UNITED NATIONS
GROUP OF EXPERTS ON
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Working Paper
No. 100

Twenty-third Session
Vienna, 28 March – 4 April 2006

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda:
Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic
Data Files and Gazetteers

Analyses of all Geographical names Standardized since 2000

Prepared by South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES COUNCIL

**ANALYSES OF ALL GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
STANDARDISED SINCE 2000**

Introduction

A Working Forum on Geographical Names was established in 1996 to advise the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology on the reconstitution of the then National Place Names Committee (NPNC) with regard to the recommendations on the White Paper on Arts, Culture and Heritage, international standards and cultural concerns. It also had to attend to legislation. In accordance with the recommendations of the Working Forum on Geographical Names, the South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC) was established by Act No. 118 of 1998 the South African Geographical Names Council Act. The SAGNC was inaugurated on 08 December 1999. It consists of 25 members and held its first business meeting in March 2000.

Hence there are 794 geographical names approved since then. The tables below give an analysis of names approved per province, language and feature type. Major feature types (e.g. town, post office, rivers and mountains) will also be included on this analysis.

Table 1: The year 2000 Approved Geographical Names per province and language.

Language	Provinces [1]WC	[2]EC	[3]NC	[4]FS	[5]ZN	[6]NW	[7]GP	[8]MP	[9]LP	Total number of names per language
Afrikaans	4	1	0	0	2	11	3	3	4	**28**
English	7	2	0	0	5	5	17	11	14	**61**
isiNdebele	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	**5**
isiXhosa	3	124	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	**128**
isiZulu	3	0	0	0	18	0	1	16	0	**38**
Sesotho	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	**8**
Sesotho sa Leboa	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	12	162	**180**
Setswana	0	0	3	2	0	104	1	9	4	**123**
SiSwati	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	**40**
Tshivenda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	88	**88**
Xitsonga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	**24**
[10]Other languages	16	3	2	2	6	10	5	8	19	**71**

[1] Western Cape Province
[2] Eastern Cape Province
[3] Northern Cape Province
[4] Free State Province
[5] KwaZulu-Natal Province
[6] North West Province
[7] Gauteng Province
[8] Mpumalanga Province
[9] Limpopo Province
[10] Other Languages includes foreign, multiple, san languages etc

| Total number of names	34	134	6	8	31	132	29	104	316	794

The table above gives an overview of how many geographical names were approved since 2000 and the language in which the names were approved.

TOTAL NAMES APPROVED IN EACH PROVINCE

Names approved per Province

Provinces

Legend: ■ Total
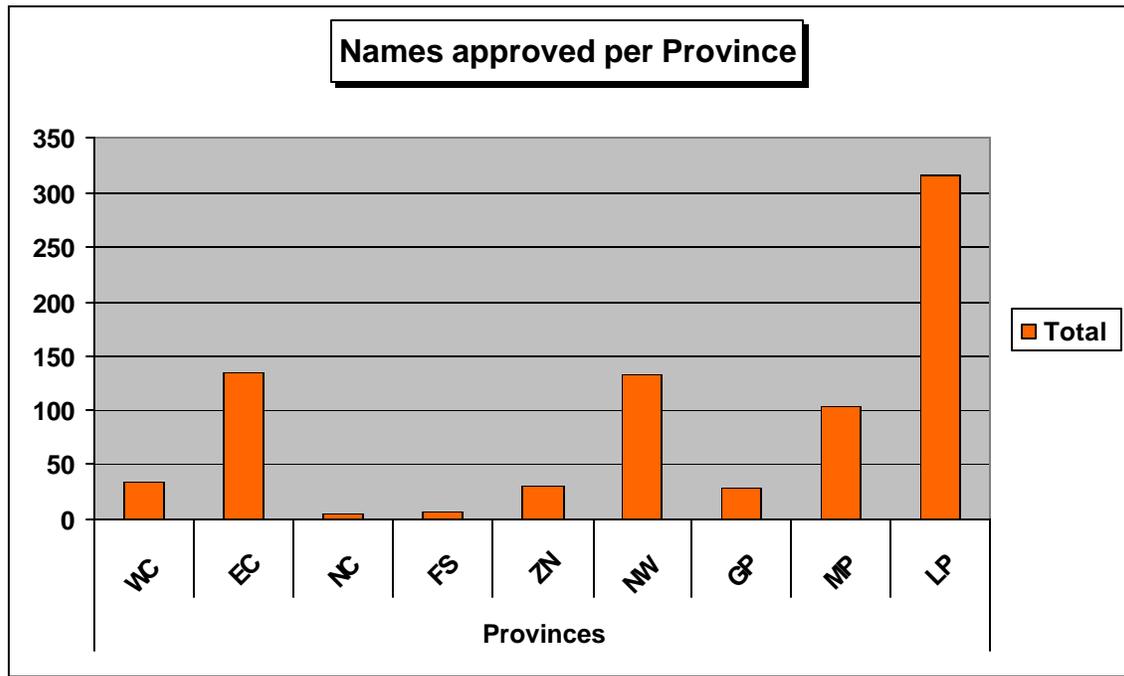
The chart indicates the number of names approved per province. Limpopo with 316 approved names, Eastern Cape with 134, North West with 132, Mpumalanga with 104, respectively. These are the provinces with the highest names approved, which are above 100 since the year 2000.

