



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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| Gallagher Convention Centre

WATER & SANITATION **INDABA**

THEME:

WATER SECURITY AND PROVISION

Raw water security and water services security

Presented by:

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Designation:

Director-General

SUMMARY OF THE STATUS QUO

Raw water security

- **Raw water supply is currently approximately in balance with existing demands on a national scale, but there are localized deficits, e.g.**
 - Nelson Mandela Bay (2015-2023) and Cape Town (2016-2018) deficits caused by droughts
 - Gauteng (current) caused by increased demand, high NRW, and delay in LHWP2
 - eThekweni, caused by increased demand, increase in NRW, and delay in Umkhomazi Water Project
- **However, water availability in South Africa could deteriorate as supply contracts and demand escalates** due to:
 - economic growth, urbanisation and population growth
 - inefficient use (particularly losses in municipal distribution systems)
 - degradation of wetlands
 - sewage pollution and industrial pollution
 - impacts of climate change

- **Delays in the implementation of surface water resource development projects in the past have now been addressed - projects that were blocked for many years (such as LHWP2 and uMkhomazi) are now in the implementation phase**
- However, there is a need to further improve planning, procurement and project management of national water resource infrastructure projects to ensure that they are implemented timeously
- The National Water Resource Infrastructure Agency Act was passed by Parliament last year
 - Establishment of the NWRIA will enable more finance to be raised on the markets for national water resource infrastructure projects
- The establishment of wall-to-wall Catchment Agencies will result in improved management of water catchments, which is key to increasing raw water security – all six have been gazetted and Boards appointed

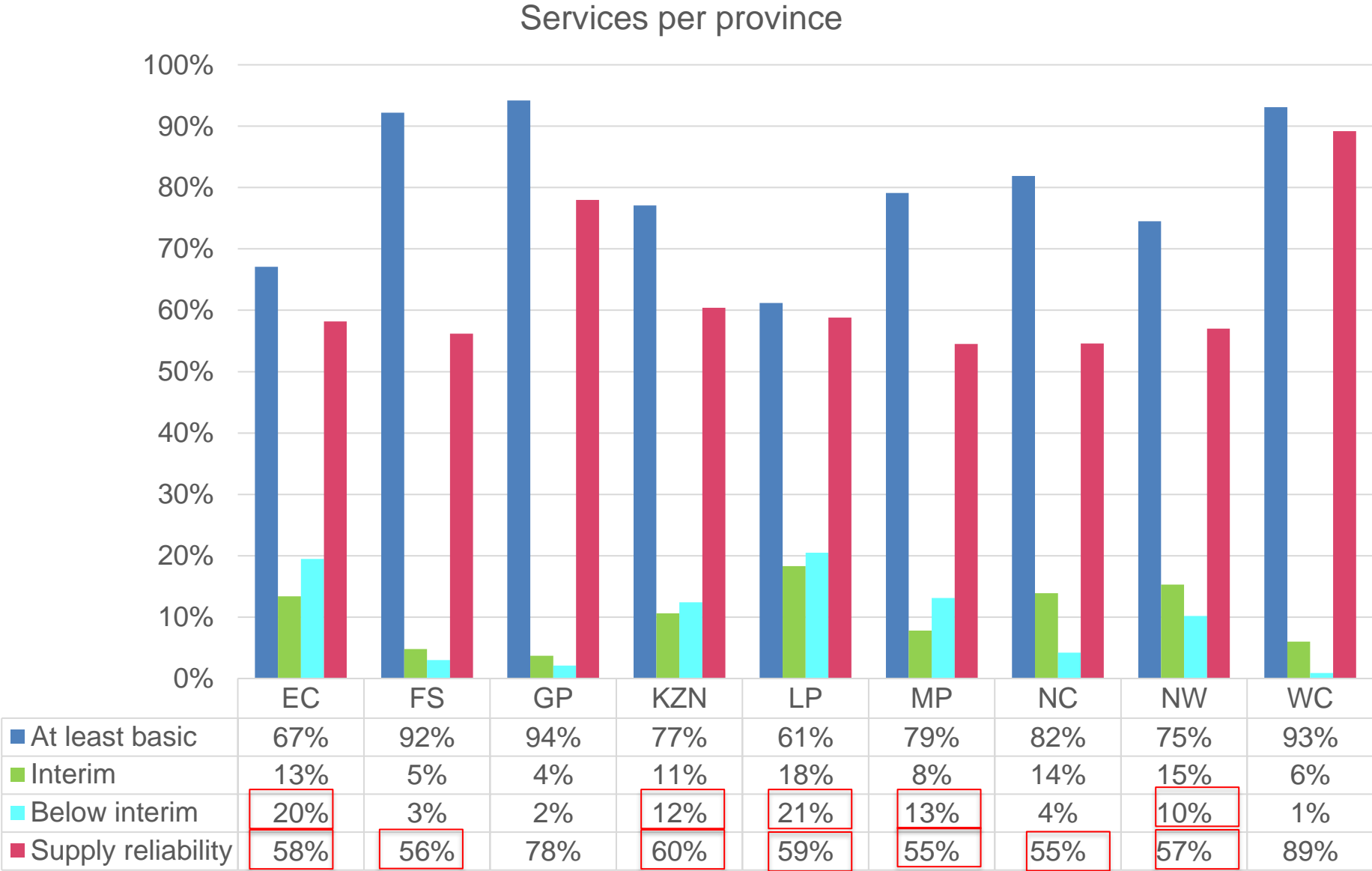
Need to broaden the water mix

- Broadening of South Africa's water resource mix is critical for water security – because the **potential to further develop its surface water resources is limited – we are already harnessing approximately 75% of our sustainably utilizable surface water resources**
- **Need to diversify the water resource mix:** increase sustainable use of groundwater; desalination of sea water; return flows from treated waste-water systems (water re-use); reuse of other poor-quality water such as acid mine drainage
- Due to their technical nature, many of the new sources of raw water will need to be developed by municipalities – e.g. water re-use, desalination
- The development of new water resources should be funded from revenue, whether they are developed by national or municipal government, but social projects can be fully funded or partially funded by grants (to DWS or to municipalities)

