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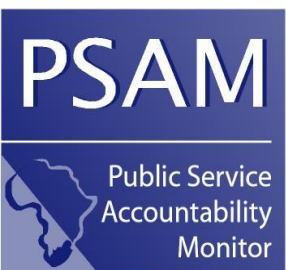
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A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE EASTERN CAPE IN TERMS OF THE STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA COMMUNITY SURVEY 2016

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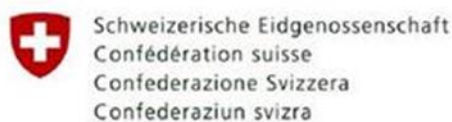
OUR ORGANIZATION

The South African Constitution commits government departments to the progressive realisation of socio-economic rights within available resources. These rights include the right to education, healthcare, housing, a healthy environment and social welfare. In order to effectively realise these rights through the delivery of public services, state departments and private service providers responsible for the management of public resources must implement effective accountability and service delivery systems. These include: planning and resource allocation systems; expenditure management systems; performance monitoring systems; integrity systems; and, oversight systems. The effectiveness of these systems can be established by monitoring their information outputs. To evaluate these systems, the PSAM produces the following reports annually; Budget Analysis, Strategic Plan Evaluation and Expenditure Tracking Reports alongside occasional service delivery reviews.

Visit- <http://www.ru.ac.za/psam/>

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This is a brief summary about the performance of the Eastern Cape province in the arena of social services delivery based on the information that was published in the Statistics South Africa Community Survey 2016. This summary mainly points out the “red flags” with regard to the provinces performance in comparison/contrast to the other 8 provinces in order to note how the EC is faring in the delivery of key services. “The Community Survey 2016 (CS 2016) is the second large simply survey Statistics South Africa undertook after CS 2007”.¹ This brief examines the data relating to poverty and access to food, population, education, access to housing, and access to water within the province of the Eastern Cape as reported by the survey.

1. THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Eastern Cape is situated in the South East of South Africa. And it is the second largest province after the Northern Cape.² The province covers an area of 169 580 km² which constitutes 13,9% of the total land mass of South Africa. The major development problem in the Eastern Cape is poverty and socio-economic deprivation among the majority of the population.³

¹ Community Survey 2016, Statistical Release.

² Eastern Cape Provincial Profile. Accessed from: <http://www.mrc.ac.za/bod/estimatesprovincial.pdf>

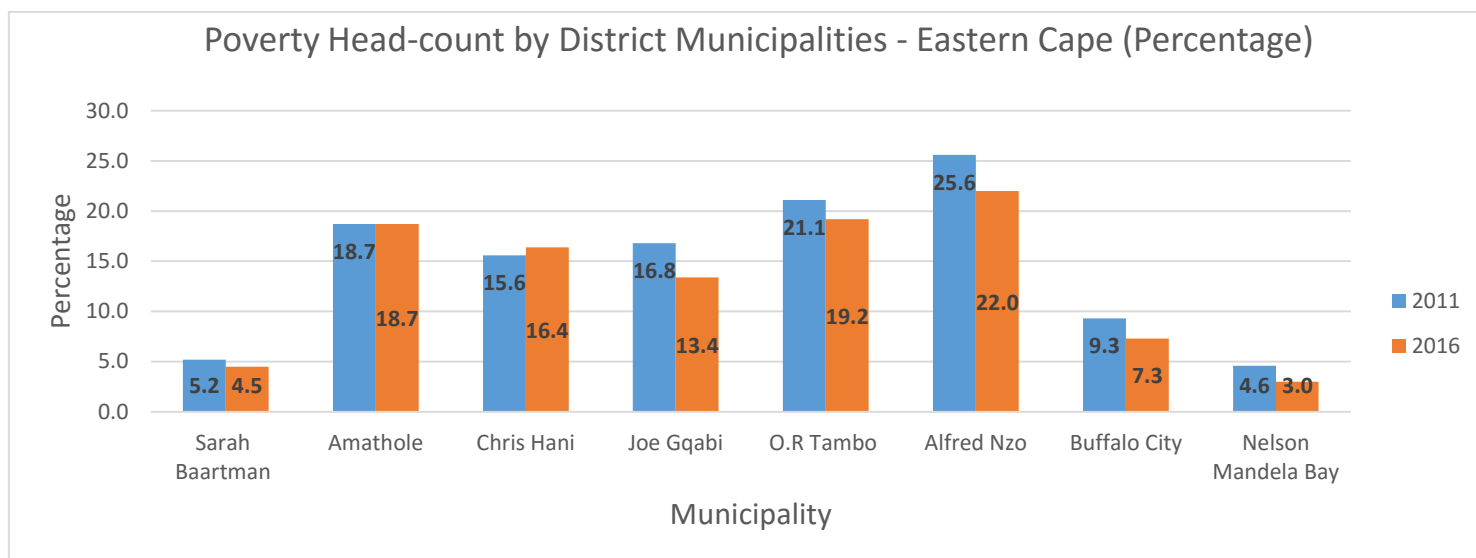
³ Makiwane, M & Chimere- Dan, D. 2010. “The people matter: The state of the population in the Eastern Cape”. <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/uploads/pageContent/558/ECapefullreport.pdf>

