

INLEIDING

0. AGTERGROND

- 0.1** In Desember 1936 is 'n komitee deur die Minister van Binnelandse Sake aangestel om ondersoek in te stel na die vorm en spelling van aardrykskundige eiename.
- 0.2** Die opdrag aan die Komitee was soos volg:
“Om ondersoek in te stel na en aanbevelings te doen oor die vorm en spelling van aardrykskundige eiename, met vermelding van beginsels waarop die aanbevelings berus, en verder, ooreenkomstig sodanige aanbevelings, 'n lys van aardrykskundige eiename van Suid-Afrika saam te stel.”
- 0.3** Hierdie opdrag het te omvangryk geblyk en is by ministeriële besluit beperk tot—
“plekname binne die Unie van Suid-Afrika wat voorkom in die Byvoegsel tot die Posgids en in die Spoorgids; met inbegrip van eiename vervat in die lys van die Padmotordiens.”
- 0.4** In sy verslag (U.G. 37/1939) wat gedurende 1939 verskyn het, het die Komitee o.a. aanbeveel dat 'n permanente komitee benoem word waaraan die volgende sake opgedra moet word:
“(a) Die afhandeling van name wat op Lys B van die verslag voorkom, d.i.—
(i) name waaroor die Komitee nie afdoende inligting ontvang het om 'n aanbeveling betreffende hul vorm en spelling te kan doen nie; en
(ii) name in verband waarmee versoeke of voorstelle om verandering ontvang is of gedoen word;
(b) 'n geleidelike korreksie van die spelling van alle aardrykskundige name in die Unie wat nie voorkom in die Posgids en in die Spoorgids, met inbegrip van eiename vervat in die lys van die Padmotordiens, wat deur die Komitee behandel is nie;
(c) die goedkeuring of andersins van alle voorgestelde nuwe name;
(d) die behandeling van alle gevalle waar naamsverandering of herstel van 'n ou naam verlang word;
(e) die samestelling van 'n aardrykskundige woordelys vir gebruik in die Unie.”
- 0.5** In 1940 is gevolg gegee aan hierdie aanbeveling en het die Minister van Onderwys 'n Komitee aangestel wie se werk uitgeloop het op die publikasie, in 1951, van *Amptelike Plekname in die Unie en Suidwes-Afrika*.
- 0.6** Die eerste uitgawe van *Amptelike Plekname* van 1951 (hieronder AP) (met sy *Aanvullende Lys* wat in 1952 verskyn het) is lank reeds uitverkoop. Gedurende die afgelope 25 jaar het die Pleknamekomitee met die uitvoering van sy opdrag van 1940 voortgegaan, maar weens omstandighede buite sy beheer kon geen verdere aanvullende lyste uitgegee word nie.

INTRODUCTION

0. BACKGROUND

- 0.1** In December, 1936, a committee was appointed by the Minister of the Interior to inquire into the form and spelling of geographical proper names.
- 0.2** The terms of reference of the Committee were as follows:
“To inquire into, and make recommendations concerning the form and spelling of geographical proper names with a statement of the principles on which the recommendations are based and, in addition, to compile a list of geographical proper names for South Africa in accordance with such recommendations.”
- 0.3** These terms of reference were found to be too extensive, and were limited by ministerial decision to—
“place names within the Union of South Africa appearing in the Appendix to the Post Office Guide and in the Railway Guide, including proper names appearing in the list of the Road Motor Service.”
- 0.4** In its report (U.G. 37/1939), which appeared during 1939, the Committee recommended, *inter alia*, the appointment of a permanent committee which was to be entrusted with the following matters:
“(a) A final decision about the names appearing in List B of the report, i.e.—
(i) names about which the Committee did not receive sufficiently conclusive information to enable it to make recommendations with regard to their form and spelling; and
(ii) names in connection with which requests or suggestions for changes of name have been received or made;
(b) the gradual correction of the spelling of all the geographical names in the Union not appearing in the Post Office Guide and the Railway Guide, including proper names appearing in the list of the Road Motor Service, dealt with by the Committee;
(c) the approval or rejection of all proposed new place names;
(d) the consideration of all cases where a change of name or the restoration of an old name was desired;
(e) the compilation of a list of geographical names for use in the Union.”
- 0.5** In 1940, this recommendation was carried into effect and the Minister of Education appointed a Committee whose work resulted in the publication in 1951 of *Official Place Names in the Union and South West Africa*.
- 0.6** The first edition of *Official Place Names* (hereinafter OPN) published in 1951 (together with its *Supplementary List* published in 1952) has long since been out of print. For the past 25 years the Place Names Committee has carried on with the duties assigned to it by its 1940 terms of reference, but owing to circumstances beyond its control it was not possible to publish further supplementary lists.