Water conservation and demand management

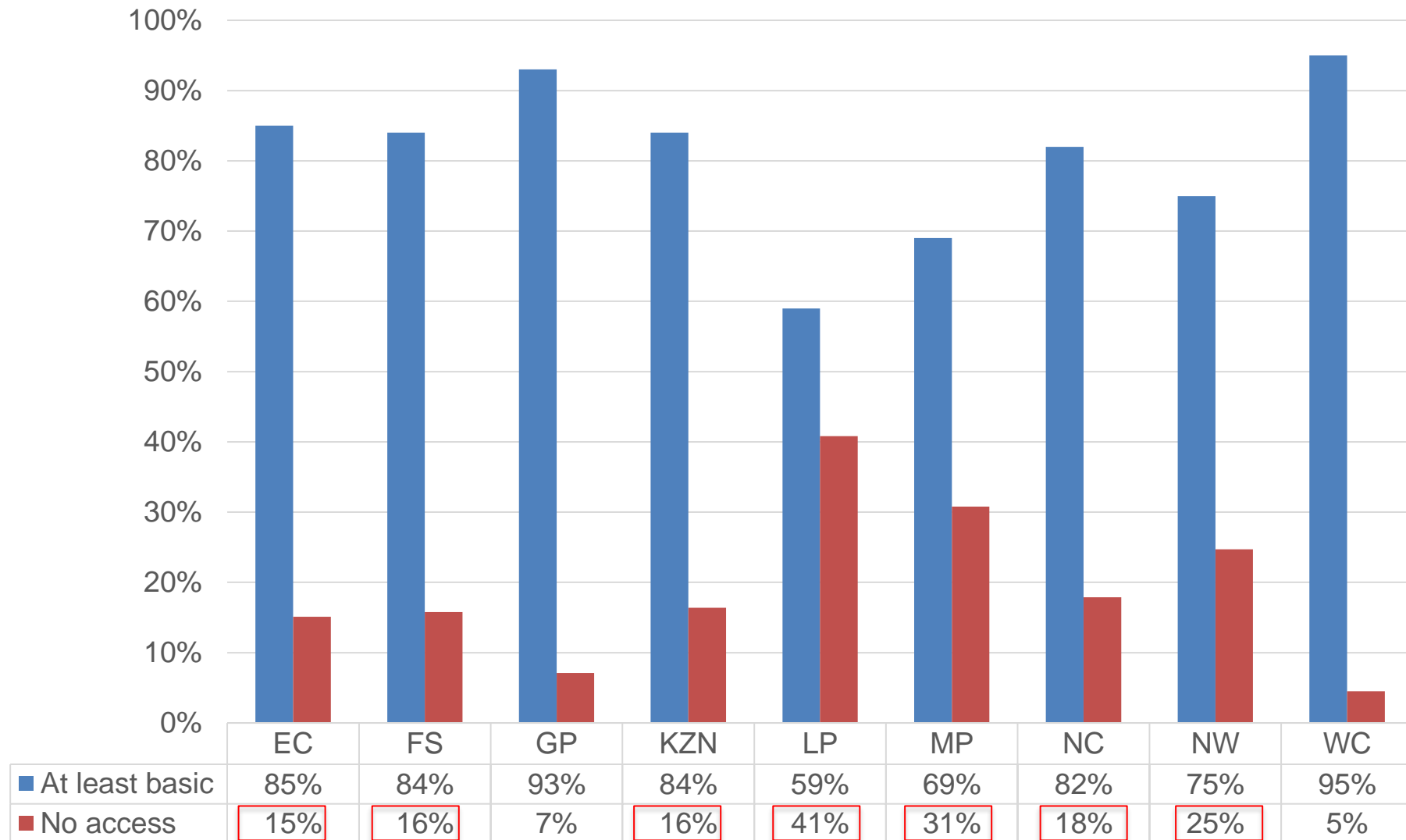
- Supply-side measures are necessary but not sufficient to avoid future water deficits - **water conservation and water demand management** (WCWDM) must also be implemented more effectively, particularly in domestic and general industrial use, and by reducing physical losses in municipal distribution systems
- To date, DWS and municipal water conservation and demand management strategies have not been sufficiently effective, apart from the City of Cape Town
- If they had been sufficiently effective, the average consumption of water per capita per day in SA would not be 218 l/c//d, compared to the international average of 173 l/c/d, while SA is one of the 30 most water scarce countries in the world

