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Activities relating to the Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers

Latest Enhancements on the South African Geographical Names Council Database *

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Latest Enhancements on the South African Geographical Names Council Database

The South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC) was established by the South African Geographical Names Act, 1998 (Act No.118 of 1998), as the body responsible for standardizing geographical names in South Africa. The SAGNC is responsible to the Minister of Arts and Culture.

According to Section 6(2) (b) of the South African Geographical Names Act the Department of Arts and Culture should establish and maintain a research section and the necessary infrastructure, incorporating a computerised database, a library, reference material and document archives.

SITA (State Information Technology Agency) was appointed to develop the system, which includes an authoritative database of South African Geographical Names for the South African Geographical Names Unit (SAGNU). This system was officially approved and accepted by DAC on 23 October 2002.

The new authoritative database has enabled the Department to deliver on the following:

- the management and monitoring of national place names;
- capturing new place names on the national place names database;
- monitor and facilitate the progress with regards to applications;
- to retrieve this information easily for the SAGNC and DAC use;
- improve co-ordination and reduce duplication in naming;
- spatial representation of national place name database;
- facilitation of management information reports;
- voice recording of approved names and
- web enabling the system.