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ALL MEDIA HOUSES

ATT: Editors/Journalists

For immediate release

MEDIA STATEMENT: DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE STATUS OF PORTABLE WATER

The municipality noted the media enquiry received as well as the narrative widely making rounds on various social media platform publications pertaining to water provided by the institution as a water service authority.

The Blue and Green Drop regulation programme seek to identify and develop core competencies that, if strengthened, would gradually and sustainably improve the standard of water and wastewater management in the country. The main intention is to align the minimum requirements and best practise in the management of both water and wastewater countrywide.

Though municipality acknowledges shortcomings with regards to its Blue Drop status, it should be noted that water quality is not the only or the major contributing factor to the outcome as maintenance of Blue Drop status is a institutional and faceted approach dependent on and requiring many components to be in place and operating at certain set standards.

Components such as the Water Safety Plan, Water Quality Process Management and control, Drinking water Quality, Management, Accountability, Asset Management, Water Use Efficiency & Water loss management in order to be SANS 241 complaint.

Based on the water sample results that were taken at Fortuna Water Purification Plant on the 18 April 2023 and other various areas in across Dipaleseng, it is proven the that the purified portable water at the plant and other areas exceeded the acceptable limits as per the drinking standards, according to: SANS 241-2015 and therefore considered to be safe for human consumption and use.

The tests were conducted by the Gert Sibande District Municipality's Water Testing Laboratory, which is an accredited facility to conduct this service and is enlisted by the institution in line with the standing Memorandum of Understanding between Dipaleseng Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality.

The municipality has plans to mitigate the Blue Drop Status shortcomings through measures such as these;

- Addressing the entire Bulk Scheme through implementation and finalization of Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant (RBIG) projects.
- Adequate budgetary allocations
- Capacity building through filling of critical positions (Head of Department- Infrastructure Services, Water Technician and Process Controllers.
- Upgrading of Fortuna Water Treatment Plant to allow capacity increase from 6.5ml/d to 19.5ml/d. this also necessitated the need to access more power from 850 kVA to 1 600 kVA in order to maximize the plant operations to full capacity once completed.

The Fortuna Water Treatment Plant and the upgrading project is most critical and is prioritized as it affects the commissioning of other projects in terms of RBIG roll out. The municipality is at advanced stages of these interventions which seek to address the continuous supply of quality portable water to the entire Dipaleseng Local Municipality.

ENDS

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