State of water in South Africa: Census 2022

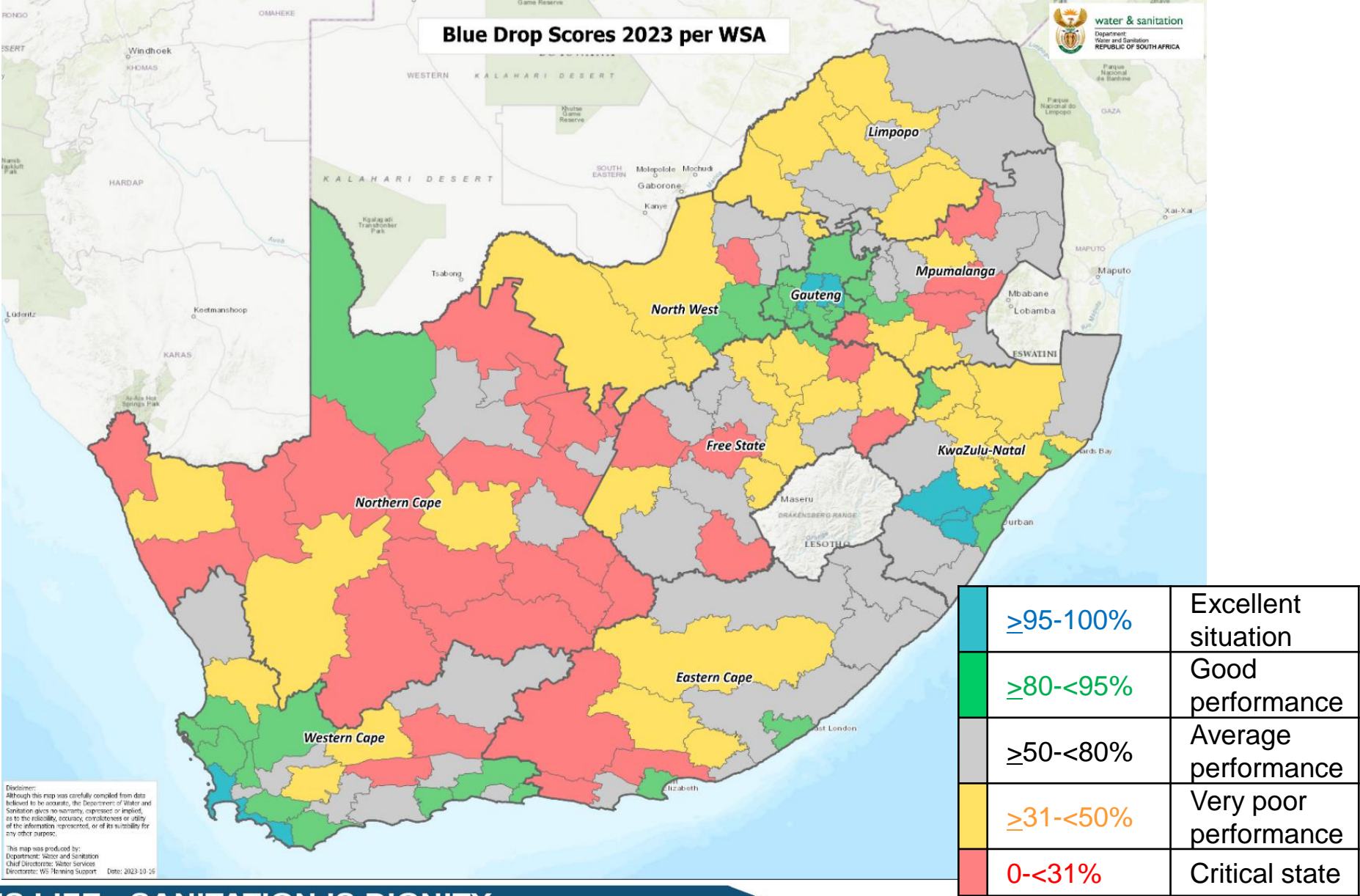


State of sanitation in South Africa: 2022

Services per province: 2022



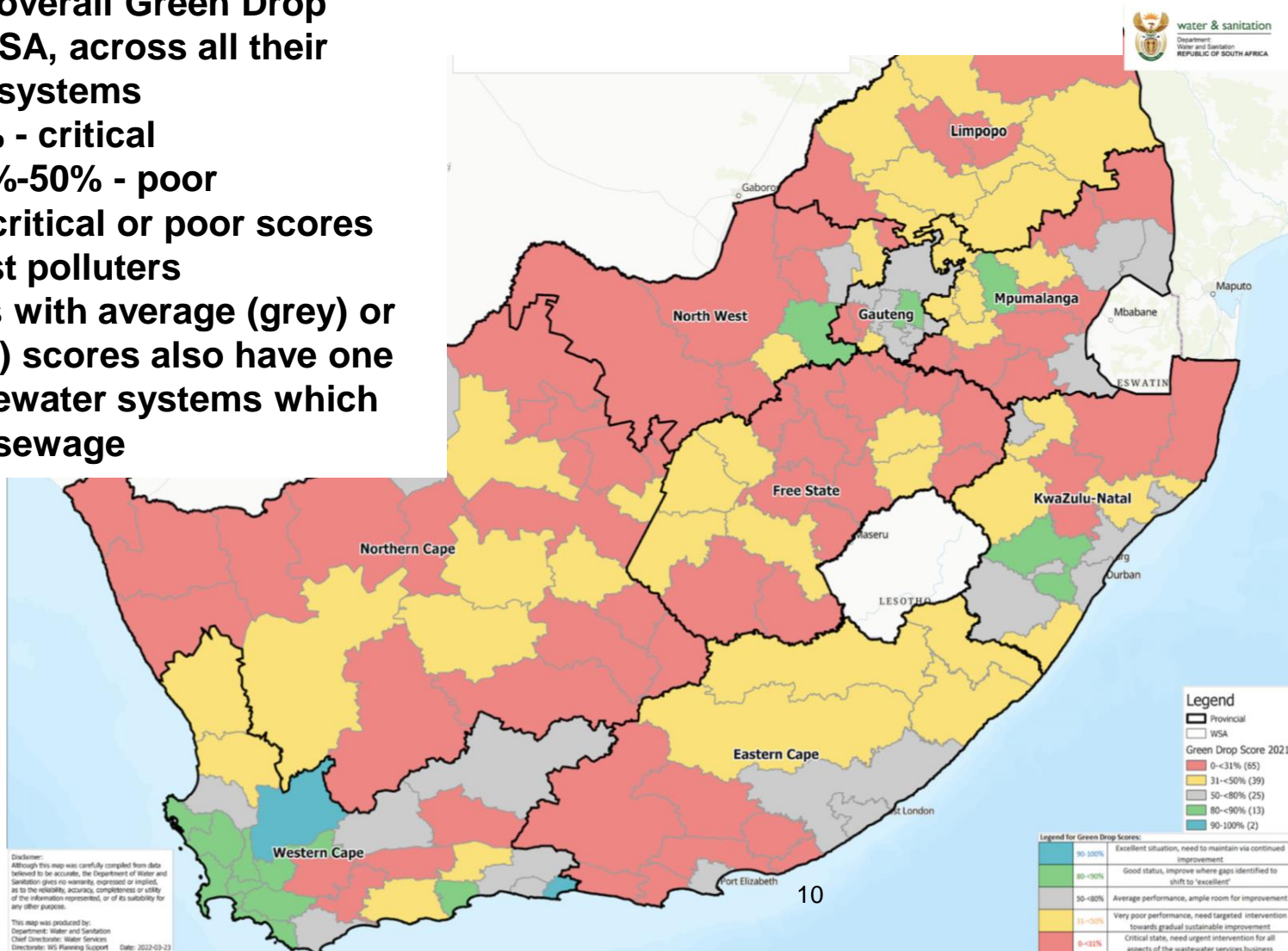
2023 Blue Drop per WSA



WSAs

- Map shows overall Green Drop score per WSA, across all their wastewater systems
- Red = 0-31% - critical
- Yellow = 31%-50% - poor
- WSAs with critical or poor scores are the worst polluters
- Some WSAs with average (grey) or good (green) scores also have one or two wastewater systems which are spilling sewage

