

23rd February 2016

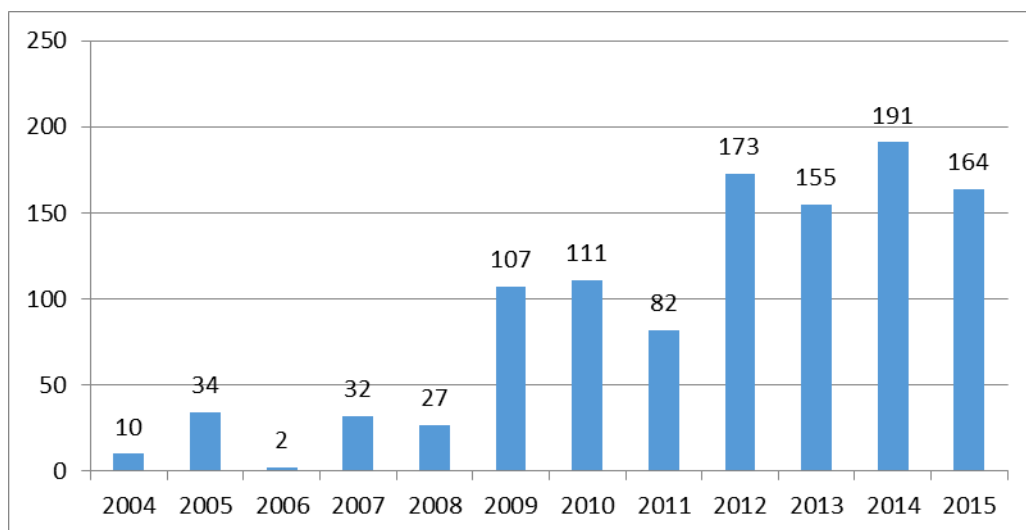
Press Release: Gauteng and national service delivery protest figures fall [for immediate release]

Slight drop off in 2015 protest figures, with absolute and relative fall for Gauteng

Background: Municipal IQ, a specialised local government data and intelligence organisation collects data on service delivery protests staged against municipalities (see methodology note) on its Municipal Hotspots Monitor in order to quantify and better understand the ongoing nature and trends behind such events.

Key trends in 2015: Figure 1 (below) shows that 2015 is off the high peaks of 2014, as well as that of 2012. Karen Heese, Economist at Municipal IQ argues that “while the number of service delivery protests dropped slightly last year, other protest activity, such as #FeesMustFall is not factored into these calculations. Furthermore, protest activity remains within the high range recorded since 2012 and suggests that it is unlikely that the phenomenon will abate in the near future as South Africans use protest activity to vent unhappiness with a range of state players, including municipalities”.

Figure 1: Major service delivery protests, by year (2004 –2015)

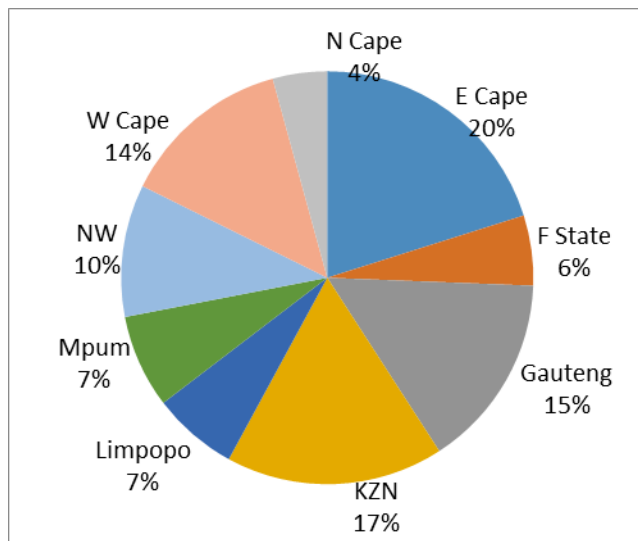


[Source: **Municipal IQ** Municipal Hotspots Monitor]

In some positive news, however, confirming Gauteng Premier David Makhura’s quote in the State of the Province Address yesterday, Municipal IQ M.D. Kevin Allan notes that: “One of the reasons protest activity has dropped off in the municipal domain is that Gauteng communities staged fewer protests than in previous years. While more than 1 in 5 service delivery protests between 2004 and

2015 took place in Gauteng, only 15 percent of protests recorded on the Hotspots Monitor last year took place in the Province” (Figure 2 refers).

Figure 2: Service delivery protests by province 2015



[Source: **Municipal IQ** Municipal Hotspots Monitor]

Methodology: Municipal IQ’s Hotspots Monitor databases major protests staged by community members (who can be identified as living in a particular ward) against a municipality, as recorded by the media (or other public domain sources such as SAPS releases). Such protestors raise issues that are the responsibility or perceived responsibility of local government (such as councillor accountability, the quality and pace of basic service delivery, and in metro areas, housing). These protests may be violent or peaceful, but there is a clear dissatisfaction with the management of a municipality. Not included are issues falling outside of local government’s service delivery mandate such as demarcation, industrial relation disputes or clear party political issues (including candidate lists). Where protests are sustained over several days or weeks, these are recorded as a single entry, with qualitative details updated on the database.

Ends.

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Municipal IQ ranks municipalities according to their relative performance on a number of monitors and indices, with the intention of contributing to an objective, critical assessment of municipal performance. It is hoped that this assessment will highlight both successes and failures in the work of municipalities and in so doing, assist to improve local government delivery.