2. POVERTY

The Eastern Cape still remains the poorest province in South Africa in comparison to its counter-parts

The survey results show that the Eastern Cape's population increased from 6, 562, 053 million people in 2011 to 6, 996, 976 million in 2016. The Eastern Cape is the third most populated province after Gauteng (13, 399, 724 million) and KwaZulu-Natal (11, 065, 240 million). The survey reports that the poverty head-count in the Eastern Cape has decreased from 14.4% in 2011 to 12.7% in 2016. The World Bank defines headcount ratio as the percentage of the population that is living below the poverty line. While it is commendable that the poverty head-count has decreased, the Eastern Cape still remains the poorest province in South Africa in comparison to its counter-parts. The poverty head-count of 12.7% at provincial level still remains the highest in the country.





While Alfred Nzo District Municipality has the highest poverty head-count (22,0 %) out of all the district municipalities in the province, Intsika Yethu local Municipality, under Chris Hani District Municipality, recorded the highest number of people living under the poverty line at 27.7 %. The total population of Intsika Yethu municipality is 145, 372 people. That means 27.7% represents about 40, 268 people in that municipality living below the poverty line.

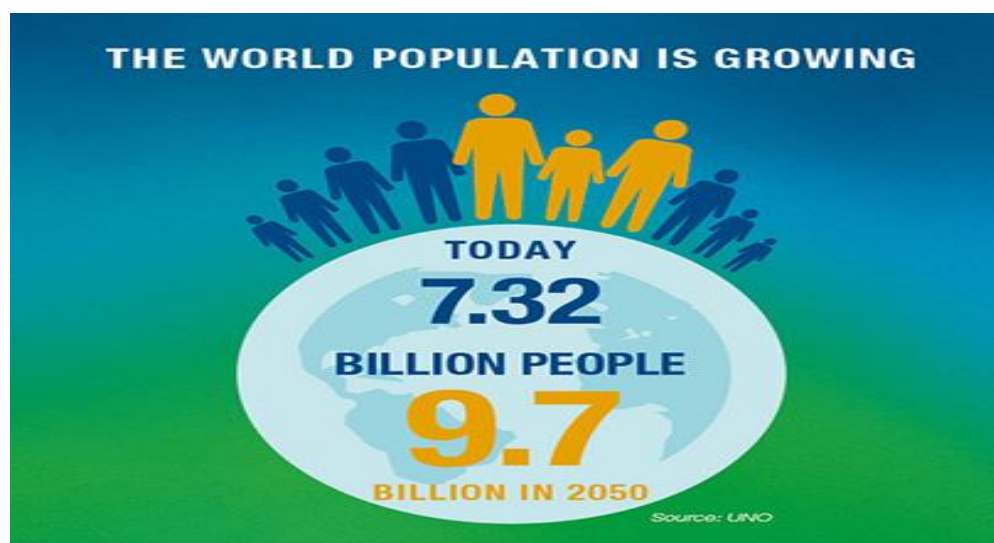
The survey also shows that the intensity of poverty in the Eastern Cape province has increased from 41, 9 % in 2011 to 43,3 % in 2016. The issue of poverty intensity answers the question of: How poor are the poor? While the poverty headcount records the number of people who fall below the poverty line, the intensity measure records the extent to which people fall below the poverty line. An increase in the intensity of poverty in the province is worrying because it shows that the poor are getting poorer. 26,3% of households in the Eastern Cape reported that they had run out of money to buy food in the past 12 months. Furthermore, in all provinces, with the exception of Limpopo and the Eastern Cape, the number of households who has skipped a meal decreased.

Chapter 7 of the survey lists 'lack of safe and reliable water supply, Inadequate housing, and lack of or inadequate employment opportunities' as the leading challenges facing Eastern Cape municipalities according to households in the province.

3. POPULATION

The prevailing population in the profile in the province is to a large extent, a product of complex demographic reactions to the crisis of poverty, especially among the historically disadvantaged population groups.⁴ Despite large numbers of the people migrating from the province, the Eastern Cape still remains the third most populous province in South Africa.