2022 Green Drop results



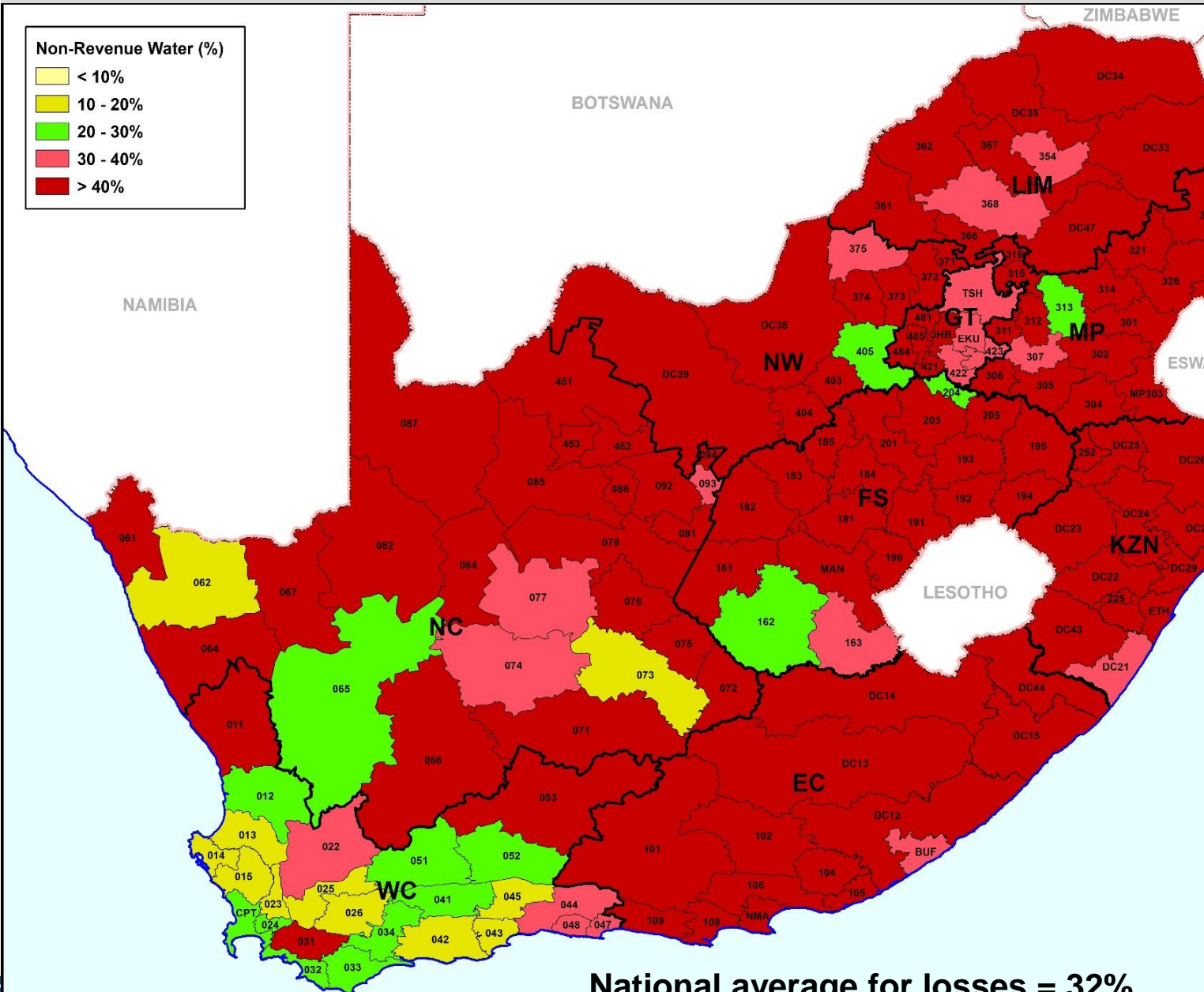
Wastewater systems

2022 Green Drop Report: 334 out of a total of 850 wastewater systems (40%) in 90 municipalities in a critical state of performance (30% in 2013)

Wastewater systems with critical or poor state of performance result in pollution through discharging partially treated or untreated water into rivers and the environment

2023 Green Drop Progress Assessment Report indicated further decline

2023 No Drop: percentage NRW per WSA



Province	% NRW
EC	50.6
FS	59.5
GP	49.2
KZN	60.5
MP	54.9
LP	57.7
NC	49.0
NW	55.6
WC	27.6
National	47.4

High levels of NRW, including physical losses, in GP and KZN are one of the reasons for water supply disruptions that have been experienced there

Key Blue, Green and No Drop results

- The percentage of water supply systems with poor or bad microbiological water quality compliance (i.e. water that is not safe to drink) increased from 5% in 2014 to 46% in 2023 – resulting in **increased risk of water-borne diseases such as cholera and chronic diarrhea**
- Lack of skilled staff is a key issue - Gauteng has the highest percentage of drinking water systems with excellent or good performance and the lowest shortfall of qualified staff; Northern Cape has highest percentage of drinking water systems with poor or critical performance and highest shortfall of qualified staff
- In 2022, 66% of municipal wastewater infrastructure was in a poor or critically poor condition
- 90 of the 144 water services (more than 60%) had at least one critical wastewater system – i.e. **discharging partially treated or untreated sewage into rivers**

Drop reports three-year programme

Service provider appointed (3-year contract) late 2024

Year 1

Municipal symposiums held in December 2024

Planned green drop (wastewater systems) audits and BD ND risk assessments March to May 2025

Full Green Drop report and BD ND Progress reports release December 2025

Year 2

Symposiums in November 2025

Planned Blue Drop (drinking water) and No Drop audits with GD risk assessments March to May 2026

Full Blue Drop and No Drop Reports with GD progress report release December 2026

Year 3

Municipal symposiums in November 2026

Planned green drop (wastewater systems) audits and BD ND risk assessments March to May 2027

Full Green Drop report and BD ND Progress reports release December 2027

Progress with achievement of SDG6 goals

- The United Nations, including South Africa has committed to achieving sustainable development goals related to the provision of minimum levels of water and sanitation (SDG6) to all by 2030
- The United Nations uses different definitions and measurement criteria to Stats SA, but similarly the data indicates that South Africa is not on track to achieving key SDG goals:
 - Access to clean water (6.1)
 - Access to safe sanitation (6.2)
 - Quality of raw water (6.3)
 - Water use efficiency (6.4)
- The poor performance against the SDG6 targets aligns with the poor performance indicated by the Stats SA data and the results of the Drop Reports

Analysis of main causes of poor performance (based on Drop Report evidence)

- Main causes:
 - Non-adherence to standard operating processes for drinking water treatment and wastewater treatment
 - Infrastructure in a poor condition due to a lack of maintenance
 - Infrastructure not having sufficient capacity – e.g. overloaded WWTW
- Underlying reasons:
 - Municipalities not hiring the necessary staff with the correct qualifications (plant managers, technicians, process controllers, scientists)
 - Weak billing and revenue collection
 - Insufficient prioritization of budgets for upgrading, maintenance, and operations by municipal councils
- Vandalism and metal theft are an increasing cause of infrastructure failure, but this is partly a result of inadequate security being provided by municipalities

