

Press Briefing: Blue Drop Status by his Worship the Mayor

Welcome: [By his worship the Mayor].....

It gives me great pleasure today to officially announce that on the 30 June 2011 at the 3rd Annual Drinking Water Conference that was held at the Cape Town International Conference Centre Msunduzi Municipality was awarded the coveted **Blue Drop Status**.

A total of 162 municipalities were independently assessed by the Department of Water Affairs with 66 achieving Blue Drop status.

The blue drop status was launched in 2008 by the Minister of Water affairs, with the focus been on an **excellence approach** to drinking water provision and water quality management. It is important to note that Blue Drop Assessments do not only look at the quality of the water but the entire water provision cycle. It looks and scores, the competence and skill level of staff, the procedures that are followed in the event of an incident, the adequacy of the budget for maintenance purposes and proof of adequate maintenance on our water infrastructure, to name a few.

All these components are scored and since it's an excellence award only Municipalities that scores higher than 95% in all of the criteria is awarded Blue Drop status. I am therefore here to confirm that Msunduzi is not mediocre or average in relation to drinking water quality and management but we are excellent as independently assessed.

This achievement is only possible through the cohesion and dedication of officials in the Water department, Environmental health section and our bulk suppliers Umgeni Water to which I thank unconditionally.

It is good to know that in our pursuit in ensuring that all citizens have a adequate supply of this scarce, basic service, we are definitely not compromising on the quality of water been delivered. In delivering quantity we are ensuring quality is maintained. I would therefore like to reiterate to all residents that they can be rest assured that our drinking water quality and procedures are of the highest standards and we intend maintaining this prestigious status.

We will be proudly displaying the attached logo as a symbol of our newly acquired status so that all residents and visitors to Msunduzi will know that when they open the tap, they will be using water that was regulated and tested for its excellence.



Regards

Msunduzi Mayor : Cllr C Ndlela