

# ACHIEVES 4 BLUE DROP AWARDS

**Silulumanzi has the honour of being the only water services provider in Mpumalanga Province to be certified with Blue Drop. A total of 4 Blue Drop awards were accorded to Silulumanzi by the Minister of Water & Sanitation, Senzo Mchunu, at the national awards held in Johannesburg on 5 December 2023.**

The criteria utilised to award the prestigious Blue Drop take into account Capacity Management, Drinking Water Quality Risk Management, Financial Management, Technical Management and Drinking Water Quality Compliance.

The Blue Drop awards accorded to Silulumanzi serve as a testimony for the good quality of water supply systems in Nelspruit, Karino, Primkop and Matsulu, which are operated by Silulumanzi on behalf of Mbombela Local Municipality since 1999. Our customers can continue to be assured that the quality of water supplied by Silulumanzi is of high standards and is safe to drink, as rated independently by auditors.

Whilst Silulumanzi achieved 4 Blue Drop awards, its sister company, Siza Water, serving the former Dolphin Coast in the Ilembe District also received Blue Drop accreditation and was placed as the 3<sup>rd</sup> best Water Service Provider in South Africa. The 5 Blue Drops awarded to companies under the South African Water Works (SAWW) banner ranks the utility owning approximately 20% of the accredited systems in the country as there were only 26 water supply systems nationally, out of a total of 958 water supply systems, that managed to secure the Blue Drop.

Whilst there was a deterioration in the overall results compared to the last Blue Drop audit in 2014, SAWW maintains the highest standards and provides assurance of quality services to its consumers. SAWW is a proudly South African water utility that serves the needs of approximately 500 000 people daily. The company, via its subsidiaries, has a proud track record of over 24 years of service excellence in the water sector. It is indeed gratifying to note that where the concern of water services is growing SAWW has a proven track record to continuously deliver world-

class services to its customers. Those served by Sizewater in Ballito and Silulumanzi in Mbombela should be extremely proud of having service providers that are professional in an otherwise failing water industry. The Blue Drop certificates are only awarded to water providers that score above 95% for regulatory compliance.



Overall Silulumanzi's water has consistently been independently evaluated and certified Blue Drop since 2009 when the Blue Drop awards were first introduced in South Africa. Shyam Misra, the group managing director of SAWW, stated; "Our dedicated staff, discipline and unrelenting pursuit to provide world-class services have been once again recognised by the independent and rigorous Blue Drop audit and we are proud to be the only Service Provider within the City of Mbombela as well as the Ilembe District Municipality that have achieved this prestigious award. It is indeed gratifying to be recognised by the Department of Water and Sanitation for our hard work and commitment to the water industry which reassures our customers that there is no other service provider that has 5 Blue Drop Awards. We have a proven track record and are ready to assist other municipalities to deliver safe, clean and reliable water services to their communities."

The public can safely consume Silulumanzi water directly from their taps at a comparatively lower cost compared to other service providers nationwide. The concession contract awarded to Silulumanzi from 1999 is nearing its expiry and there have been many concerns raised that the areas serviced by Silulumanzi will also be subjected to poor water services should the contract not be extended by the Mbombela Local Municipality.

