

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AND RENAMING CHANGES

PRESENTATION

**BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
THULAMAHASHE OLD BOHLABELA OFFICE**

11TH OF MARCH 2024

INTRODUCTION

What are geographical names?

They are the names of features on the earth that are natural, or manmade and adapted, and they can be populated or unpopulated.

Geographical names fill a double role: a cultural role in terms of the messages they convey – messages that express the soul of the country, often in an exuberant and spontaneous manner – and a technical role in terms of their locational function.

Geographical names include the names of natural (topographical) features and names of features created or adapted by humans and are used to refer to populated as well as unpopulated places.

Geographical names can be used to reaffirm traditional culture and national identity and are important for reference purposes in conservation, education and training, tourism, trade and commerce, transportation, regional and environmental planning, science and technology, search-and-rescue operations, and in people's ordinary orientation and communication.

According to the South African Geographical Names Council Regulation 3(1) The criteria for deciding whether a geographical name is to be regarded as a local competence are as follows:

- (a) The area must be situated within the jurisdiction of the local authority and
- (b) geographical names of local concern include streets, municipal buildings and squares, local parks and cemeteries and privately owned buildings.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- (a) Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996)
- (b) South African Geographical Names Council Act, 1998 (Act 118 of 1998)
- (c) Local Government Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act 117 of 1998)
- (d) Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 36 of 2000)
- (e) Regulations on Standardisation of geographical names published in Government gazette 24999 of 7 March 2003 by notice R339
- (f) Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act (No 13 of 2005)
- (g) Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (No 3 of 2000)
- (h) Promotion of Access to Information Act (No 2 of 2000)
- (i) Policy Framework and Guidelines for Geographical Naming System in Gauteng (2012)
- (j) Handbook on the Geographical Names (2002)

OBJECTION FOR STREET NAMING

Provision of an address for every property, which in turn calls for the timely and effective allocation and recording of street names. This process is essential for:

- (a) providing municipal services (i.e., engineering services);
- (b) billing for rates and municipal services.
- (c) completing the registration of ownership.
- (d) ensuring the data integrity of the Municipality.
- (e) contacting property owners for public participation processes; and
- (f) finding properties in response to emergency calls, etc.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AND RENAMING COMMITTEE

(a) Local Geographical Naming and Renaming Committee

- i. Council has established Local Geographical Naming and Renaming Committee
- ii. The committee is composed of experts in the relevant sectors

(b) Key responsibilities for the committee shall be as follows:

- i. To consider all submissions for the naming and renaming of streets, public spaces, public buildings, etc. and ensure compliance and consistency with the provisions of the policy.
- ii. To receive proposed geographical names falling within local competence, consider and process them for recommendation to Council Section 79 Rules Standing Committee.
- iii. To ensure and promote adequate public participation and consultation take place in the various forms such as public hearings, stakeholder forums, calls for written submissions.
- iv. Giving official recognition to an existing geographical name that has never been officially recognised.
- v. Amending an official geographical name that is incorrectly spelled.
- vi. Amending an official geographical name that is a distorted form of a name from a language other than English.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AND RENAMING COMMITTEE

- i. Amending an official geographical name that does not comply with the current orthography of the language in which it is written.
- ii. Changing an official geographical name from a dialectal form into the standard form of a language.
- iii. Amending or changing an official name which does not conform to the rules established by the South African Geographical Names Council.
- iv. Amending or changing an official name that is historically incorrect.
- v. Changing an unacceptable official place name to a more acceptable place name.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A WARD GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AND RENAMING COMMITTEE

The Ward Councilor:

- a) is the chairperson of the ward committee
- b) is responsible for convening the constituency meeting to elect ward committee members
- c) is responsible for calling ward committee meetings
- d) is responsible for ensuring that a schedule of meetings is prepared, including, ward committee meetings, constituency meetings and special meetings works with the ward committee to ensure that there is an annual plan of activities
- e) is responsible for ensuring that the ward committee does what the municipality expects about reporting procedures
- f) is responsible for handling queries and complaints in the ward
- g) is responsible for resolving disputes and making referrals of unresolved disputes to the municipality should be fully involved in all community activities that the ward committee is engaged with
- h) is responsible for communicating the activities and meeting schedules to the PR Councilor.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A WARD GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES AND RENAMING COMMITTEE

