Water Is Not Failing — Governance Is

SA’s water crisis is a crisis of leadership

Presented by Dr Ferrial Adam

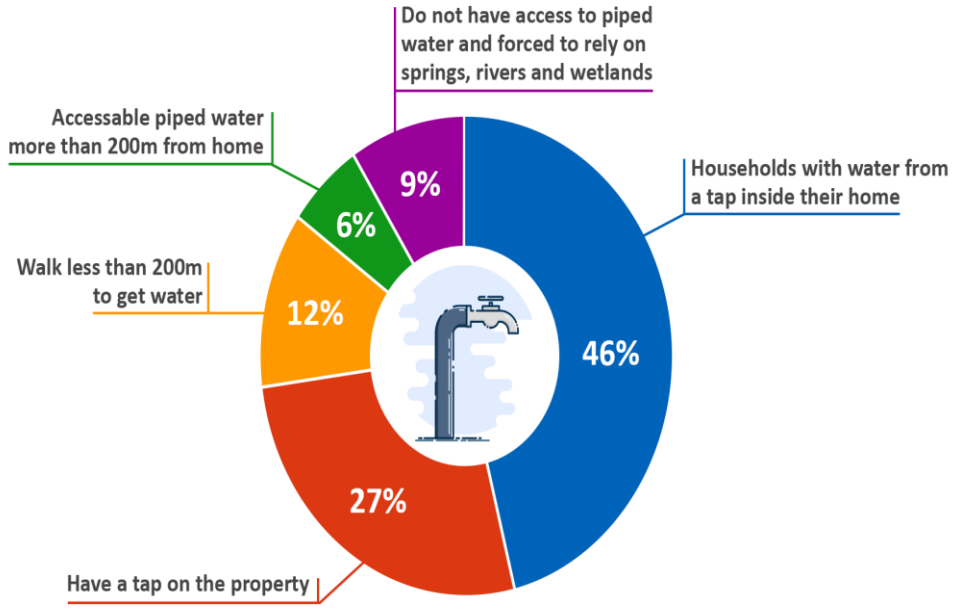
WATER CAN
COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

Official versus Reality

- Officially, *93% of the South African population has access to water supply services and 76% of the population have access to basic sanitation*

Reality paints a different picture

- 3,398 schools - still use pit latrines
- 2688 unserved areas
- <50% of all households obtain their water from a tap inside their homes
- 9% do not have access to piped water and are forced to rely on springs, rivers, and wetlands.
- 25% of schools and 45% clinics have no water



South Africa’s water pressures

- Quantity
- Climate Change
- Pollution
- Failing infrastructure

Blue Drop 2023

- **>46% of water supply systems are critical.**
  - 60% don't comply with microbiological standards
  - 77% don't comply with chemical standards

Severe Health Risks

Green Drop 2023

- **>70% of wastewater treatment works classified as "poor to critical".**
- 50 000 liters of sewage flows into our rivers every second