Eindelik het die Komitee besluit om 'n AP saam te stel met 'n nuwe *Inleiding* en 'n nuwe *Lys van Plekname* wat albei in etlike belangrike opsigte van dié van die ou AP verskil. Die veranderinge wat in hierdie nuwe publikasie aangebring is, is op die geskikste plekke in die teks, bv. in hoofstukke 1 en 5 van die *Inleiding*, uitvoerig behandel. Een van hierdie veranderinge is noodsaaklik gemaak weens die onafhanklikwording van Transkei. Die Komitee moes vasstel hoe die nuwe staatkundige toestand die wyse van behandeling van Transkeise plekname in die nuwe AP sou kon beïnvloed. Hierdie vraag is met die hoofminister van Transkei bespreek en daar is besluit dat Transkeise plekname op dieselfde wyse as dié in die Republiek se ander buurstate behandel moet word. Ten gevolge van hierdie besluit is die hele Transkei, soos die ander buurstate, nou uitgesluit van die "opdragsgebied" van die Pleknamekomitee, d.w.s. die gebied waaroor hy die bevoegdheid het om sy opdrag uit te voer (maar sien 5.1.2.3 oor die insluiting in die *Lys van name van plekke* in die buurstate).

- 0.7** By die behandeling van die spelling en vorm van die name in die verskillende tale word uitvoering gegee aan besluite wat die Komitee van tyd tot tyd geneem het en word die beginsels wat hy daarby toegepas het, geformuleer of herformuleer. Sien die onderskeie hoofstukke, nl. 2. *Afrikaanse Name*; 3. *Engelse Name*; 4. *Name uit Inboorlingtale*.
- 0.8** Die Komitee vertrou dat die publiek hierdie nuwe uitgawe van AP (sien 5.1.1) in dieselfde gees van welwillendheid as die eerste uitgawe sal ontvang en verwelkom, ten spyte van moontlike gebreke en tekortkominge daarin. Te oordeel na die vraag en die talryke navrae wat voortdurend deur die Sekretariaat daarna ontvang word, bestaan daar klaarblyklik 'n groot behoefte aan hierdie nuwe publikasie. Waar die Komitee sy verskuldigde dank betuig vir al die hulp wat hy in die verlede ontvang het, neem hy die vryheid om te reken op die voortgesette hulp en advies, nie net van openbare liggeme nie maar ook van lede van die publiek, in die vorm van nuttige wenke en opbouende kritiek, al was dit dan maar net om die aandag te vestig op foute wat by die eerste die beste geleentheid reggestel kan word.

Ten slotte moet daarop gewys word dat, hoewel alle pogings aangewend is om noukeurige inligting in hierdie boek te verstrek, die Komitee geensins aanspreeklik is vir verlies of ongerief weens moontlike onjuisthede daarin nie.

The Committee eventually decided to compile an OPN with a new *Introduction* and a new *List of Place Names*, both differing in several important respects from those in the old OPN. The changes introduced in this new publication have been dealt with in detail at the appropriate places in the text, e.g. in Chapters 1 and 5 of the *Introduction*. One of these changes was necessitated by the independence of Transkei. The Committee had to establish how the new constitutional situation might affect the way in which Transkeian place names would have to be dealt with in the new OPN. At a discussion of this question with the Chief Minister of Transkei it was decided that Transkeian place names would be treated in the same way as those in the Republic's other neighbouring states. As a result of this decision the whole of Transkei, like the other neighbouring states, is now excluded from the Committee's "reference area", i.e. the area over which it has the authority to carry out its terms of reference (but see 5.1.2.3 in regard to the inclusion in the List of names of places in neighbouring states).

- 0.7** In dealing with the spelling and form of the names in the various languages, effect has been given to decisions taken by the Committee from time to time, and the principles applied in the process have been formulated or reformulated in accordance with such decisions. See the individual chapters: 2. *Afrikaans Names*; 3. *English Names*; 4. *Names from Indigenous Languages*.
- 0.8** The Committee trusts that the public will receive and welcome this new edition of OPN (see 5.1.1) in the same spirit of goodwill as it did the first edition, in spite of its possible shortcomings. To judge by the numerous enquiries received by the Secretariat, there is a great need for this new publication. In acknowledging its indebtedness for all the help it has received in the past, the Committee feels that it can rely on the continued help and advice, not only of public bodies but also of members of the general public, in the form of useful suggestions and constructive criticism, if only to draw the Committee's attention to errors, so as to enable it to make any necessary corrections at the first opportunity.

In conclusion it should be pointed out that, although every effort has been made to give accurate information in this book, the Committee will not, under any circumstances, be held responsible for loss or inconvenience arising from possible inaccuracies in it.