

17 March 2014

## **AFRIFORUM BLUE AND GREEN DROP BRANCH PROJECT 2014**

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**AfriForum**

### **Introduction**

The civil rights organisation AfriForum launched its own national Blue and Green Drop Branch Project on 18 February 2014.

The project formed part of an initiative to test the quality of potable and treated water in the municipalities of its 125 branches across the country. The project aimed to evaluate water quality in municipalities to ensure that quality complied with national standards, in order to promote the sustainability and conservation of this critical resource.

The project tested potable (Blue Drop) and sewage water (Green Drop) quality at various sources of public drinking water and at the outlets of waste water treatment facilities.

Local authorities and the media accompanied the test teams across the country in order to ensure the validity of the tests.

Water samples were tested by independent SANAS accredited laboratories.

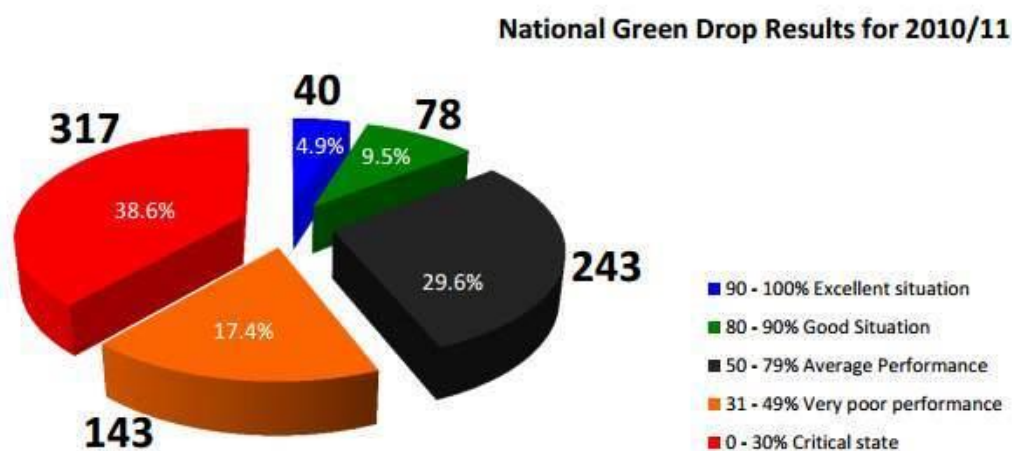
### **The Facts**

The government has a constitutional obligation to provide clean drinking water to the country's citizens. Legislation indicates that drinking water must be provided to all communities and at a specific quality standard.

With government being the custodian of all water in South Africa, AfriForum is concerned by the way water is being managed, conserved and protected. Statistics show that approximately 40% of clean drinking water is lost due to theft, bad management or leakages. It is estimated that Non-Revenue Water from Municipal water supply systems is approximately 1 580 million m<sup>3</sup> per annum representing 36.8% of the total municipal water supplied (approximately 4 300 million m<sup>3</sup>/annum). Of this, 25.4% is considered to be losses through physical leakage. 55% of municipalities are unaware that this is an issue.

The Department of Water Affairs (DWA) indicated that only 98 local municipalities have been rewarded Blue Drop status in 2012. 14 municipalities were flagged as they provided unsafe tap water.

The DWA Green Drop report indicated out of 821 Waste Water Treatment Works, 40 were in excellent condition, 78 in good condition and the rest were average to poor, of which 317 plants were in critical condition. This contributes to high sewage pollution levels and eutrophication in our natural water systems. Water quality is deteriorating, leaving 82% of our rivers threatened and 44% are critically endangered. This clearly indicates a managerial problem.



*Green Drop Results, Department of Water Affairs, 2011.*

It has been estimated that the cost of dealing with all diarrhoea-related illnesses in South Africa (much of which is a direct result of poor water and sanitation services) is around R6 billion per year in direct medical costs and R39 billion per year in lost economic production, more than the total amount that would be needed to provide free water infrastructure to everyone in the country.

With an increasing backlog of over R7 billion to address the water infrastructure issues in South Africa, it seems clear that local government is failing to manage water services and maintain infrastructure and DWA is failing to enforce compliance and to meet supply and demand needs pro-actively.