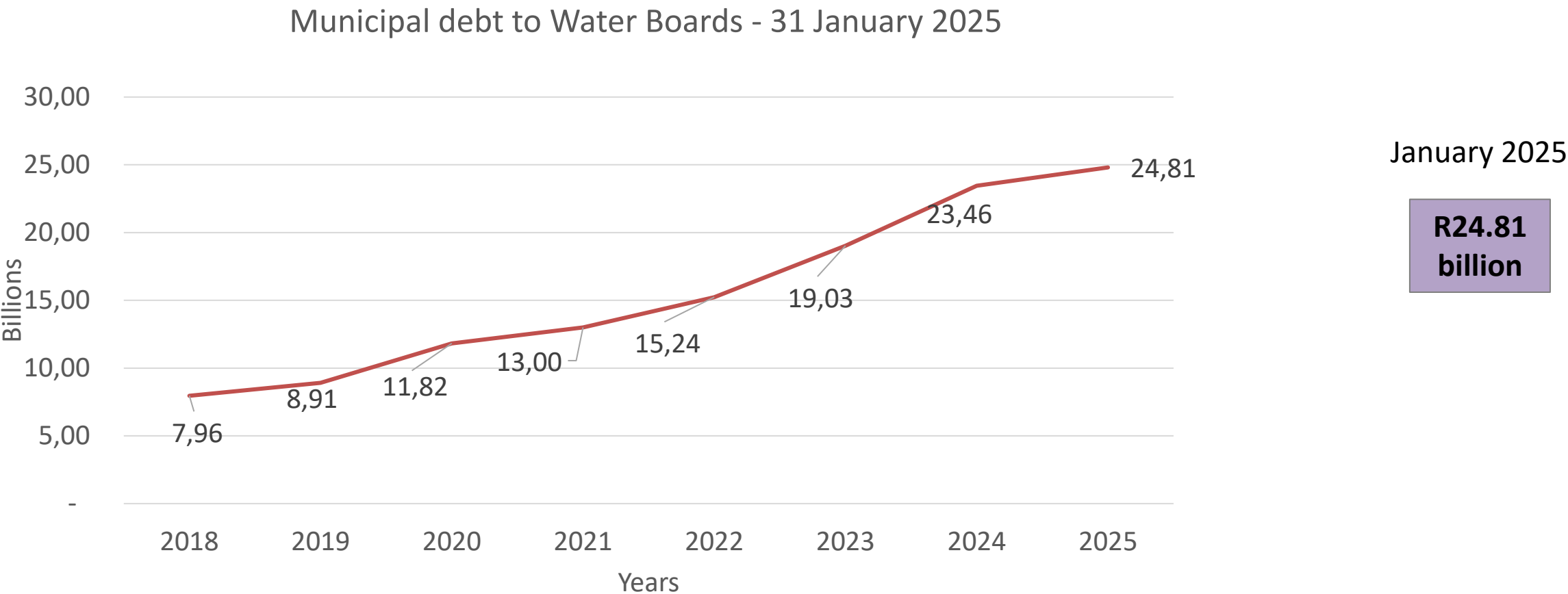
Current financing model for water in SA

- Some of the 'social' bulk water infrastructure projects implemented by DWS and the water boards are funded from the fiscus (the projects for which it is not viable to raise money on the financial markets)
- However, most national water resource infrastructure projects and most water board infrastructure projects are funded by borrowing on the markets. The loans are paid off using revenue from the sale of water
- Neither DWS nor the water boards receive any operational subsidies from the fiscus. Their operations and maintenance costs must be fully funded from revenue from the sale of water to their customers
- National government is transferring more than R60 billion per annum to municipalities for water and sanitation:
 - This includes the portion of the equitable share which is meant to be used by municipalities to provide free basic water to the indigent, as well as various infrastructure grants which are meant to address historical infrastructure backlogs
 - Apart from these grants, the **water services sector has to be self-financing through revenues from the sale of water**
- Municipalities are not allowed to use the infrastructure grants for operational expenditure and routine maintenance – these costs must be covered by the equitable share and revenue from the sale of water by municipalities to their customers

Financing challenges

- 2023 DWS No Drop report: on average **municipalities had non-revenue water of 47.4%**
- This means that, on average, municipalities do not obtain any revenue from almost half of the treated water that they produce or buy from the water boards; meaning that:
 - A large portion of money spent on developing water resource infrastructure is wasted
 - Municipalities do not have sufficient funds to operate and maintain their water services
 - Municipalities are not able to pay the water boards for the treated water supplied by them
- The water boards which are worst affected have stopped paying DWS for the raw (untreated) water supplied to them, which means that the funds available to DWS to maintain and operate the national dams and related infrastructure are insufficient

Municipal debt to Water Boards has tripled from 2018 to 2025



In 2022 Sedibeng Water went bankrupts due to this debt. Two more water boards have since been taken to the verge of bankruptcy by this debt. If a water board goes bankrupt it will stop providing water to all its municipal customers.

What is to be done?

Four key actions are required:

1. Water and sanitation infrastructure grants to WSAs must be refocused on increasing access to a basic level of services
2. Support from national government to municipalities must be strengthened
3. The review of the local government funding model and water and sanitation conditional grants must be finalised
4. Reforms of water services at municipal level must be implemented

The funding gap caused by high non-revenue water must be addressed

Municipalities must:

- Prioritize budgets for maintenance and for reducing leaks in water distribution systems
- Ensure that all reported leaks are fixed quickly
- Close illegal water connections
- Replace old leaking pipes, including asbestos pipes (which are a danger to health)
- Improve management of their water systems (through pressure management for example)
- Strengthen metering, billing and revenue collection

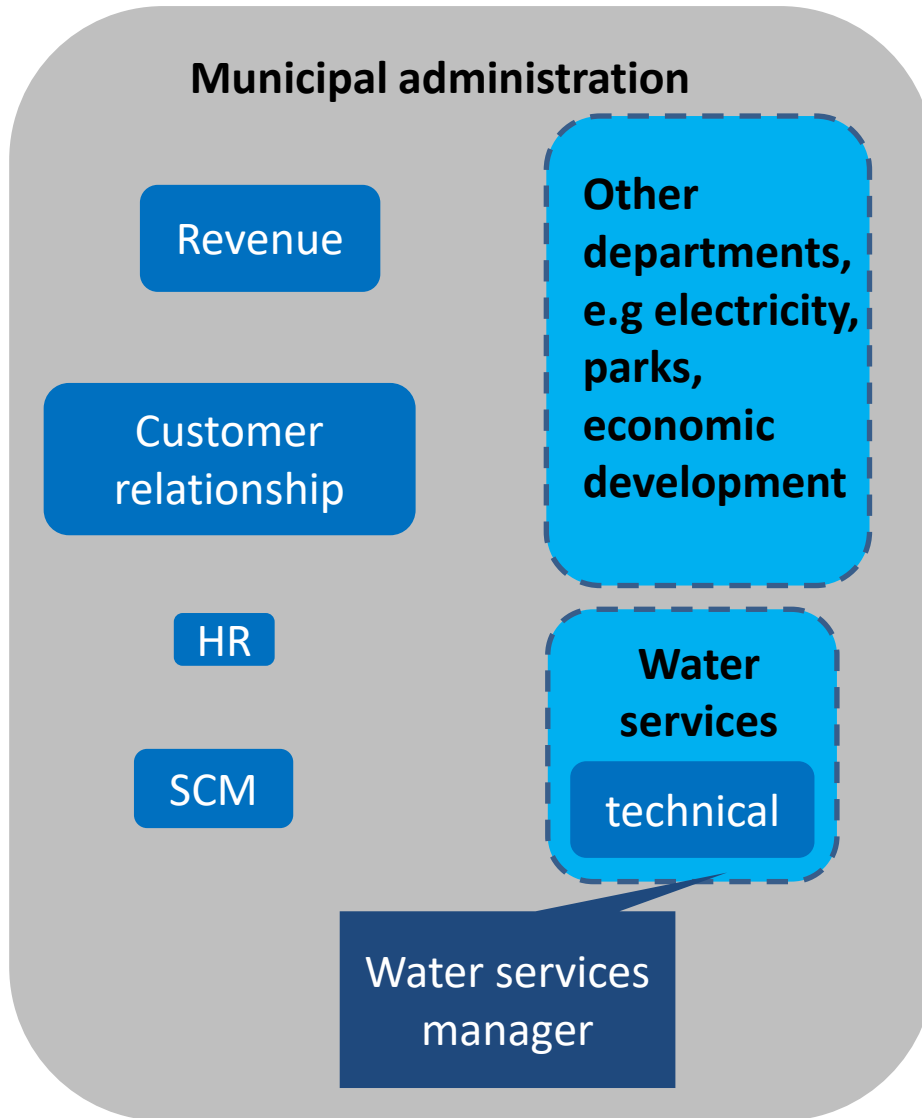
Addressing the municipal debt owed to Water Boards

