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# Kouga is top EC municipality

By Bev Mortimer

Kouga municipality was placed in the 26<sup>th</sup> spot out of 234 municipalities country wide, after The City of Cape Town which was placed 25<sup>th</sup>. Kouga is also the best performing municipality in the Eastern Cape.

This is according to a survey done and released this month by Good Governance Africa (GGA). GGA is a research and advocacy organisation based in Africa that works to improve government performance on the continent.

Fifteen of the country's best municipalities are in the Western Cape, GGA says, while the worst performing municipalities were all in areas formerly apartheid 'homelands'.

Asked for comment, a delighted Municipal Manager, Sidney Fadi, says: "We might be the best in the Eastern Cape, but we are 26<sup>th</sup> of the 234 municipalities countrywide that were scrutinised as part of the survey. Our aim now would be to get to the top spot in the country by continuing on the road we started in 2011."

Fadi says Kouga fared well because it remained focused on its ultimate objective.

The political and administrative leadership had a common vision and worked together well. "We also proactively involved other spheres of government to help us strengthen Kouga," Fadi says.

Plus, he says, Kouga engaged its

communities and got them on board as well. This enabled municipal officials to move around in communities to do what needed to be done.

Fadi said maintains the good rating is encouraging because it gives the municipality the assurance it's on the right track. But at the same time it puts pressure on the municipality to perform because the municipality does not want to disappoint its communities. "At the end of the day it is all about them and bringing basic services to all who live in Kouga."

In determining the rankings, GGA gathered data on 15 indicators across three clusters: administration, economic development and service delivery.

Data for the GPI was sourced from Statistics South Africa, the Gaffney Local Government Yearbook (2013-2015), the Auditor General's Reports, the Extended Public Works Programme and the National Treasury. Though the indicators are weighted equally, there are eight service delivery indicators, conveying the service delivery performance of municipalities with the greatest impact on their overall rank.

GGA's national ranking of South Africa's municipalities shows that the top three performing municipalities are Swellendam, Hessequa and Bergvliet - all in the Western Cape.

(Report Shortened)

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