The role of the members is to:

- a) advise the ward Councilor in identifying the needs and concerns of the ward, and communicating these to the council
- b) be an active participant in the ward committee and accept responsibilities such as managing a portfolio or an area of interest
- c) help the ward Councilor tell the community about their rights and entitlements work as a team and speak with one voice
- d) help the ward Councilor with grievances and complaints from the community
- e) hold official roles within the committee e.g. secretary
- f) show leadership in starting projects which will improve the lives of people in the ward
- g) undertake a ward profile so that the committee knows more about the ward (See Step 13)
- h) help the ward Councilor consult with people who have a stake in a particular issue, and work with partners in the community to benefit the ward committee's work
- i) be involved in community events e.g. funerals and cultural activities. This is very important as it shows you care about community and understand community issues.

APPROVAL OF A GEOGRAPHICAL NAME

- (a) SAGNC is the only institution authorised to recommend to the Minister for approval of a geographical name.
- (b) EGNC must maintain a public register or a data base of names in accordance with the national standards and from time to time submit such to the SAGNC.
- (c) The register must be continuously updated.
- (d) The register must be available for public inspection without a charge and should be publicized for public access.

PRINCIPLES FOR NAMING OF STREETS

(a) Guidelines for name selection

- i. The historical, social and cultural significance must be considered.
- i. Proposed names should meet one of the following criteria:
 - Honour or commemorate noteworthy people associated with the Municipality, District, Provincial and National
 - Commemorate local, provincial and National natural or international historical places or events and memories of cultural significance to the people of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality
 - Strengthen the community's heritage and promote the character of the area.
 - Recognise indigenous and international flora and fauna or natural features of the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.
 - Recognise the cultural diversity of the people of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality
 - The use of neutral names such as those of trees, birds, minerals flora and fauna is accepted.
 - Names should preferably have a South African character or connection.

PRINCIPLES FOR NAMING OF STREETS

(b) Geographical names that should generally be avoided

- i. Names that have already been approved for other places in South Africa.
- ii. Names of places in other countries, and names of countries.
- iii. Names of which the spelling or pronunciation is so close to that of an existing name that confusion might result.
- iv. Names that are blasphemous, indecent, offensive, vulgar, unaesthetic or embarrassing.
- v. Names that are discriminatory or derogatory as regards race, colour, creed, gender, political affiliation or other social factors.
- vi. Names that are too long or clumsily compounded.
- vii. Names consisting of a personal name only, without an additional generic element (such as “park”).
- viii. Names that may be regarded as an advertisement for a particular commercial product, service or firm.

PRINCIPLES FOR NAMING OF STREETS

(c) Naming places after persons

- i. Names of living persons should generally be avoided, only be done in exceptional cases.
- ii. Geographical entities named after persons should be in accordance with the stature of the persons concerned (not, for instance, naming an obscure feature after a person of national importance).
- iii. Written permission should, where possible, be obtained from the individual or the individual's family or heirs before that person's name is used.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NAMES BANK

(a) Geographical Names Bank

- i. The Names Bank is a database consisting of existing and approved geographical names within the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality
- ii. The Local Geographical Names and Renaming Committee will amongst others ensure that they maintain and updates the Names bank for the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.
- iii. The Geographical names in the names bank shall be the names already approved and ready for allocation.
- iv. All new names and proposed name changes should be verified against the Names Bank, to avoid duplication and confusion.

(b) Geographical names in the Names Bank must also reflect the following information:

- i. The language of the names
- ii. When upper- and lower-case letters are used in a name, the capital letters must be clearly indicated, e.g., Kwa-Thema
- iii. The origin and meaning of the name, its historical connections to the geographical feature, or the name in honour of a person should be comprehensive.
- iv. References to historical, linguistic and/or other information where oral traditions prevail, the source of information must be comprehensive.
- v. Archival documents in support of the information can be attached as an annexure.

NB: Council has adopted and approved Streets Names Databased in 2022. The database to be used on non-existing streets without names.

ROLE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS

Chapter seven of the Constitution (1996) provides for the establishment of elected local government across the country, while Chapter 12 of the Constitution (South Africa, 1996) recognises traditional authorities and states that national legislation may provide for a role for traditional leadership as an institution at local level on matters affecting local communities.

