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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE  
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Athens, Greece

17 August - 7 September 1977

Item 7 of the agenda

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS  
AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE  
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Submitted by the Government of the Republic of Kenya\*/

National standardization of geographical names in Kenya has continued steadily since the Second United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names under the guidance of the Standing Committee on Geographical Names (SCGN) as was constituted by the Survey Act. Work has been intensified in field collection of names, office treatment of names and the national gazetteer.

Over 150 maps at 1/50,000 scale have either been revised or constructed since 1972 and new additions produced. About 100 of these maps have been produced by the technical assistance of the Governments of Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom. In every case our surveyors and cartographers have been sent out to verify the old names and collect additional names. As a result of their experience, the surveyors and cartographers have returned with more names, most of which have the correct spelling. The field collection has been made easier by sending surveyors or cartographers who speak the local dialect of the particular area and the results have been very good.

It was the intention of the Government of Kenya after the Second United Nations Conference to re-organize the local committees in the various districts but this has not been effectively done due to the Government's development priorities. Our surveyors, however, work very closely with the administrative officers in the districts during their collection of names. Greater progress in the collection of geographical names which has been realized can also be attributed to the number of people who can speak Kiswahili, the national language. Since education at lower primary school was declared free by the Government, more children have been able to go to school hence the increase of people who can speak both Kiswahili and English.

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