Severe pollution

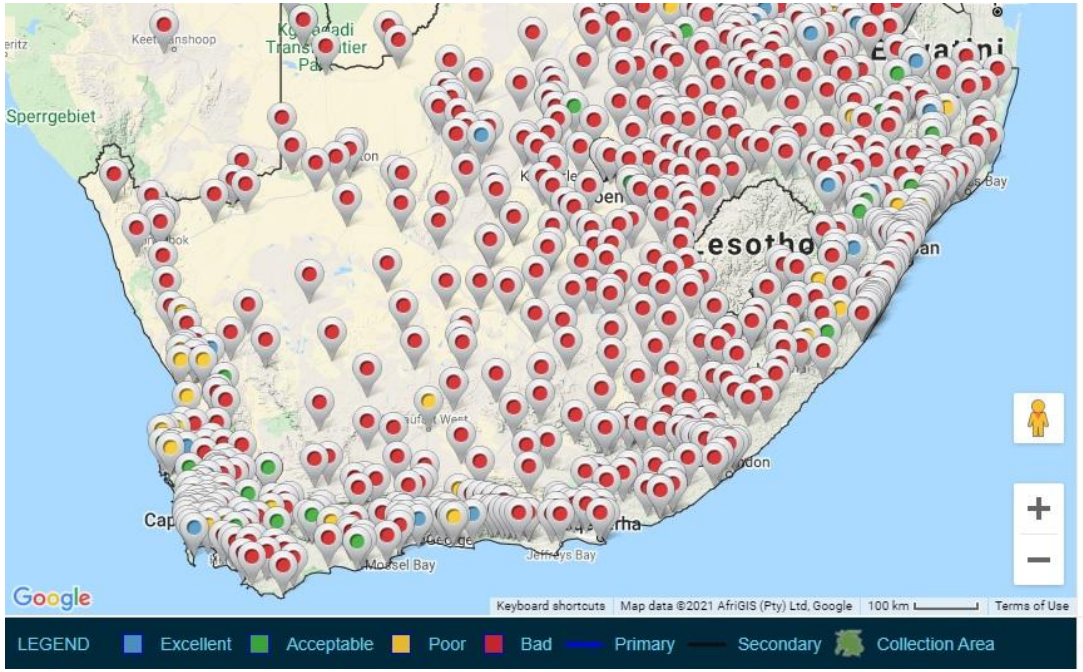
Non-Revenue water

47.4% - "lost"

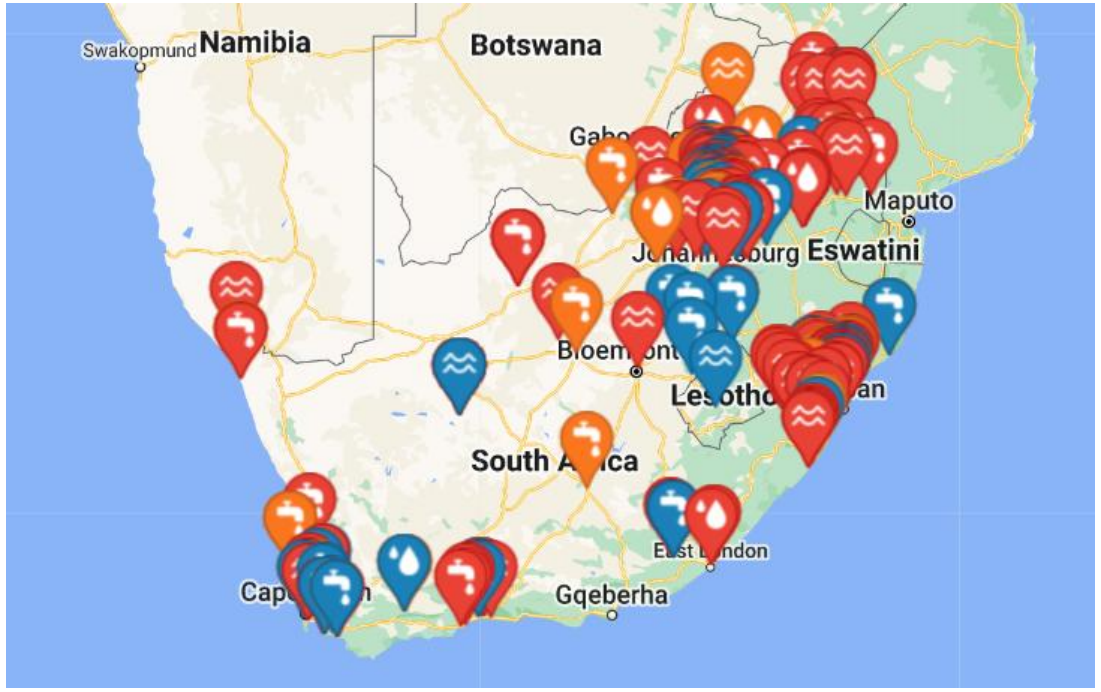
38 munics in critical/dire state and the focus of national govt