75% of water assets were constructed between 1960 and 1990. Infrastructure is approximately 39 years old, making the need for replacement dire.

The main indicators for an impending water crisis in the country are the following:

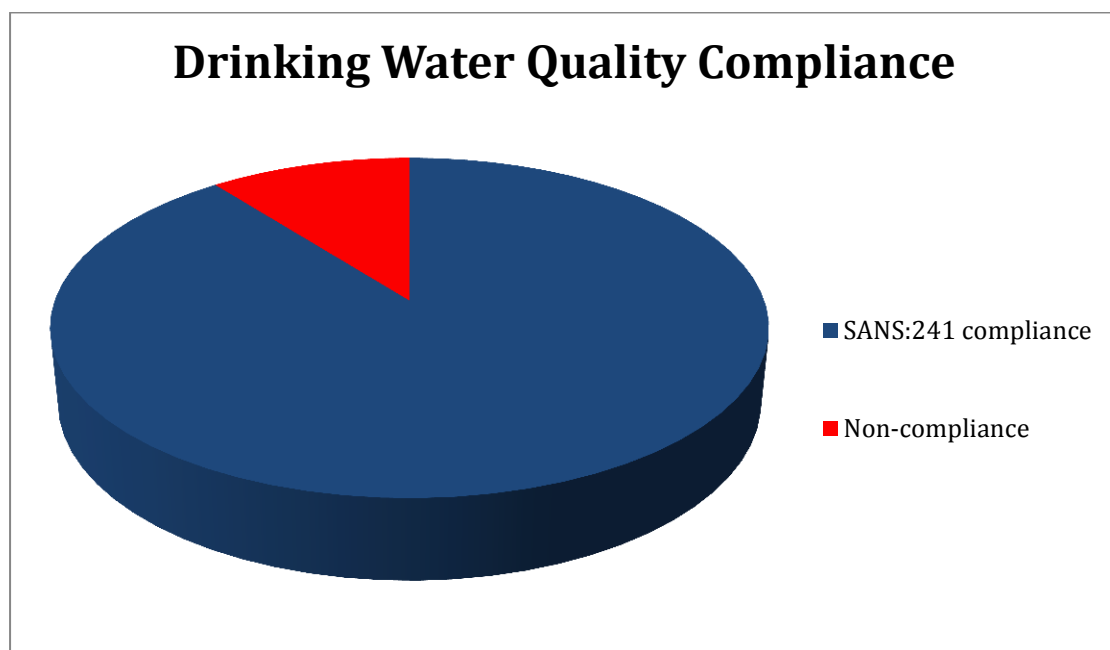
- Decaying infrastructure;
- Water theft;
- Failure to achieve demand management targets;
- Poor enforcement;
- Bad policies;
- Corruption;
- Failing municipal management;
- Leaks;
- Lack of water conservation;
- Deteriorating water quality; and
- The loss of essential skills.

## Results

The results for the Blue and Green Drop Project are as follows:

### ***Blue Drop Report***

In the Blue Drop Report, 107 branches and 7 additional towns participated successfully in the project. 11 municipalities did not comply with drinking water quality standards according to the SANS241 results chart.



Branch	Municipality	Province	Blue Drop AfriForum 2013	Blue Drop AfriForum 2014
Apies River Valley	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Amanzimtoti	eThekweni LM	KwaZulu-Natal		SANS:241 Compliant
Arcadia	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Belfast-Dullstroom	Emakhazeni LM	Mapumalanga	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Bloemfontein	Mangaung Metro	Free State		SANS:241 Compliant
Beaufort West	Beaufort West LM	Western Cape	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Bothaville	Nala LM	Free State	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Brits	Madibeng LM	North-West		SANS:241 Compliant
Bultfontein	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng		SANS:241 Compliant
Carolina	Albert Luthuli LM	Mpumalanga	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS: 241 Compliant
Cederberg	Cederberg LM	Western Cape		SANS:241 Compliant
Citrusdal	Cederberg LM	Western Cape		SANS:241 Compliant
Christiana	Lekwa-Teemane LM	North-West		SANS:241 Compliant
De Mond (Hermanus)	Overstrand LM	Western Cape		SANS:241 Compliant
Drakensberg	Sakhisizwe LM	Eastern Cape		Awaiting results
Dealesville	Tokologo LM	Free State		Awaiting results
Durban Highway	eThekwini LM	KwaZulu-Natal		SANS:241 Compliant
Ermelo	Msukaligwa LM	Mpumalanga	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Elliot	Sakhisizwe LM	Eastern Cape	1 E. coli	Awaiting results
Ellisras	Laphalale LM	Limpopo	SANS:241	SANS:241

			Compliant	Compliant
Frankfort - Mafube	Mafube LM	Free State	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Garries	Kamiesberg LM	Northern Cape	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Graskop	Thaba Chweu LM	Mpumalanga		Awaiting results
Groblersdal	Elias Motsoaledi LM	Limpopo	4 E. coli	SANS:241 Compliant
Garsfontein	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng		SANS:241 Compliant
Grootvlei East	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Hartbeespoort	Madibeng LM	North-West	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Hartenbos	Mosselbay LM	Western Cape		SANS:241 Compliant
Heidelberg	Hessequa LM	Western Cape		SANS:241 Compliant
Heidelberg	Lesedi LM	Gauteng		SANS:241 Compliant
Hennops River	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Hercules	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Hertzogville	Tokoloko LM	Free State	14 Nitrate	4 E. coli & 14 Nitrate
Honingnestkrans	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng		SANS:241 Compliant
Jeffreys Bay	Kouga LM	Eastern Cape	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Kameeldrift	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng		SANS:241 Compliant
Kathu	Gamagara LM	Northern Cape		SANS:241 Compliant
Kammieskroon	Kammieskroon LM	Northern Cape		SANS:241 Compliant
Kimberley	Sol Plaatje LM	Northern Cape	SANS: 241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Klerksdorp	City of Matlosana	North-West	-	SANS: 241 Compliant
Kou-kamma	Kou-Kamma LM	Eastern Cape		10 (Kareedouw) /23 (Stormsrivier) ucf E. coli/100 ml
Kroonstad	Moqhaka LM	Free State	SANS: 241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Kuruman	Ga-Segonyana LM	Northern Cape	SANS: 241 Compliant	Awaiting results

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Ladismith	Kannaland LM	Western Cape		SANS:241 Compliant
Langberg	Wizenberg LM	Western Cape	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Lichtenburg	Ditsobotla LM	North-West		SANS:241 Compliant
Langkloof (Joubertina)	Kou-Kamma LM	Eastern Cape	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Leeuwfontein	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng		SANS:241 Compliant
Louis Trichardt	Makhado LM	Limpopo		SANS:241 Compliant
Lydenburg	Thaba Chweu LM	Mpumalanga	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Magalies (Mooi-nooi)	Madibeng LM	North-West		SANS:241 Compliant
Magaliesburg	Mogale City LM	Gauteng		SANS:241 Compliant
Marble Hall	Sekhukhune DM	Limpopo	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Margate	Hibiscus Coast LM	KwaZulu-Natal	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Machadu	Emakhazeni LM	Mpumalanga	5 Cadmium	SANS:241 Compliant
Middelburg (EC)	Inxuba Yethemba LM	Eastern Cape	SANS:241 Compliant	Awaiting results
Middelburg (M)	Steve Tshwete LM	Mpumalanga	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Moreleta Park	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Mesina	Musina LM	Limpopo	SANS:241 Compliant	Awaiting results
Mossel Bay	Mosselbay LM	Western Cape	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Naboomspruit	Mookgophong LM	Limpopo	SANS: 241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Nylstroom	Modimolle LM	Limpopo	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Olifantshoek	Gamagara LM	Northern Cape	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Oudtshoorn	Oudtshoorn LM	Western Cape	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Oviston	Oviston LM	Eastern Cape		SANS:241 Compliant
Paulpietersburg (eDumbe)	eDumbe LM	KwaZulu-Natal		SANS:241 Compliant
Parys	Ngwathe LM	Free State		SANS:241 Compliant
Petrus Steyn	Nketoana LM	Free State		SANS:241 Compliant
Phalaborwa	Ba-Phalaborwa	Limpopo		SANS:241

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	LM			Compliant
Piet Retief	Mkhondo LM	Mpumalanga		SANS:241 Compliant
Pietersburg	Polokwane LM	Limpopo	SANS:241 Compliant	4 Units of E. coli/100 ml
Pongola	uPongola LM	KwaZulu-Natal		SANS:241 Compliant
Port Elizabeth	Nelson Mandela Metro	Eastern Cape	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Potchefstroom	Tlokwe LM	North-West		SANS:241 Compliant
Potgietersrus	Mogalakwena LM	Limpopo	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Rayton - Cullinan	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng		SANS:241 Compliant
Rustenburg	Rustenburg LM	North-West		SANS:241 Compliant
Sannieshof	Tswaing LM	North-West		SANS:241 Compliant
Sasolburg	Metsimaholo LM	Free State		SANS:241 Compliant
Scottburgh	Umdoni LM	KwaZulu-Natal		SANS:241 Compliant
Stella	Naledi LM	North-West		140 E. Coli + 18 Nitrate
Secunda	Govan Mbeki LM	Mpumalanga		SANS:241 Compliant
Standerton	Lekwa LM	Mpumalanga		Colour exceeds limits but water not unhealthy
Silverton	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng		SANS:241 Compliant
Springbok	Nama Khoi LM	Northern Cape		SANS:241 Compliant
Springs	Ekurhuleni Metro	Gauteng		SANS:241 Compliant
Steynsburg	Gariep LM	Eastern Cape		SANS:241 Compliant
Swartruggens	Kgetlengriver LM	North-West		36 E. coli
Thabazimbi	Thabazimbi LM	Limpopo	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Tzaneen	Greater Tzaneen LM	Limpopo	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Tsitsikama (Stormsrivier)	Kou-Kamma LM	Eastern Cape		SANS:241 Compliant
Upington	Khara Hais LM	Northern Cape	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Utrecht	eMadlangeni LM	KwaZulu-Natal		SANS:241 Compliant

Uilenkraalsmond		Western Cape		SANS:241 Compliant
Vanderbijlpark	Emfuleni LM	Gauteng		SANS:241 Compliant
Vaalharts		Northern Cape		Awaiting results
Volkstrust	Tshwane Metro	Mpumalanga		SANS:241 Compliant
Vredenburg	Saldanah Bay LM	Free State		SANS:241 Compliant
Vredendal (Matzikama)	Matzikama LM	Western Cape	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Vryburg	Naledi LM	North-West		4 units of E. coli/100 ml
Vryheid	Abaqulusi LM	KwaZulu-Natal		SANS:241 Compliant
Warmbaths	Bela-Bela LM	Limpopo	SANS:241 Compliant	SANS:241 Compliant
Saldanha	Saldanah Bay LM	Western Cape		Awaiting results
Williston	Karoo Hoogland LM	Northern Cape	SANS:241 Compliant	Awaiting results
Witbank	Masilonyana LM	Mpumalanga		11 Total Organic Carbon
Zambezi	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng		SANS: 241 Compliant
Zeerust	Ramotshere Moiloa LM	North-West	SANS: 241 Compliant	SANS: 241 Compliant
<b>Extra Requested Towns</b>				
Mafikeng	Mafikeng			2 E. coli
Melville	Johannesburg Metro			SANS: 241 Compliant
Auckland Park	Johannesburg Metro			SANS: 241 Compliant
Coligny	Ditsobotla LM			4 E. coli
Ventersdorp	Ventersdorp LM			SANS:241 Compliant
Delareyville	Tswaing LM			12 Nitrate
Morningside	Johannesburg Metro			SANS:241 Compliant

Letters have been sent to those municipalities who are not compliant. AfriForum will monitor the compliance and take the necessary steps in case these municipalities fail to rectify the water quality issues.



### ***Green Drop Report***

The Green Drop Report was very successful, although it held some implications to ensure credibility. Water samples were taken upstream from the point of discharge at the WWTW and downstream from the WWTW. The results indicated that in some municipalities, water was more polluted upstream due to failing infrastructure and untreated sewage (contained >1 000 000 E. coli/100 ml water) pouring out of manholes and pump stations into our natural resources.



*Pumpstation in Lydenburg, Thab Chweu Local Municipality, Mpumalanga, November 2013.*

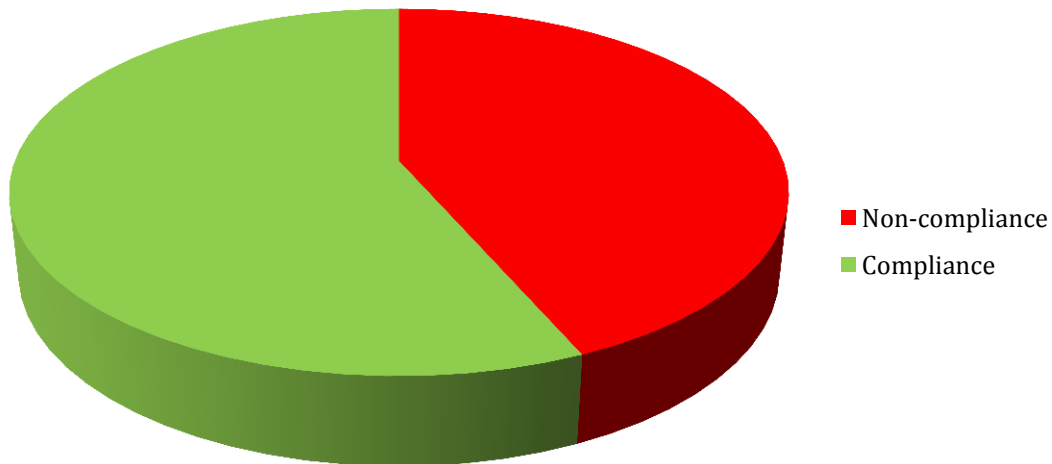


*Manhole in Lydenburg, Thab Chweu Local Municipality, Mpumalanga, November 2013.*

The Green Drop Report tested 100 towns throughout the country; 76 tests were successfully conducted. As of 16 March 2014 we are still awaiting results for 19 towns. Results for 4 towns were discarded because the labs did not receive the samples within the specified time-frame needed for accurate biological sample measurement.

However, 33 of the current 76 areas are not complying with the national standards and are polluting our natural water resources which poses a threat to the health of local communities and communities downstream, food security and ecosystem health.

## Treated sewage water quality



Branch	Municipality	Province	Green AfriForum 2013	Drop Green AfriForum 2014
Apiesriviervallei	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng	> 77 000	85 000
Amanzimtoti	eThekweni LM	KwaZulu-Natal		> 2 040
Belfast-Dullstroom	Emakhazeni LM	Mpumalanga	> 19 000	Outstanding
Bloemfontein	Mangaung Metro	Free State		Outstanding
Beaufort Wes	Beaufort West LM	Western Cape		Green Drop
Bothaville	Nala LM	Free State	> 120 000	> 690 000
Bethlehem	Dihlabeng LM	Free State		Green Drop
Brandfort	Masilonyana LM	Free State	> 1 000 000	Outstanding
Brits	Madibeng LM	North West	> 1 000 000	> 610 000
Burgersdorp	Gariep LM	Eastern Cape		Outstanding
Carolina	Albert Luthuli LM	Mpumalanga		Outstanding
Christiana	Lekwa-Teemane LM	North West		Outstanding
Daniëlskuil	Kgatelopele LM	Northern Cape		Green Drop
De Mond (Hermanus)	Overstrand LM	Western Cape		3600
Dealesville	Tokologo LM	Free State		Green Drop
Durban	eThekwini LM	KwaZulu-		Green Drop

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		Natal		
Ermelo	Msukaligwa LM	Mpumalanga	Green Drop	310 000
Elliot	Sakhisizwe LM	Eastern Cape	> 36 000	Outstanding
Ellisras	Laphalale LM	Limpopo	Green Drop	Green Drop
Frankfort - Mafube	Mafube LM	Free State	Green Drop	Green Drop
Garries	Kamiesberg LM	Northern Cape		Green Drop
Graskop	Thaba Chweu LM	Mpumalanga		Outstanding
Groblersdal	Elias Motsoaledi LM	Limpopo	Green Drop	Green Drop
Hartbeespoort	Madibeng LM	North West	> 160 000	> 1 000 000
Hartenbos	Mosselbay LM	Western Cape		Green Drop
Heidelberg	Hessequa LM	Western Cape		Green Drop
Heidelberg	Lesedi LM	Gauteng		20 000
Hennopsrivier	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng	Green Drop	Green Drop
Hercules	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng	Green Drop	8 900
Hertzogville	Tokoloko LM	Free State		Outstanding
Hopetown	Thembelihle LM	Northern Cape		Discarded
Jeffreysbaai	Kouga LM	Eastern Cape	> 34 000	Outstanding
Kameeldrift	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng		Outstanding
Kathu	Gamagara LM	Northern Cape		17 000
Kammieskroon	Kammieskroon LM	Northern Cape		Discarded
Kimberley	Sol Plaatje LM	Northern Cape	> 1 600	Discarded
Klerksdorp	City of Matlosana	North West	> 3 500	690 000
Kou-kamma	Kou-Kamma LM	Eastern Cape		Green Drop
Kroonstad	Moqhaka LM	Free State	Green Drop	Outstanding
Kuruman	Ga-Segonyana LM	Northern Cape		Discarded
Ladismith - Wes-Kaap	Kannaland LM	Western Cape		4 450
Langberg	Wizenberg LM	Western Cape		240 000
Lichtenburg	Ditsobotla LM	North West	> 120 000	59 000
Langkloof (Joubertina)	Kou-Kamma LM	Eastern Cape	Green Drop	11 500
Leeuwfontein	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng		Outstanding
Louis Trichardt	Makhado LM	Limpopo	> 40 000	Green Drop

Lydenburg	Thaba Chweu LM	Mpumalanga	> 1 000 000	Outstanding
Magalies (Mooi-nooi)	Madibeng LM	North West		Outstanding
Magaliesburg	Mogale City LM	Gauteng		530 000
Marble Hall	Sekhukhune DM	Limpopo	> 17 000	Green Drop
Margate	Hibiscus Coast LM	KwaZulu-Natal	> 10 000	Green Drop
Machadu	Emakhazeni LM	Mpumalanga	Green Drop	Green Drop
Middelburg - Oos-Kaap	Inxuba Yethemba LM	Eastern Cape		Green Drop
Middelburg Mpumalanga	Steve Tshwete LM	Mpumalanga		Outstanding
Mosselbaai	Mosselbay LM	Western Cape	Green Drop	Green Drop
Naboomspruit	Mookgophong LM	Limpopo	> 1 000 000	> 1 000 000
Nylstroom	Modimolle LM	Limpopo	> 29 000	310 000
Olifantshoek	Gamagara LM	Northern Cape	Green Drop	Green Drop
Oudtshoorn	Oudtshoorn LM	Western Cape		Green Drop
Paulpietersburg (eDumbe)	eDumbe LM	KwaZulu-Natal		Green Drop
Parys	Ngwathe LM	Free State		4 800
Petrus Steyn	Nketoana LM	Free State		14 000
Phalaborwa	Ba-Phalaborwa LM	Limpopo	> 110 000	1 300
Piet Retief	Mkhondo LM	Mpumalanga		Green Drop
Pietersburg	Polokwane LM	Limpopo		> 110 000
Pongola	uPongola LM	KwaZulu-Natal		Green Drop
Port Elizabeth	Nelson Mandela Metro	Eastern Cape		Green Drop
Potchefstroom	Tlokwe LM	North West	Green Drop	Green Drop
Potgietersrus	Mogalakwena LM	Limpopo	> 1 200	92 000
Rayton - Cullinan	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng		Green Drop
Rustenburg	Rustenburg LM	North West		Green Drop
Sasolburg	Metsimaholo LM	Free State		Green Drop
Scottburgh	Umdoni LM	KwaZulu-Natal		3 710
Secunda	Govan Mbeki LM	Mpumalanga	> 1 000 000	Outstanding
Standerton	Lekwa LM	Mpumalanga		Outstanding
Silverton	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng		2 400
Springbok	Nama Khoi LM	Northern Cape		1 250
Springs	Ekurhuleni Metro	Gauteng		2 400
Steynsburg	Gariep LM	Eastern		Green Drop