TOTAL NAMES APPROVED PER LANGUAGE

Names approved per language
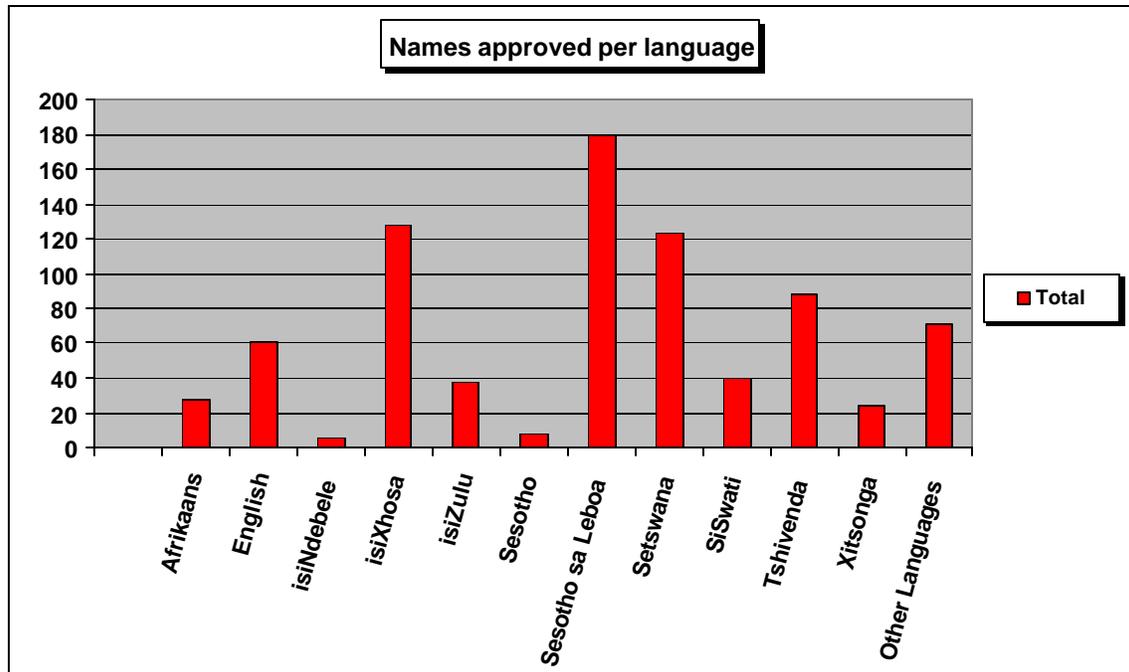
There are 180 Geographical names approved that are in Sesotho sa Leboa, 128 in isiXhosa, 123 in Setswana, most names being in North West and 82 in Tshivenda, respectively.

NAMES APPROVED SINCE 2000 PER FEATURE TYPE

There are different feature type names that have changed since 2000. This includes names for the Post Offices, Rivers, Dams etc. There are 383 post office names that have changed, towns being 131.