Mapping the quality of water

DWS map



Map my water



Eastern Cape

NEWS

‘Smelly’ Nelson Mandela Bay tap water safe to drink, says municipality

BY HERALD REPORTER - 19 DECEMBER 2024

- 14 WSAs overseeing 154 water supply systems.
- ***Of these not one Blue Drop Certificates was awarded in the province.***

Mpumalanga

Court slams municipality with R160m fine for polluting water

The Dipaleseng Municipality has been fined R160 million for polluting Mpumalanga's water sources. The ruling highlights the importance of accountability for protecting water resources, livestock, and livelihoods from pollution

by **Tiisetso Manoko** — 22nd November 2024 in **News** Reading Time: 3 mins read AA

Western Cape

Surge in sewage at CT beaches poses serious health risks

Published by Jan-Hendrik De Villiers on October 28, 2024

KZN

KZN municipalities still struggling to provide clean water to residents

Temporary measures prioritised above long-term solutions provided by municipalities were criticised.

Residents queue for borehole water in KZN. Photo: Twitter/@kzngov

- eThekwini - **39 percent** of the Municipality's 111 wards remain reliant on full-time tanker supply

Gauteng

- Ekurhuleni = R39million on sewer pipe project
- Emfuleni – R24million on 30 toilets (800k per toilet) **and 78% NRW**
- Tshwane – R441 million water tankers (rooiwal)

Free State

The ask – 4 hours a day

Protest over water outages erupts in Protea Glen, Soweto

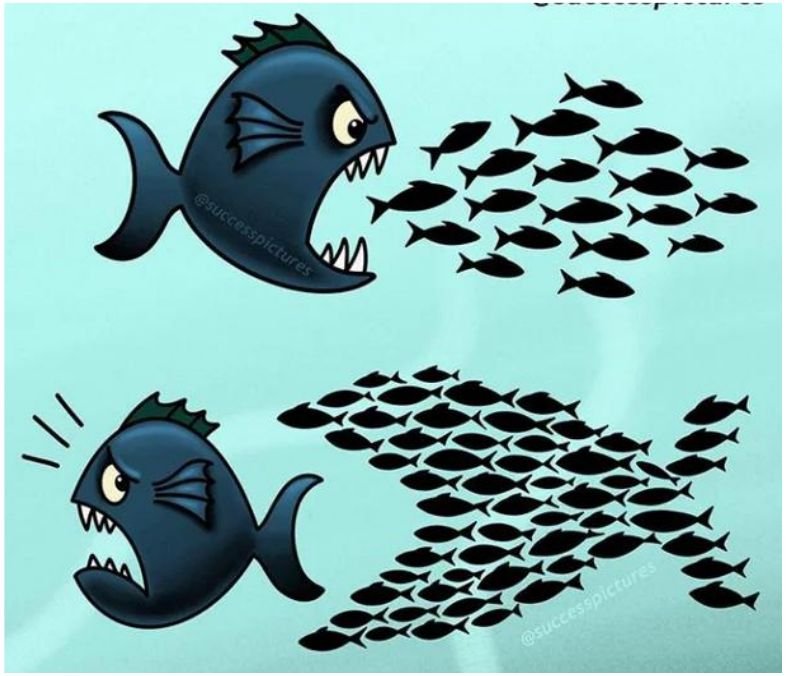
The protest action erupted early on Wednesday morning and is already causing severe traffic disruptions

For illustrative purposes only. Picture: X/@SowetoUrbanNews

Residents of Coronationville took to the streets on 16 October 2024, stopping traffic at major intersections in protest against ongoing water outages. (Photo: Julia Evans)

Anger is rising

One of the biggest myths is that ordinary people cannot influence change.



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