



**MINISTRY:
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★58

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 3 SEPTEMBER 2019
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 13)**

★58. Mr L J Basson (DA) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation:

With reference to her reply to question 22 on 18 July 2019, (a) what are the details of her findings regarding her department's financial capacity and challenges to conduct regular Blue and Green Drop assessments and (b) on what date will her department release the next round of Blue and Green Drop reports?

NO1815E

---0000---

MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION

Perhaps let me start by explaining the reports that the Honourable Member is asking about. The Department introduced the Blue and Green Drop Certification as an incentive based regulation programme to encourage the Water Services Institutions (WSIs) to achieve excellent drinking water and wastewater quality management. The Programmes include risk assessment and management to assist the WSIs in identifying all risks associated with water supply and wastewater management for both infrastructure and water quality. The parameters that are monitored are based on the drinking water quality standards as prescribed in South African National Standard (SANS 241) and water use authorisation or general/special standards.

The Department undertakes assessments for Blue and Green Drop Certificate Programmes to provide information on the performance of Water Services Authorities (WSAs) together with WSPs in respect to drinking water and wastewater management. The assessments do not only focus on water quality compliance but also include:

- Water safety and wastewater risk abatement planning which are risk-based approaches dealing with associated risks and mitigation thereof,
- Asset management (operation & maintenance, design capacity, budgeting),
- Technical skills availability for operation of the plants,
- Management support and local regulation (municipal By-laws),
- Water quality compliance, and
- Solids/sludge handling management.

The last Blue Drop (BD) report assessments were conducted in 2014 and the report was published in January 2016. The last Green Drop (GD) assessments were conducted in 2013 and the report was published in 2014.

On assuming my responsibility as Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, my Department advised me that the Blue Drop and Green Drop assessments could not be conducted after 2014 due to financial and capacity constraints, hence the Honourable Member's question.

Honourable Member, I have since instructed that funding be prioritised in order to ensure that these assessments are conducted on a more regular basis. This means that once this process is done, the assessments will be commenced with.

I will not be able, at this stage, to commit when the assessments will be finalised and reports released.

---0000---