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**11th United Nations Conference on the
Standardization of Geographical Names**

New York, 8 -17 August 2017

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

**Reports on the work of the United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names, its divisions, working groups and
task teams since the Tenth Conference**

Africa South Division Report

Submitted by the Africa South Division **

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** Prepared by Lucy Phalaagae, Interim Chair Africa South Division

United NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERT ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Africa South Division Report

Activities from member countries:

Botswana:

Botswana has been in the forefront following the passing of the resolution at the leadership forum, to resuscitate the “Botswana Place Names Commission (PNC),” and the development of a Legislative Framework for the PNC. The department of Surveys and Mapping through its newly formed Geographical Names Interim Committee has been working towards the realisation of the resolution, by compiling all historical documents on PNC to support the Ministry of Lands and Housing to take an informed decision on activities of Geographical Names in the country. In its effort to speed up the resuscitation process of Geographical Names Interim Committee has prepared proposals for a new PNC, how it should function and the members involved. In addition the Interim committee has contributed to the Naming of Streets and Towns document prepared by Local Government. These were done in alignment to the UNGEGN resolutions on names authorities.

Botswana as the Interim chair of the Africa South Division has made efforts to consult other regions on activities of the Geographical Names in their countries, but feedback has not been forthcoming. An invitation to attend Meeting in Botswana has not materialised due non .response. The Gaborone Action Plan has also been sent to other members and comments are still awaited.

South Africa:

APPOINTMENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES COUNCIL

Call for nomination of the new South African Geographical Names Council was opened by the Minister. Letters requesting the Provincial MECs, Minister of Land Affairs and Rural Development, Minister of Cooperative Governance, Minister of Communication, Minister of Transport, Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, CEO of National Heritage Council and PanSALB to nominate their representatives to the SAGNC for the new term of office were sent for their attention. The

adverts for call for nomination on were posted on national newspapers e.g. Sunday Times, City Press, Beeld etc.

The Minister appointed a panel to assist the Chief Directorate: Heritage and the South African Geographical Names Secretariat with the selection. The Panel had its meeting to finalize recommendations for the Minister's consideration.

The following are members of the SAGNC: **Chairperson** (Mr Jonny Mohlala); **Deputy Chairperson** (Ms Jane Mufamadi); Dr B.A Meiring; Ms S Sekitla; Ms P Dyantyi; Ms A Mawela; Dr E.M. Dikotla; Ms N Tyamzashe; Mr C Van Der Merwe; Mr E McPherson; MS P Habile; MR K Maluleke and Mr S Janda

Namibia:

No activity reported.

Zimbabwe:

No activity reported.

Swaziland:

No activity reported.

Mozambique:

No activity reported.

Malawi:

No activity reported.

Lesotho:

No activity reported.

Tanzania:

No activity reported.

Conclusion:

It has not been possible to follow up some countries due to change of offices in some areas and also the delay in following certain procedures which are required before certain information is availed. Although response has not been forthcoming, some countries has promised to follow up on the matter. However Botswana is determined to continue consulting other regional members on the importance of Geographical names and how the standardization can benefit the social and economy of a country.

Ms. Lucy Phalaagae
Interim Chair Africa South Division
P/Bag 0037,
Gaborone.
Botswana.
Tel: +267 3167454
Cel: +267 71848169
Email: lucyphala@hotmail.com