- The Minister has been engaging with Premiers and Mayors regarding municipal debt to Water Boards and this has resulted in commitments by some municipalities to pay their current invoices in full
- Credit control measures have been standardized and are being implemented by all the Water Boards
- National Treasury has agreed to the withholding of equitable share allocations of non-paying municipalities as a last resort and this is being implemented
- National Treasury has approved a write-off mechanism for historic debts in terms of which water boards can incrementally write off a municipality's historic debt on condition that the municipality pays its current accounts in full

Reform of municipal water and sanitation services

- Municipal water and sanitation services must be reformed:
 - Revenues from the sale of water must be ringfenced for the water function
 - All management functions related to the delivery of water and sanitation services must be ringfenced (move towards a utility model - either internal or external utilities) with single-point accountability
- These reforms are under way through:
 - the Water Services Amendment Bill
 - National Treasury's Reform of Metropolitan Trading Services Programme
 - Phase 2 of Operation Vulindlela

The current situation in Water Services Authorities



- In almost all municipalities, the Water Services Provider is embedded within a municipality:
 - Overseen by a technical lead, heading a technical department
 - **Key aspects required to manage an effective water services function are typically outside of the control of the water services manager**
 - In particular, **most water managers have little or no control over the customer relationship, revenue (metering, billing, and collection), HR and SCM**
- The water and sanitation department receives a **budget which has no relationship to the amount of revenue collected from the sale of water**
- Municipalities use revenue from the sale of water for other purposes

The ideal institutional and financial model for water services - professionally managed and capable water service providers

**Municipal governance
& oversight**
Water Services Authority

Municipal constitutional responsibility is to ensure provision of water services – the WSA function



Shareholding and/or contractual relationship,
with performance management

Can be ringfenced
unit within
municipality
or separate entity
or utility



- The provider of the service (the WSP) is professionally managed, has the required capability, and is required to provide an effective and financially sustainable service
- The provider has control over all the aspects of running a water services function
- There is a strong relationship between the budget of the WSP and the revenues collected from the sale of water
- The full revenues and costs of the water services function are known, accounted for and reported

Amend Water Services Act

Proposed reforms

1. Introduce legal requirement: water services can only be provided by an entity (municipality or other entity) that has a WSP operating licence

Details of licensing requirements will be gazetted by Minister

Will specify minimum competency and minimum performance levels for water service providers linked to gazetted minimum norms and standards for water and sanitation services (including full financial transparency and reporting)

Municipality must fulfill licence conditions if it provides the service itself, or must contract with a licensed WSP

Minimum license requirements will be context-specific and WSPs will be given time to meet requirements

2. Strengthen enforcement by Amending Section 63 to enable enforcement through directives (as is done in National Water Act)

As last resort,
and after due process ...

Minister may force separation of water services function from the municipal administration **where there is persistent failure to meet license conditions**, and require municipality (as Water Services Authority) to contract with a licensed WSP

3. Define the functions that the WSP is accountable for (irrespective of institutional arrangements approved by WSA)

WSP functions:
revenue and finance,
asset creation,
operations and maintenance, human resources,
procurement,
customer relationship

Note: these reforms do not change the status of municipalities as Water Services Authorities in any way

Reform of Metropolitan Trading Services Programme

- NT put in place large new performance-based grant for metros: Trading Services Grant
- Access to grant is conditional on metros putting place and implementing water and sanitation turnaround plans:
 - Ringfence revenue from the sale of water
 - Ringfence management functions and create single-point accountability
 - Reduce NRW
 - Improve performance across a range of indicators

Water and sanitation related reforms in Phase 2 of Operation Vulindlela

- Develop a National Water Action Plan and establish a coordination structure to ensure water security
- Implement institutional reforms to improve the management of water resources, including full establishment of the NWRIA and Catchment Management Agencies
- Strengthen the regulation and oversight of water service provision through the creation of an independent economic regulator for the water sector, covering the whole water value chain
- Create a separation between water service authorities and water service providers
- Require all metros to establish or appoint ring-fenced, professionally managed and independently licensed utilities (either external or internal) for water & sanitation and electricity
- Finalise review of the funding model for local government
- Finalise review of conditional grants to optimize their impact and effectiveness
- Support the introduction of private sector partnership in the water sector

Increasing private sector involvement in the water sector

- More than 60% of national water resource infrastructure projects are funded by private sector finance raised by the TCTA - establishment of the NWRIA will enable more private sector finance to be raised for national water resource infrastructure projects
- Green and blue bonds are already being applied in catchment management – e.g. the Water Bond put in place by Rand Merchant Bank and The Nature Conservancy in the Western Cape, which is financing the removal of alien vegetation which consumes large amounts of water
- There is potential for green and blue bonds to be listed for other types of projects in the water sector
- DWS and the Water Boards are implementing non-commercial partnerships with industrial sectors, such as the OMM project in Limpopo with mining houses

- The Infrastructure Fund is assisting DWS, the water boards, and municipalities to put in place blended finance projects in the water sector, e.g. the uMkhomazi Water Project and there is potential for this to be increased
- Private sector involvement in municipal water services is very low compared to other countries
- DWS, SALGA and the DBSA have established the Water Partnerships Office to assist municipalities to put in place partnerships with the private sector, e.g. for non-revenue water reduction, water re-use, seawater desalination
 - These partnerships include Build, Operate, Train and Own or Transfer (BOTT) models
 - WPO has issued an Expression of Interest for municipalities to participate in Water Reuse Programme – substantial Green Climate Funding available for project preparation and blended finance