1. **TOWNS**

There are 131 town names approved since 2000 in six provinces. There are 71 town names that have changed since 2000 in Limpopo and most of the major town names are also in Limpopo.

Table 3: Total names per province

Provinces	Number of Towns
WC	0
EC	12
NC	3
FS	0
ZN	1
NW	16
GP	20
MP	7
LP	71

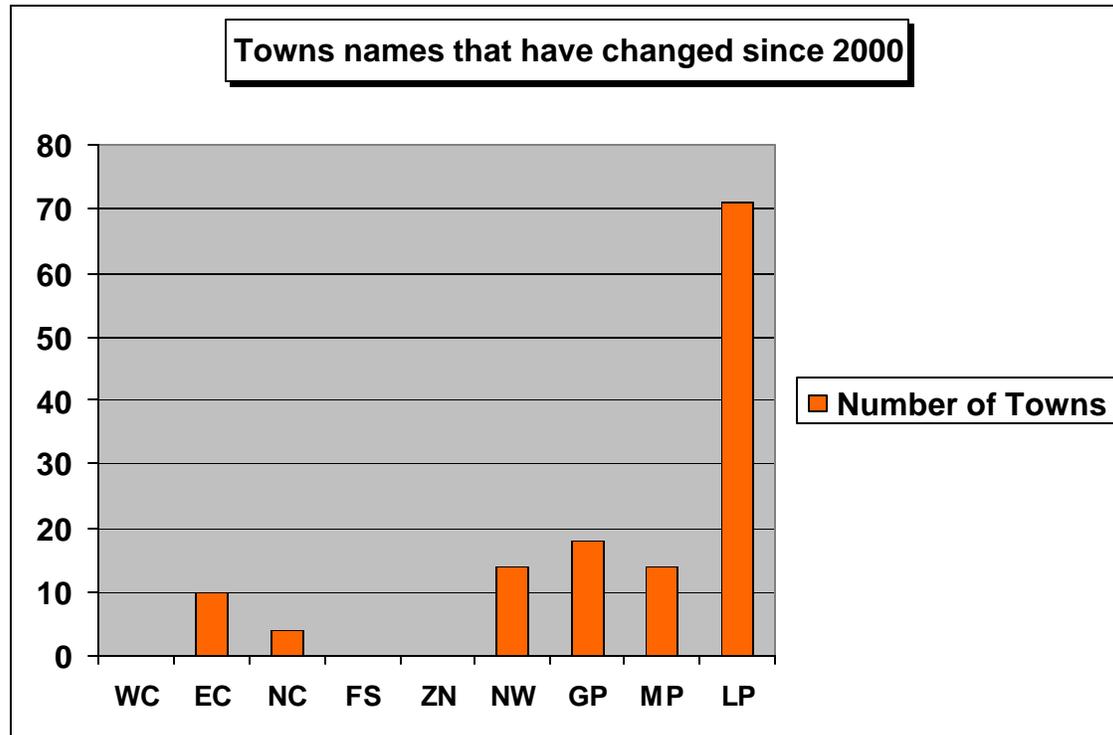| TOTAL	130

Towns names that have changed since 2000

Table 4: Major town names that have changed since 2000

Place Name	General location	Language	Magisterial District	Province	Meaning
Bela-Bela	Formerly Warmbaths / Warmbad	Sesotho	Bela-Bela	Limpopo	Warm water in the form of a hot spring found in Warmbaths (North of Pretoria). The water was formed through volcanic eruption.
Bhisho	Correction of spelling from Bisho 5 km NE of King William's Town.	isiXhosa	King William's Town	Eastern Cape	Unknown.
Dutywa	Correction of spelling from Idutywa	isiXhosa	Idutywa	Eastern Cape	Unknown.
Lephalale	Formerly Ellisras	Setswana	Lephalale	Limpopo	Lephalale means to flow.

