



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **Steve Tshwete and Mbombela have best tap water in Mpumalanga**

08 February 2016

The Department of Water and Sanitation, Mpumalanga Provincial Operations congratulates relentless efforts of Steve Tshwete and Mbombela Local Municipalities to ensure that their communities enjoy quality drinking water. In their assessments by the Department of Water and Sanitation for the 2014 Blue Drop report, the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality retained its Blue Drop status by scoring 97% with five of its systems attaining Blue Drop certification, whilst Mbombela Local Municipality scored 88.8% with four of its systems attaining Blue Drop certification. Steve Tshwete Local Municipality also retained its top position as the best municipality in terms of water quality in the Mpumalanga Province.

The incentive- based regulation Blue Drop (BD) Certification Programme was developed in 2008. The Blue Drop Certification programme allows for proactive management and regulation of drinking water quality management based on legislated norms and standards, as well as international best practice. This involves the auditing of municipal water supply systems based on defined assessment criteria per audit cycle. The assessment criteria include drinking water quality compliance as prescribed through South African National Standards (SANS) 241, water safety planning which focuses on risk management amongst others.

The report not only provides audit details on drinking water quality compliance with respect to the South African National Standard for drinking water (SANS 241), but also include; assessment of water safety planning which is a risk-based approach in drinking water quality management dealing with associated risks and mitigation thereof; asset management (operation & maintenance, design capacity, budgeting); technical skills availability for operation of the plants, and management support.

As part of its effort to implement water conservation and demand management, the No Drop criteria was introduced in this audit cycle and this contributed 3% to the overall Blue Drop score. This criteria looks at water use efficiency and water loss management within a system



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and will assist municipalities in reducing the high volumes of water lost during purification process and distribution thereof.

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