Over the years, the Eastern Cape has consistently experienced one of the highest numbers of out-migration. For instance, the 2001 census showed that between 2001 and 1996, the province lost 354, 267 individuals. During that period the Eastern was reported to have lost more people than any other province in South Africa.⁵ Again, Census 2011 reported that the Eastern Cape was among the provinces -Northern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo- that experienced a negative net migration figures, meaning that more people migrated out of these provinces than moved in over time.⁶ This year's community survey also reflects that the Eastern Cape and Limpopo had the highest number of out-migrants."⁷ Additionally, the Eastern Cape is also reported to have had the highest percentage decrease in households from 11,7% in 2011 to 10,5% in 2016. It is surprising that "moving to a new dwelling or moving to be closer to friends and family was cited as the main reason to have moved".⁸ And yet, Chapter 7 of the survey lists 'lack of safe and reliable water supply, Inadequate housing, and lack of or inadequate employment opportunities' as the leading challenges facing Eastern Cape municipalities according to households in the province.



⁴ Makiwane, M & Chimere- Dan, D. 2010. "The people matter: The state of the population in the Eastern Cape". <http://www.hsrc.ac.za/uploads/pageContent/558/ECapefullreport.pdf>

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Census 2011, Statistical Release. <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P03014/P030142011.pdf>

⁷ Community Survey 2016, Statistical Release. Page 30. http://cs2016.statssa.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/NT-30-06-2016-RELEASE-for-CS-2016- Statistical-releas_1-July-2016.pdf

⁸ *Ibid.*

4. EDUCATION



According to Millennium Development Goal 2 (MDG 2), all children of school going age, boys and girls, must achieve universal primary education by 2015, or must have completed primary education, regardless of their age.⁹

While a large number of persons aged 5 years and older who are attending public educational institutions is remarkably high in the Eastern Cape, the statistics also reflect that the Eastern Cape (54,7%) is the second province, after Limpopo (56,0%), with the highest female non-attendance rates.

TEENAGE CHILD-BEARING

Early teenage pregnancy (girls between the years 15 - 19) is the highest in the Eastern Cape out of all the provinces. It has increased from 5,0% in 2011 to 5,3 % in 2016.

The Department of Education in the Eastern Cape receives the biggest slice of the budget. This year alone the Department of Education received an amount that constitutes 45% of the entire EC budget.

⁹ Accessed from: <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/gti.htm#goal2>

5. HOUSING

In 2015 the Eastern Cape housing backlog was estimated to be over 600 000 housing units. The survey notes that there have been considerable improvements in the access to housing and other basic services. According to the top five challenges¹⁰ identified in the survey, inadequate housing is reflected as the second most pressing challenge, after lack of safe and reliable water supply, in the Eastern Cape.

“All provinces indicated the lack of, or inadequate employment opportunities as a challenge, with more than one-tenth of households in all provinces, except the Western Cape (9,4%), selecting this challenge as the main challenge in their municipalities”.

The survey shows that at the national level there is an increase in the number of households living in formal dwellings from 65,1% in 1996 to 79,2% in 2016. However, the survey data also shows that out of all the provinces the Eastern Cape has the lowest number of lowest percentage distribution of formal dwellings at 65,1%. This could be attributed to the fact that a large part of the province is rural areas. This is also supported by the fact that this province, out of all the provinces, has the highest percentage distribution of traditional dwellings at 26,6%.



¹⁰ The top five challenges identified in this survey are: Lack of safe and reliable water supply, Lack of or inadequate employment opportunities, Cost of electricity, Inadequate housing, and Violence and crime.

6. ACCESS TO SAFE AND RELIABLE WATER



Mvezo, Eastern Cape. Source: Sunday Times 19/07/2016

Section 27 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides for the “rights to healthcare, food, water and social security which the state must progressively realise within the limits of its resources”. The survey data reflects that the households that reported to have no access to piped water are highest in the Eastern Cape at 24, 9%, followed by Limpopo at 20, 0%.

“There is more than enough water in the world for domestic purposes, for agriculture and for industry. The problem is that some people—notably the poor—are systematically excluded from access by their poverty, by their limited legal rights or by public policies that limit access to the infrastructures that provide water for life and for livelihoods”.

UNDP, Human Development Report, 2006

Additionally, the survey data also reflects the Eastern Cape as the province with the lowest percentage of households who reported that they have access, to safe and drinking water at 72, 7%, followed by Limpopo at 75,5%.

CONCLUSION

While the Eastern Cape has improved in many aspects of service delivery since the last survey, it is still faring quite poorly when compared to its counterparts. The poverty headcount has decreased but the province still remains the poorest province in the country. With the rise in inflation, the drought and the weakening of the rand, the intensity of poverty has increased. The province is also losing a large number of youths and skilled workers to provinces such as the Western Cape. While both the numbers of people attending and not attending educational institutions have increased, the Eastern Cape also sits with the highest number of female non-attendees. The province is also faced with the challenge of housing. The delivery of housing to the people is marred with corruption, illegal occupation, shoddily built structures. Lastly, the highest number of people with no access to safe and reliable water was also recorded in the Eastern Cape province.