Place Name	General location	Language	Magisterial District	Province	Meaning
Makhado	Formerly Louis Trichardt	(Other or unknown)	Soutpansberg	Limpopo	Makhado was the king who fought colonialism during the 19th century. He has set the people in the far North free from and oppression.
Modimolle	Formerly Nylstroom E of Waterberg district	Sesotho sa Leboa	Waterberg	Limpopo	God has eaten. Modimo o-le.
Modjadjiskloof	Cange of name from Duiwelskloof 16 km N of Tzaneen	(Other or unknown)	Sekgosese	Limpopo	Name of a queen.
Mogwadi	Formerly Dendron	Sesotho sa Leboa	Polokwane	Limpopo	Named after the river next to the town.
Mokopane	Formerly Potgietersrus	Sesotho sa Leboa	Mokopane	Limpopo	Means togetherness.
Mthatha	Correction of spelling from Umtata Lat: 31° 35' Long: 28° 46'	isiXhosa	Umtata	Eastern Cape	Named after the river.
Musina	Formerly Messina 100 km N of Makhado (Louis Trichardt)	Multiple languages	Musina	Limpopo	Means copper.
Polokwane	Formerly Pietersburg	Sesotho sa Leboa	Polokwane	Limpopo	Place of safety

Place Name	General location	Language	Magisterial District	Province	Meaning
KwaDukuza	Formerly Stanger	IsiZulu	Lower Tugela	KwaZulu-Natal	Derived from IsiZulu word meaning "duka" which means to loose ones way or to be at error. The town is built on the original site of King Shaka's settlement called Dukuza.
Malalane	Correction of spelling from Malelane	Siswati	Nkomazi	Mpumalanga	Named after King Mswati's warrior.
eMalahleni	Formerly Witbank	IsiZulu	Witbank	Mpumalanga	Place full of coal.

2. **POST OFFICES**

Provinces	Number of Post Offices
WC	9
EC	36
NC	0
FS	7
ZN	26
NW	109
GP	4
MP	19
LP	196
Total	**406**

Post Office names that have changed since 2000
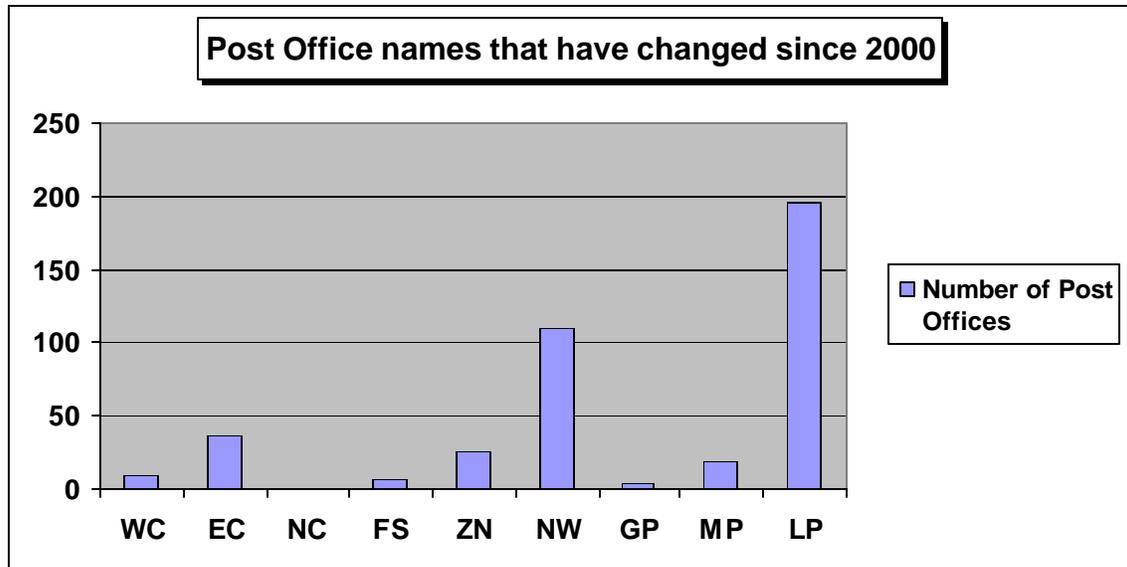
There are 406 post office names that have changed since 2000. Limpopo having the highest name changes with 196 and North West with 109, respectively.

3.   **OTHER FEATURES**

There are other feature types that have changed names since 2000.

FEATURE TYPE	Total number of features
Dam	26
Hill	6
Hospital	2
Nature Reserve	6
Police Station	4
Railway	13

River	56
Mountain	4