

Grahamstown Residents' Association



PO Box 784, Grahamstown, 6140
Phone: 078-882-3918 (chairperson)
info@grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za
www.grahamstownresidentsassociation.co.za

29 May 2016

Kenneth Msengana
Eastern Cape Provincial Geographic Names Committee
By email: kenneth.msengana@ecsrac.gov.za

Dear Mr Msengana

Proposed name change: Grahamstown

Grahamstown Residents' Association has made detailed submissions on past name change proposals. Since then, the organization has grown considerably, with some 500 members, and accordingly represents more diverse views. For this reason we are not taking a position on whether the name should change but rather are concerned that there may be problems with the process followed, potentially leading to litigation, as occurred with the attempt to change the name of Louis Trichardt/Machado.

Specific things that concern us:

- The name change proposal was not advertised in the local newspaper, *Grocott's*, which is the most widely read in the area.
- The latest procedure does not appear to make reference to the Makana council.
- Previous public consultations do not appear to be taken into account.
- The only reported meeting at which public comment was solicited, which has resulted in the proposed name of Makhanda, was attended by some 80 people.
- The proposed name is almost the same as that of local municipality of which Grahamstown forms part, Makana, and Makana is in fact an incorrect spelling of Makhanda.
- We believe that the guidelines for name changes stipulate that new names should not cause confusion with existing names, which makes the choice of name problematic unless the Makana name is also changed to something different.

We urge that the ECPGNC study the Supreme Court of Appeal judgement on the name change of Trichardt/Machado, which provides guidance on the process.

Sincerely

Philip Machanick (chairperson)

cc: sanelisiwe.ngaleka@ecsrac.gov.za

