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Media release

BLUE DROP REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION

Owing to the delays in the release of 2014 Blue Drop report by the Department of Water and Sanitation, the Municipality only received the Blue Drop Award Certificates on 8 of January 2017.

On average the Municipality achieved a Blue Drop score of 97% for all water supply systems within its jurisdiction. The different water supply systems performed as follows:

| BLUE DROP CERTIFIED WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS (WSS) | |
|--|--------|
| Middelburg / Mhluzi WSS | 97.63% |
| Hendrina OCH WSS | 99.07% |
| Komati WSS | 97.36% |
| Hendrina – Pullenshope WSS | 95.27% |
| Arnot / Rietkuil WSS | 96.56% |

The following water supply systems did not achieve the minimum Blue Drop score of 95% to be awarded the Blue Drop certification status:

| BLUE DROP CERTIFIED WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS (WSS) | |
|--|--------|
| Bankfontein / Somaphepha WSS | 77.24% |
| Doornkop WSS | 88.79% |
| Mafube WSS | 76.52% |
| Presidentsrus WSS | 82.41% |

The Department has put measures in place to improve the Blue Drop scores of the above mentioned systems.

In an effort to keep up with the water demand and also to ensure safe water quality in Middelburg, Mhluzi and surrounding areas; the Municipality has upgraded the Vaalbank Water Treatment Plant thus increasing its capacity from 45MI/d to 54 MI/d. The R9.3 million upgrading project was completed in September 2016 within a record construction period of 6 months.

This infrastructure capacity of the Vaalbank Water Treatment Plant is now sufficient for up to 2024, given the current population growth projection within Middelburg and surrounding areas. This capacity can be further extended to 2027 if residents were to reduce water consumption by at least 10% from 145 litres/person. A day is equivalent to 131 litres/person a day. Using water sparingly helps us to save this scarce resource and also enable us to stretch the useful years at our infrastructure.

On the other hand, the Municipality has also embarked on a multi-year project to upgrade Boskrans Waste Water Treatment Plant in order to allow for the increasing population growth let alone the fact that the original plant was constructed in the 1970's and was therefore no longer able to produce the desired effluent quality. A new Inlet Works is currently under construction at a total cost of approximately R50 million. The Inlet Works refers to the portion of the Plant where the sewerage / waste water is received and primary treatment occurs. This project started in June 2016 and the planned completion date is October 2017. The current progress is at 60%. No challenges are experienced in this project except that the rain that we so eagerly need often regress progress made.

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Yours sincerely

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER