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Date: 03 April 2022



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MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
3 April 2022

SALGA WELCOMES THE RELEASE OF THE GREEN DROP REPORT 2022 AS A GOOD START TOWARDS IMPROVING WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) welcomes the release of the 2022 Green Drop Report by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and congratulates all municipalities awarded the green drop certification. They are an inspiration to all municipalities and their statuses should in turn inspire improved service delivery.

The re-introduction of the blue and green drop certification programmes must be commended by all of us as announced by His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa in his 2021 State of the Nation Address (SONA). It is encouraging to see commitments made in SONA being fulfilled with the necessary urgency. The implementation of SONA's pronouncement re-affirms the Department's pivotal role and mandate of being the regulator on behalf and in the interests of all South Africans. It remains crucially to ensure that water resources and the environment are protected from pollution at all times.

SALGA notes with concern the deterioration in the national average Green Drop score from 61% in 2013 to 51% in 2021. This deterioration corresponds with an increase in the national risk ratio from 65, 4% (medium risk) in 2013 to 70,1% in 2021 (high-risk). This emerging picture should concern all of us, particularly the leadership of Municipalities.

SALGA, therefore, calls for swift actions in improving the current status quo. Such actions must include the following, among others.

1. Support the call by the Minister of Water and Sanitation to clamp down on polluters.
2. Ensure adequate investment in the maintenance of water and sanitation wastewater Infrastructure.
3. Promote inter-municipal collaboration through the District Development Model to facilitate better resources utilization.
4. Intensify Section 154 support by Provincial and National Government.
5. Upscale and strengthen public-public and public-private sector partnerships in municipal water and sanitation infrastructure funding and management.
6. Improve municipal budgeting and infrastructure planning.
7. Strengthen intergovernmental relations.

END

Issued by South African Local Government Association (SALGA)



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