White Paper on Local Government (1998) outlines the developmental roles of traditional leaders in local government as:

- a) making recommendations on land allocation and the settling of land disputes;
- b) Lobbying government and other agencies for the development of their areas
- c) Ensuring that the traditional community participates in decisions on development and contributes to development costs, and
- d) Considering and making recommendations to authorities on trading licenses in their areas in accordance with law,

However, there are various other legislative frameworks which follows a need to ensure cooperative government in the local sphere of government which municipalities to find sustainable ways of meeting the community needs.

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Types of recognised Public Consultations

A vast array of public consultation methods exists depending on the purpose of the consultation and ranging in level of involvement of the participants. There are three key consultation approaches, namely, open, closed, and hybrid.

Open approaches involve utilizing tools that promote unlimited “self-selected” involvement by all participants who wish to contribute, regardless of association, e.g., from private citizens to specific interest groups or public institutions.

A closed consultation applies exclusively to targeted, well-defined stakeholder groups invited to participate, such as expert groups, whereas an open consultation approach’s purpose is essentially to gather feedback from as wide a range of stakeholders as possible.

A hybrid consultation approach combines elements of both open and closed consultation tools and typically attracts more stakeholders and thus implies a more rigorous consultation process in general.

Examples of types of public consultation tools recognized by the South African Government include conferences, public hearings, and events; surveys; expert groups; focus groups; interviews; public consultations; consultations targeting Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs); and workshops, meetings, and seminars.

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GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The guidelines for public participation shall in line with the approved Bushbuckridge Local Municipality Public Participation Policy.

Submissions:

- a) Signed Attendance Registers (General meeting with the communities)
- b) Agenda
- c) Recommendation Letter signed by the Chairperson and Secretary (Ward Committee)

Date of submission: on or 16 March 2024

Venue: Manager Sports, Arts and Culture (Head Office)

PROPOSED NAMES FORMAT

ITEM	NAME	MEANING	VILLAGE	CODE	LANGUAGE	MAGISTRATE OFFICE
1	Bangala	- African Cabbage	Belfast Village	1246	Tsonga	Bushbuckridge Main Seat
2	Ndlovu	- Elephant	Belfast Village	1246	Tsonga	Bushbuckridge Main Seat
3	Magayisa	- A person coming back from the city	Belfast Village	1246	Tsonga	Bushbuckridge Main Seat
4	Xihlapfu	- A branch of a tree which has been cut of	Belfast Village	1246	Tsonga	Bushbuckridge Main Seat
5	Mpohlo	- A handsome man	Belfast Village	1246	Tsonga	Bushbuckridge Main Seat
6	Kota	- Able	Belfast Village	1246	Tsonga	Bushbuckridge Main Seat
7	Musi	- A wood used for grinding maize	Belfast Village	1246	Tsonga	Bushbuckridge Main Seat
8	Ximboni	- Aardvark	Belfast Village	1246	Tsonga	Bushbuckridge Main Seat
9	Mhandzela	- Aardvark. Antbear	Belfast Village	1246	Tsonga	Bushbuckridge Main Seat
10	Xithungu	- Aardwolf	Belfast Village	1246	Tsonga	Bushbuckridge Main Seat
11	Komisa	- Abbreviate. Summarise. Shorten.	Belfast Village	1246	Tsonga	Bushbuckridge Main Seat
12	Ntalo	- Abundance	Belfast Village	1246	Tsonga	Bushbuckridge Main Seat

AMENDING NAMES FORMAT

ITEM	OLD NAME	PROPOSED NAME	MEANING	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT	CODE	LANGUAGE
1	Xipaga	Xifezana	Whitlow. cob,	Bushbuckridge Main Seat	1281	Tsonga
2	Timanga	Singita	Miracle	Bushbuckridge Main Seat	1281	Tsonga
3	Xigamelo	Cheleta	Irrigate	Bushbuckridge Main Seat	1281	Tsonga

OFFENCES

Any person who violates a provision of the Act resulting from the non-compliance or compliance with the obligations contained in this Act is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding twelve months or both such fine and imprisonment.

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KE A LEBOGA

NGIYABONGA

THANK YOU