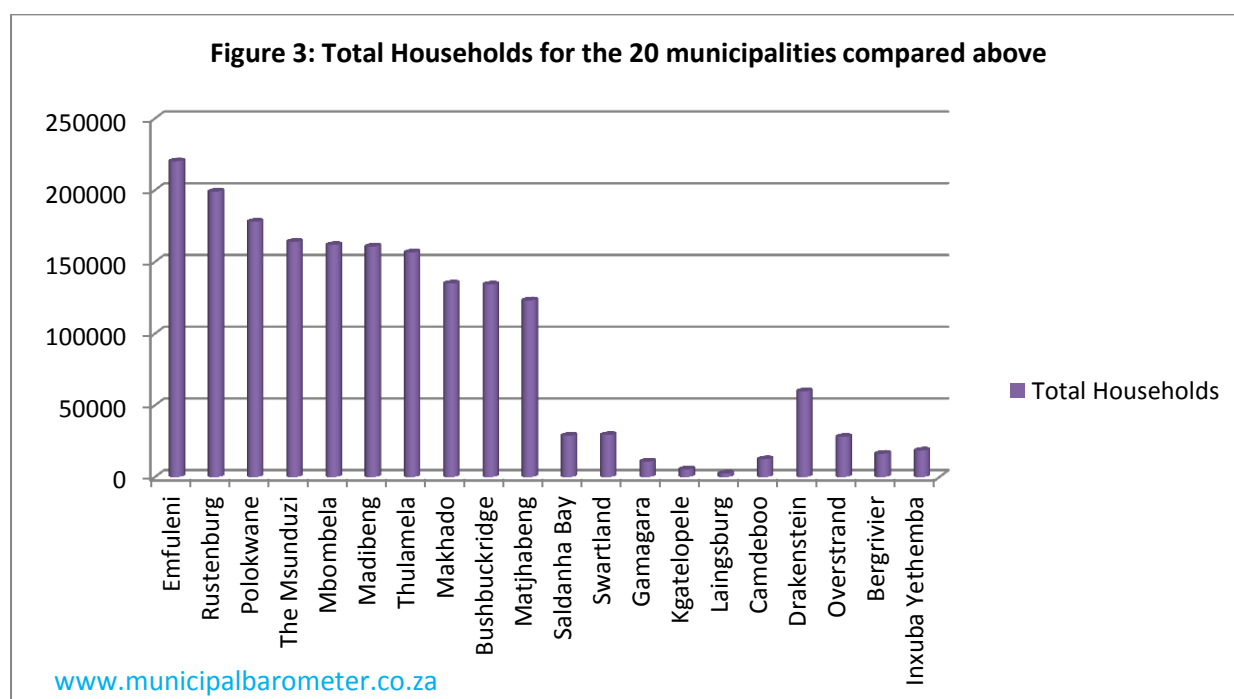


**Table 2.2: Top ten municipalities with the highest number of households that are receiving water at or above RDP level in terms of percentages**

Rank	Local Municipalities	Total Households	Percentage of households with access to water	Number of households with access to water	Number of households with access to water below RDP level
1.	Saldanha Bay	28835	99.2%	28 591	244
2.	Swartland	29324	99.1%	29 051	273
3.	Gamagara	10808	99%	10 699	109
4.	Kgatelopele	5381	99%	5 326	55
5.	Laingsburg	2408	98.9%	2 381	27
6.	Camdeboo	12400	98.8%	12 257	143
7.	Drakenstein	59774	98.6%	58 944	830
8.	Overstrand	28010	98.6%	27 615	395
9.	Bergrivier	16275	98.5%	16 024	534
10.	Inxuba Yethemba	18463	98.5%	18 193	270

It should be noted that the majority of these municipalities have far less households than the municipalities in figure 1. As a result their burden is much smaller compared to their counterparts above as the percentage is calculated based on the total number of households in each municipality. See figure 3:

**Figure 3: depicts the total number of households for the top ten municipalities contrasted according to absolute numbers and percentages**



**Figure 3.1 depicts the total number of households for the top ten municipalities contrasted according to absolute numbers and percentages**

Rank	Local Municipality	Total Households
1.	Emfuleni	220135
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17.	Drakenstein	59774
18.	Overstrand	28010
19.	Bergrivier	16275
20.	Inxuba Yethemba	18463

Figure 4 demonstrates municipalities with the highest number of households to the lowest number of households which have access to water below the required standard. Thulamela, Bushbuckridge and Mbombela are the three leading municipalities, followed by Makhado, Madibeng, Rustenburg, Polokwane and Msunduzi. Even though these municipalities are amongst the top ten performing municipalities; they still have huge number of households that are accessing water below the minimum standards; consequently in need of attention.

**Figure 4: Top ten municipalities contrasted and ranked according to the number of households without access to water at or above RDP level.**

