

Blue Drop assessment at a glance

National

In 2010 (the latest completed evaluation period), the Department of Water Affairs Blue Drop certification programme entered its third year of assessments. This programme verifies the level of management proficiency, water quality compliance and risk management in the municipal water services business throughout South Africa.

In the entire country, a total drinking water output of 8 829MI/day is produced by 914 systems with a design capacity of 11 549 MI/day. This means that 76,5% of the design capacity is taken up by the current operational flows, leaving 23, 5% to meet future demand if new capacity is not created. Gauteng manages the bulk of national supply . at 38, 3% - followed by the Western Cape in second place . at 18, 6% - and KwaZulu-Natal in third place . at 13%. The balance of the provinces treat the remaining 30, 1% drinking water utilised in South Africa.

Throughout South Africa, a total of 162 municipalities and 914 supply systems were assessed in 2010, compared with 153 municipalities and 787 systems in 2009. The improvement in submission of performance portfolios by municipalities reaffirms the commitment of municipal management to raise their service standard and performance.

The excellent performers . recipients of Blue Drop awards - increased from 38 in 2009 to 66 in 2010. During 2010, the number of municipalities that obtained scores of less than 50% amounted to 378 (41, 3%) while the municipalities that obtained scores higher than 50% amounted to 536 (58, 7%). This means that the national position on water service management performance in South Africa varies from excellent to very poor.

KwaZulu-Natal

Water service delivery is performed by 14 Water Services Authorities in KwaZulu-Natal through 187 drinking water supply systems. A total design capacity of 1 362 MI/day is available for drinking water supply in KwaZulu-Natal. Average operating capacities are between 71% and 210, 5%. The average output (final water), in volume terms, is 1 147MI/day.

In the 2010 certification process, 100% of 14 municipalities were assessed in an exercise that is intended to verify the status of drinking water quality management of supply systems. The assessment coverage of 100% confirms the commitment of KwaZulu-Natal municipalities and water boards to provide reliable and uninterrupted water supply to consumers. The emerging trend is that KwaZulu-Natal is succeeding in its attempts to improve its Blue Drop score. After an initial decline in the Blue Drop score between the 2009 and 2010 assessment cycles, the score increased from 65, 9% to 80, 49%, which places KZN third on the national grid. Whereas 101 systems (58, 38%) obtained Blue Drop scores of greater than 50% in 2010, 138 systems (73, 80%) obtained greater than 50% in the 2010 Blue Drop cycle. In addition, the number of systems that scored between 90% - 100% increased from 7 (2009) to 22 (2010).

Compiled by Shami Harichunder
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