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		Cape		
Thabazimbi	Thabazimbi LM	Limpopo	> 920 000	Outstanding
Tzaneen	Greater Tzaneen LM	Limpopo	Green Drop	Outstanding
Tsitsikama (Stormsrivier)	Kou-Kamma LM	Eastern Cape		Green Drop
Upington	Khara Hais LM	Northern Cape	Green Drop	58 000
Utrecht	eMadlangeni LM	KwaZulu-Natal		Green Drop
Uilekraalsmont		Western Cape		Green Drop
Vanderbijlpark	Emfuleni LM	Gauteng		Green Drop
Vaalharts		Northern Cape		Green Drop
Volksrust	Dr Pixley Ka Isaka LM	Mpumalanga		17 000
Vredenburg	Saldanah Bay LM	Free State		44 000
Vredendal (Matzikama)	Matzikama LM	Western Cape	Green Drop	Green Drop
Vryburg	Naledi LM	North West	> 87 000	Green Drop
Vryheid	Abaqulusi LM	KwaZulu-Natal		Green Drop
Warmbad	Bela-Bela LM	Limpopo	> 1 000 000	> 1 000 000
Williston	Karoo Hoogland LM	Northern Cape	Green Drop	Green Drop
Winburg	Masilonyana LM	Free State	> 2 000	Green Drop
Witbank	eMalahleni LM	Mpumalanga		2 800
Zambezi	Tshwane Metro	Gauteng		Outstanding
Zeerust	Ramotshere Moiloa LM	North West	> 1 000 000	Outstanding
Mafikeng	Mafikeng LM	North West		7 300
Ventersdorp	Ventersdorp LM	North West		Green Drop

## Action plan

AfriForum's national water monitoring campaign in 2013 known as the Blue and Green Drop campaign was conducted in various branches of AfriForum across the country. The outcome of the 2013 report indicated several issues that have been and are being addressed as we speak.

The 2013 report will be used as a constant against which the same infrastructure and all the other AfriForum branch towns will be evaluated in 2014.



The process entailed the following:

1. Water samples in 115 branches representing all the provinces have been taken and were accurately collected.
2. Water samples were analysed and the action plans were based on the results.
3. Letters are being served on Municipalities as we speak which will communicate the issues that must be addressed, asking the municipality to resolve the issues in a timeous manner. These letters demand the following:
  - i) The letters provide municipalities until 15 April 2014, to respond with a comprehensive action plan which must include due dates to address the issues;
  - ii) The Water Use Licence of each of its Waste Water Treatment Works; and
  - iii) The Waste Management Licence of each of its Waste Water Treatment Works.
4. If municipalities do not resolve issues accordingly, legal action and the possibility of opening a criminal case against the administrative officer will be determined.

AfriForum strongly believes that municipalities will cooperate and resolve these critical issues to ensure a safe and healthy environment to everyone in South Africa.

## **Conclusion**

The Project indicates the need for political will to utilise, maintain, protect, conserve and manage our water resources and infrastructure.

There is a great need for the reviewing of current water services authorities, restructuring of personnel and a thorough investigation into the possibility of privatisation of water and sewerage infrastructure.

Apparently, not all municipalities regard water purification as a high priority and those who negligently refuse to comply with standards will be pointed out and urged by legal means to comply.

The issue of water quality is a clear indication of failing municipal infrastructure and management, and AfriForum is concerned that this situation will worsen at the expense of consumers.



AfriForum will continue to monitor the water quality in South Africa to ensure healthy drinking water and to protect and conserve these essential natural resources for future generations to enjoy.



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