

24<sup>th</sup> October 2017

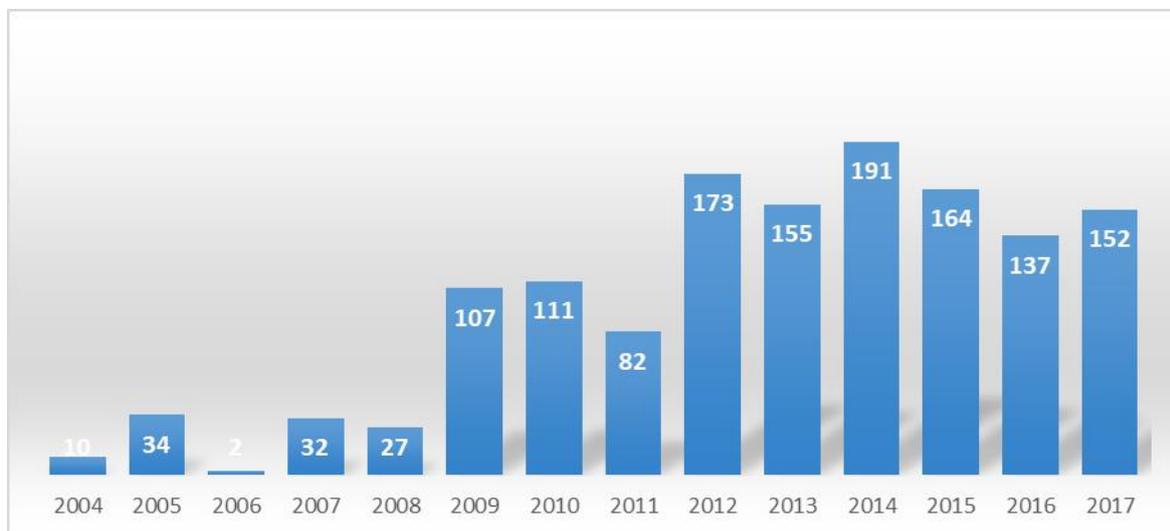
**2017 service delivery protests in a high range, but downward trend from May peak – for immediate release**

**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 2017:** Figure 1 (below) shows that service delivery protests in 2017, as of the end of September (third quarter).

Karen Heese, Economist at Municipal IQ argues that “A record peak in the second quarter of 2017 may mean that 2017 will eclipse other years’ records for service delivery protests, although a downward trend since May could keep it under 2014’s current record. As of the end of September, 2017 accounts for 11% of service delivery protests recorded since 2004”.

**Figure 1: Major service delivery protests, by year (2004 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017)**

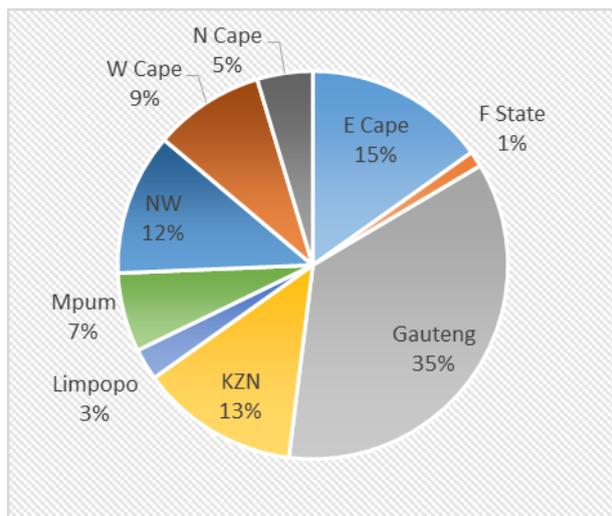


[Source: **Municipal IQ** Municipal Hotspots Monitor]

Heese also notes “Gauteng has been the most prominent site for service delivery protests this year; accounting for more than one 1 out of every 3 protests” (see Figure 2).

Other protest-afflicted provinces for the year include the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the North West. Together the four provinces account for three-quarter of protests recorded in 2017.

**Figure 2: Service delivery protests by province 2017 (as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017)**



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

**Analysis:** Violent protest activity remains a concern for many South African communities given its adverse impact on schooling, work opportunities and community safety. It is of further concern that policing of protests appears to add another layer of violence further destabilising the already vulnerable relationship between communities and authority figures.

*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 press 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. **Please note** that protests that are primarily against councillor candidates (a political issue), demarcation and industrial relations are not included on the Municipal Hotspots Monitor.*

**Ends.**

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