Alternative models for WSPs

- Legislation states that a Water Services Provider can be any legal entity, including a municipality itself, a water board, another municipality, an NGO or a private company
- To date, almost all WSAs have only opted for internal WSPs
- The reforms are creating a more enabling environment for WSAs to choose alternative WSPs, for example:
 - The Special Purpose Vehicle being put in place between Rand Water and Emfuleni Local Municipality with a 30-year contract
 - 30-year concessions to private sector companies to be the WSP in Mbombela Local Municipality and Ilembe District Municipality
 - Joburg Water, a permanent municipal entity, which is in the process of being transformed into a ring-fenced utility under the Reform of Metropolitan Trading Services Programme

Progress against the 2024 Water Summit resolutions

(general resolutions – group-specific resolutions will be dealt with in the group breakaway sessions)

Total number of resolutions taken: 25

Number of resolutions implemented to date: 15

Number of resolutions for which implementation is in progress: 9

Number of resolutions not yet implemented: 1

Actions by WSAs

No	Action by WSAs	Progress to date
1	Develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAPs) to address the Drop results of critical systems and submit this to DWS by end Feb 2024	Partially done. 55 out of 66 (85%) submitted BD CAPS , 68 out of 90 (75%) submitted GD CAPS, 11 out of 64 (17%) submitted No Drops CAPS to date (Verified)
2	All WSAs/WSPs to implement the WC/WDM Programmes to reduce NRW, with targets and timeframes	Partially done. 74 out of 144 (51%) indicate that they are implementing WC/WDM Programmes
3	All WSAs to consider ringfencing revenues from water services for water services functions	Partially done. 120 out of 144 (83%) WSAs have reported ring-fencing of revenue or are in the process of doing so (unverified)
4	All WSA will develop an infrastructure security strategy/ plan, to combat vandalism and theft of water and sanitation infrastructure	Partially done. 38 out of 81 (47%) WSAs (Group 1 and 4) have an infrastructure security strategy/ plan
5	All municipalities must issue advisory notices without fail when their drinking water quality fails to meet drinking water standards	Partially done. 36 advisory notices issued out of 161 drinking water quality failures (22% compliance to reporting requirements)

Actions by national government and SALGA

No	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Progress
1	Plan for coordinated Section 78 process	SALGA, DWS, COGTA,	Progress report by end February 2024	In progress. SALGA developed and approved plan for implementing coordinate Section 78 processes. Programme will commence in 25/26 Financial year
2	Determine possible debt relief measures for water debts	DWS and NT	End January 2024	Done. Debt relief mechanism developed and approved. Notices sent to all Water Boards and WSAs
3	Put in place measures to develop local suppliers of chemicals for water treatment, particularly chlorine	DWS, DTIC and COGTA	Plan by end January 2024	Done. DTIC has identified three potential new local suppliers and these are in the process of applying to DTIC for funding. NT has put in place three-year transversal contracts for chlorine
4	Develop standard models for external WSPs	DWS, COGTA and SALGA	Models to be developed by end March 2024	Done <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Model for SPV in place based on Emfuleni-RW experience - Model in place for concessions based on Ilembe and Mbombela concessions - Model for public entity in place – Jhb Water - Information on these models and others can be obtained from DWS: Water Services

	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Progress
5	Develop clear definitions of the roles and functions of WSAs vs WSPs	DWS	End February 2024	Done. Included in amendments to Water Services Act. Will be further expanded in the WSP licensing regulations
6	Engage further with the Minister of Electricity about exempting municipal water and sanitation services from load shedding	Minister of W&S	End February 2024	Done. Engagement held and issues clarified, Eskom provided additional facilities with direct supply with exemptions, municipalities to consider isolating W&S services with indirect supply
7	DWS to publish a similar assessment of the performance of all the Water Boards in terms of BD, GD and ND, and require all the Water Boards to develop actions plans to address weaknesses in performance	DWS	End February 2024	Done

	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Progress
8	DWS and AWSISA to develop plan for building Water Boards' capacity and readiness to provide a retail WSP function to WSAs if requested	DWS and AWSISA	End March 2024	In progress. Capacity assessment of water boards under way, to be completed by end March 2025
9	DWS and COGTA continue to engage NT with regard to ringfencing of revenues from the sale of water for water functions	DWS and COGTA	Ongoing	Done. Engagements successful, ringfencing is part of Reform of Metropolitan Trading Services Programme and part of phase two of Operation Vulindlela
10	COGTA to review allocation of WSA status to municipalities	COGTA and DWS	Review to commence by March 2024	No progress

	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Progress
11	DWS to strengthen its compliance and enforcement	DWS	Ongoing	<p>In progress. Amendments to Water Services Act developed, publicly consulted and submitted for approval to go to Parliament</p> <p>Revised norms and standards for water and sanitation services certified, will be issued shortly</p> <p>DWS implemented standard operating procedures to improve the consistency of its regulatory actions across provinces</p>
12	National Treasury, DWS, COGTA and DHS to work together to utilize grant conditions to incentivize improvements in Blue Drop, Green Drop and No Drop scores	DWS, National Treasury	Before the next grant cycle	Done. Adjustments made to grant conditions

	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Progress
13	DWS to plan and implement the required National Resource infrastructure projects to provide sufficient assurance of supply to municipalities	DWS	ongoing	Done. All previously delayed and blocked major national water resource infrastructure projects have been unblocked and are now in the implementation phase
14	DWS to implement an awareness campaign to address the culture of non-payment for water services	DWS	Over the next year and beyond	Done. Minister, DMs and management have been stressing this in all media engagements and departmental communications
15	DWS to increase awareness of assistance available of registration of plant and process controllers	DWS	End April 2024	Done - combined with consultations on Norms and Standards
16	Provincial offices of DWS and Municipalities to engage local media and public about individual municipality BD, GD & ND results to ensure they are well understood	DWS	End March 2024	Done

	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Progress
17	National Treasury to review the Local Government Fiscal Framework to enable ringfencing of water revenues for water services	NT and COGTA	End November 2024	In process, also one of the Operation Vulindlela phase 2 priorities
18	DWS will review GD/BD programmes criteria before the next drop cycle to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cater for more diverse technologies allow the use of internal resources rather than outsourcing 	DWS	Before the next drop cycle	Done for new BD, GD and ND cycle Changes communicated in provincial symposiums held in December 2024
19	Roll out SOP for ground water management to municipalities to enable improvement in the quality of groundwater provided to residents	DWS	End April 2024	Done – implemented across DWS branches and regional offices
20	Investigate making allocation of 10% of MIG for repairs and refurbishment should be mandatory for the poor performing municipalities	COGTA and NT	End February	Done. 10% made available for repairs, renewal and refurbishment on an optional basis

