
United Nations
Group of Experts on
Geographical Names

Working Paper
No. 41/Add.2

Seventeenth Session
New York, 13-24 June 1994

Agenda item 5

REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONS

Report of the Africa South Division

Addendum 2:

Section 7: Swaziland

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN SWAZILAND
RECENT ACTIVITIES TO MAY 1994

1. The Surveyor General attended the UN Toponymic Training Course for the Africa South Division in Pretoria. This was a valuable introduction to the importance and problems of showing place names with completeness and accuracy on the various series of national mapping.
2. As part of the 1:50,000 scale map revision programme of the Surveyor General's Office (SGO) field verification visits were made at the pre-plotting stage. The revision and collection of place names was part of this field work.
3. Following publication of the thirty one sheets of the national series of 1:50,000 scale mapping, a private individual has listed, alphabetically and by map sheet, the place names appearing on the published maps. It is envisaged that further fieldwork is required to check the validity of some older names which appeared on earlier editions of the map, and to rectify any omissions. This task could be undertaken by a proposed Place Names Committee.
4. Recently a meeting was held between the Surveyor General and a surviving member of the previous national Place Names Committee, which has not sat for more than a decade. This meeting resolved that the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy be requested by the Surveyor General to re-establish the Place Names Committee. The meeting envisaged that the new Committee would review the existing lists of place names, to identify names no longer in use and to record new names not listed, to ensure correct spelling of siSwati, English and other names, and to endeavour to provide an origin or meaning for each name. The long term objective of this work being to compile a geographical and historical gazetteer of the Place Names of Swaziland..
5. The Surveyor General has taken the initiative in the production of definitive street maps for the cities of Mbabane and Manzini. This has involved considerable liaison between the SGO and Officials of the two City Councils, to clarify the street names within the two Urban areas.