MEDIA STATEMENT

BLUE DROP PERFORMANCE IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

15 February 2016

The 2014 Blue Drop report was recently released by the Department of Water and Sanitation. The Department congratulates all municipalities and water service providers in the North West Province for their improvement in the quality of their drinking water.

Since its inception, the drinking water quality regulation programme has enabled water authorities to manage their water infrastructure better and improve the overall quality of their water.

According to the 2014 Blue drop report, the best performing Water Service Authority in North West Province is Tlokwe City Council LM with a 97% score, Rustenburg Local Municipality (LM) with a score of 86.15% and City of Matlosana LM with a score of 77.29%.

Water service providers such as Midvaal Water Company have demonstrated good compliance with the blue drop criteria and a good understanding of their water treatment systems. Other water service providers that were assessed are Sedibeng Water, Magalies Water, Rand Water, Rustenburg Water Service Trust, Lekwa Teemane, Lepelle, Mamusa, Naledi, Ramotshere, Tswaing and City of Tshwane.

The Blue drop status is not all about drinking water quality but about how water systems are managed. Excellent performance of water systems includes compliant water safety plan, compliant treatment process management, compliant drinking water quality, management accountability, asset management, use efficiency and loss management. With South Africa as the 30th driest countries in the world, municipalities are also encouraged to address and develop water conservation and demand management strategy to reduce the current water losses.

Municipalities and Water boards are also encouraged to develop emergency plans that considers natural disasters (e.g. earthquakes, floods, damage to electrical equipment by lightning strikes), accidents (e.g. spills in the watershed, interruptions in electricity supply), damage to treatment plant and distribution system and human actions (e.g. strikes, sabotage).

They should develop a communication plan that clearly communicates measures to be taken during a crisis and alert the communities about their plans because most of the time, there is no clear and timeous communication.

The Department is also encouraging a skilled workforce in municipalities and water service providers. There should be a structured skills development process aimed at enhancing training and development of the employees to meet the current and future needs in an environment which is beset with the shortages of critical skills in the sector such as qualified process controllers.

The Department of Water and Sanitation is also encouraging all municipalities to review current compliance status and implement a programme of action to ensure improved performance before the next assessment cycle.
END.

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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