

In the run up to the coming local government elections, Good Governance Africa (GGA) used data obtained from a national survey, Statistics SA, Auditor General Reports, Expanded Public Works Programme and National Treasury to rank the performance of the country's 234 local and metropolitan municipalities, using 15 indicators to determine the quality of administration, including financial soundness, economic development and service delivery.

League tables for municipalities were compiled for both provincial and national level. According to this recently published Government Performance Index, Emthanjeni Municipality ranked as the 9th best municipality on the national level and the best municipality in the Northern Cape on the provincial level.

Municipalities were rated according to indicators such as access to tap water, electricity and sanitation, regular refuse collection, housing, health facilities, police protection and the number of people who have completed their schooling. The financial management and administration of municipalities also impacted heavily on the index.

According to the rankings, the Western Cape has 15 of the country's top 20 municipalities and inhabitants of the Western Cape enjoy better service delivery and economic opportunities than any other province in South Africa. Swellendam was ranked the best municipality in the country. The Northern Cape has 3 municipalities in the top 20 and the Free State has 2.

Residents of Emthanjeni can be justifiably proud of the 9th best municipality in the country and the evolving cooperation between the residents and the Municipality, specifically aimed at cleaning up the urban environment, holds great promise for the future and its potential as the main commercial and administrative centre in the Upper Karoo, while the steady expansion of solar and wind energy facilities is also testament to the growing economic development opportunities within the municipal area of Emthanjeni.