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Standardization of Geographical Names**

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Item 9 b) of the provisional agenda\*

**National standardization: Office treatment of names**

**Pretoria/Tshwane City Name Change**

Submitted by South Africa\*\*

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## **Pretoria/Tshwane City Name Change**

On August 2003 the City of Tshwane appointed a Task Team to look into a possibility to “name change” from Pretoria to Tshwane. The Task Team was to be appointed for six month but due to public interest their term was extended by seven months. On the 08 October 2004 the Task Team presented the final report to the City of Tshwane. On the 07 March 2004 a Special Council meeting was held to discuss amongst other things the report on possible “name change” of Pretoria to Tshwane. The meeting took a resolution to start necessary administrative processes to effect the name change.

On the 06 and 07 April 2005 Pretoria News placed an advertisement on the Tshwane Metro Council resolution and calling for public comments. The Beeld also placed a similar advertisement in Afrikaans on the 06 April 2005. Then all administrative processes (as per the SAGNC guidelines) were followed by Tshwane Metro to implement the “name change”.

The SAGNC also received a number of correspondences from different organizations and individuals. Amongst them were the Democratic Alliance, Freedom Front Plus, Pretoria Civil Action, which comprises of the trade union Solidarity, the Gauteng North Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Afrikaans Cultural Organizations (FAK), as well as various other organizations, and individuals who were campaigning for the preservation of Pretoria name.

The SAGNC went through all the information presented to it and recommended for the Minister to approve the name change as requested by the Municipality. Then the Minister went through the same correspondence submitted and taking into consideration the time lapse (of more than five years) from when the process was initiated by the municipality and requested that the municipality seek a new mandate from both the public (Public Participation) and the council (Council Resolution). The City of Tshwane Metro is still to come back to the Minister with a new mandate on both public participation and council resolution as per the Minister request. The application will then be discussed by the SAGNC and new recommendation will be made for the Minister’s consideration.