Conclusions

1. Implementation of the decisions of the Jan 2024 Summit must be accelerated
 - All WSAs/WSPs which have not yet done so, must put in place and implement Corrective Action Plans to improve their Blue, Green and No Drop scores
 - All WSAs/WSPs which have not yet done so, must implement programmes for non-revenue water, water conservation and demand management, and infrastructure security
 - All WSAs to consider ringfencing revenues from water services for water services functions
 - Municipalities must put in place more partnerships with the private sector, drawing on support from the Water Partnerships Office
 - All municipalities which are not yet doing so, must start to issue advisory notices without fail when drinking water quality fails to meet drinking water standards
2. National, provincial and local government must work together to implement all the reforms in the sector
3. The breakaway groups must review the progress against their specific-resolutions from the 2024 Summit and identify actions required to accelerate their implementation

Group Work

- After lunch, the Indaba will break up into five groups:
 - Group 1: National raw water security (Hall 1)
 - Group 2: Water services security
 - ✓ 2a WSAs with critical systems (Hall 2 – red municipal registrations)
 - ✓ 2b WSAs with poorly performing systems (Hall 1 – yellow municipal registrations)
 - ✓ 2c WSAs with average performing systems (Hall 1 – green municipal registrations)
 - ✓ 2d WSAs with good performing systems (Hall 1 – blue municipal registrations)
- Each municipality should attend the group to which it is allocated
- Water Boards, as support water service providers, are encouraged to attend Groups 2 a and b
- Other stakeholders should choose which group to attend or divide themselves up between the groups
- Groups 2a-d will be facilitated by senior officials from DWS, TCTA will facilitate Group 1

Grouping of municipalities according to BD and GD scores

As for the 2024 Summit, municipalities have been grouped into the following four groups based on their Drop scores:

- Group 2a:
 - Consists of 67 municipalities which scored 'critical' on average across their water supply systems and/or wastewater systems in the 2023 full Blue Drop and 2022 full Green Drop assessments
- Group 2b:
 - Consists of 38 municipalities which scored 'poor' on average across their water supply systems and/or wastewater systems in the 2023 full Blue Drop and 2022 full Green Drop assessments
- Group 2c:
 - Consists of 27 municipalities which scored 'average' on average across their water supply systems and/or wastewater systems in the 2023 full Blue Drop and 2022 full Green Drop assessments
- Group 2d:
 - Consists of the 12 municipalities which either scored good or excellent on average across their water supply systems and/or wastewater systems in the 2023 full Blue Drop and 2022 full Green Drop assessments

Agenda for Group 1 work (facilitator: TCTA)

1. Presentation on raw water security to group by DWS and expert
2. Discussion on presentations
 - a) Does the DWS presentation identify the key actions required to ensure raw water security?
 - b) What other actions should be taken?
 - c) What are the reasons for a lack of progress in implementation of the required actions?
 - d) What needs to be done differently to make more progress with implementation of the required actions?
3. Adjustments to be made to DWS presentation before it is made to plenary

Agenda for Groups 2a-2d work (facilitated by DWS)

1. Presentation to group by DWS on progress with implementation of the 2024 Summit resolutions for each group
2. Input by sector expert
3. Discussion on DWS presentation
 - a) Does the group agree that the presentation is an accurate description of progress?
 - b) Where there is a lack of progress, what are the causes?
 - c) What should be done to accelerate implementation?
 - d) Is there a common understanding of what is meant by 'ringfencing'?
 - e) Are all municipalities moving towards obtaining Council approval for ringfencing and implementing ringfencing?
 - f) Have all municipalities created a separation between the water service authority and water service provider as required by the Water Services Act? Is a service level agreement in place between the WSA and the WSP?
 - g) Are municipalities planning MSA Section 78 processes where necessary?
 - h) Are municipalities prioritizing providing access to a basic level of service to communities without such access?
4. Adjustments to presentation to be made to plenary

ANNEXURE: ADDITIONAL DETAIL

Census data on water and sanitation service delivery

Definitions (Statistics South Africa)

Water

- **At least basic service:** (yard-connection) access or delivery point at least at the end boundary of the yard. The water must comply to supply standards of at least 6 kilolitre per household per month.
- **Interim service:** (RDP level of service) supply to households within a 200-metre walking distance according to the supply standards.
- **Below interim service:** means no access to an interim service or a basic service
- **Reliable service:** an uninterrupted supply of water for 95% of the time (measured over a year) through functional infrastructure operated and maintained to set standards supported by a governance institution that provides acceptable quality of water that is based on sustainable water security principles

Sanitation

- **At least basic sanitation:** sewered waterborne sanitation, VIP, septic tank, chemical toilet
- **No access:** pit latrine with no ventilation, bucket system or open defaecation

State of water and sanitation in South Africa: Census 2022

Census 2022 indicated the South African population to be at 62 million (17.8 million households), of which 50% resides in the largest 17 metros and local municipalities.

Water (2022)

- 82.4% of households have piped water in their dwellings / yard
- 8.9% have access to interim water services
- 8.7% have no access / below interim service

Sanitation (2022)

- 70.8% of households have flush toilets
- 2.6% of households have chemical toilets
- 9.4% of households have VIPs
- 12.5% have pit toilets without ventilation
- 1% of households have 'other' toilets
- 2.1% of households have bucket toilets collected by municipality or emptied by household
- 1.6% of households have no sanitation facilities

NB However, the 2024 census found that on average nationally only 68% of households had a reliable water service – in other words, often communities have access to a tap but no water comes out of the tap of the water does not meet drinking water standards.

Additional detail on Blue, Green and No Drop results

- 67 out of 144 Water Services Authorities (WSAs) scored 'critical' on average across their water supply systems and/or wastewater systems in the 2023 Blue Drop and 2022 Green Drop assessments. A further 38 scored 'poor' on average. Therefore 73% of WSAs scored critical or poor
- The percentage of municipal wastewater systems in an overall critical state of performance increased from 30% in 2013 to 39% in 2022
- DWS currently has criminal cases for sewage pollution against 59 municipalities – in other words DWS has criminal cases against 40% of WSAs, and this number is increasing as DWS strengthens its regulatory function
- Some of these criminal cases have been successful and resulted in substantial fines for the guilty municipalities, with a court instruction that the fines be used to fix polluting wastewater systems
- But the justice system is slow - on average it takes three or four years from the time when a criminal charge is laid against a municipality to the time when a judge passes a verdict
- While criminal charges are important, they are not the solution to the problem – it is not good intergovernmental relations for DWS to be having to lay criminal charges against almost half of WSAs