

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



No. 23 OF 1982

I ASSENT,

Julius K. Nyerere
President

16TH NOVEMBER, 1982

An Act to establish a National Geographical Names Standardization Committee, to provide for the standardization of geographical names and for connected matters

[.....]

ENACTED by the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania.

1. This Act may be cited as the Geographical Names Standardization Act, 1982, and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Short title
and commence-
ment

2. In this Act unless the context requires otherwise—

Interpreta-
tion

“the Committee” means the Geographical Names Standardization Committee established by section 3;

“member” means a member of the Committee and includes the Chairman and the Vice-chairman of the Committee;

“Minister” means the Minister for the time being responsible for matters related to land surveys and mapping;

“the Ministry” means the Ministry for the time being responsible for matters related to land surveys and mapping.

3.—(1) There is hereby established a Committee to be known as the Geographical Names Standardization Committee.

(2) The provisions of the Schedule to this Act shall have effect as to the constitution and proceedings of, and otherwise in relation to the Committee.

Establish-
ment of the
Committee

(3) The Minister may by Order in the *Gazette*, amend, add to, vary or replace the Schedule to this Act.

4. The functions of the Committee shall be—

(a) to call for or receive and decide upon proposals from public authorities and members of the public generally on matters related to the standardization of geographical names in Tanzania;

Functions
of the
Committee

- (b) to assume responsibilities for the standardization of geographical names in Tanzania;
- (c) to co-operate with other national names authorities and national cartographic agencies to carry out research in and to promote the proper use of geographical names on existing modern maps;
- (d) to keep record and publish in the *Gazette* standardized names and design methods to ensure their prompt and wide use;
- (e) to keep a glossary of all geographical names in Tanzania;
- (f) to give advice on such matters as may be requested by the government, public authorities and individuals with respect to standard geographical names.

Conditions

5. In carrying out the functions outlined in Section 4 of this Act, the Committee shall have regard to—

- (a) the need for carrying out proper research for the purposes of providing and synchronizing such information as—
 - (i) spelling on old maps;
 - (ii) spelling on modern maps;
 - (iii) spelling in cadastral documents and in registers;
 - (iv) the written and spoken form of the name and its meaning according to the local inhabitants, where possible providing for the recording of the name in precise phonetic notation;
- (b) the need for the decisions on names of individual geographical entities to be based on broad general principles clearly stated and widely observed or deducted from the habits and attitudes of indigenous people towards geographic names;
- (c) the need to have a systematic treatment in producing standard forms more cheaply, quickly and uniformly where names are yet to be standardized;
- (d) the need to take appropriate measures to reduce the use of the same name for several geographical entities and to formulate a statement of the degree of duplication that is considered tolerable;
- (e) the need to ensure that where names have already been fixed by law, the process of assigning new names or of changing existing names provides for consultation with the Committee;
- (f) the need to consult members of the general public affected by the standard use of a name or spelling that differs from that in local usage;
- (g) the need to establish the exact feature when standardizing the names of physical features;
- (h) the need to specify, where appropriate, the names of the entities to which a collective name refers when standardizing collective names such as those referring to an agglomeration of inhabited places;

- (i) the need to ensure certainty of optional names where existing names have optional parts;
- (f) the need to ensure that the standardization procedure does not suppress generic terms that are used locally or regionally;
- (k) the need to include a glossary of the generic terms occurring in the names to be published by the Committee;
- (l) the need to define the standard to be adopted where names occur in parallel syntactical or grammatical forms;
- (m) the need to set up standards for use of abbreviations of elements in geographical names;
- (n) the need to set up standards for expressing the location of geographical entities within their boundaries to a degree of precision commensurate with unambiguous identification whether the location be stated in terms of geographic co-ordination by reference to other established points or both;
- (o) the need to include in the gazette such information on geographic names as gender, number, definite and indefinite forms, position of stress, tone and pronunciation where such information will make the names more readily understood and usable nationally and internationally.

6.—(1) There shall be a secretary of the Committee who shall be appointed by the Minister, from among public officers dealing in matters related to land surveys and mapping, on such terms and conditions as the Minister may determine. Secretary

(2) Where the Secretary is not a member of the Committee, he shall have no right to vote at any meeting of the Committee.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Secretary shall have such functions as may be conferred upon him by the Committee.

7. The department of the government responsible for land survey and mapping shall be responsible for the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee which are accepted by the Government. Implementation of the committee's recommendations

8. The Committee shall meet at least twice in every year. Meeting

9.—(1) The Committee may from time to time set up working parties in various districts and regions to perform such functions as may be assigned to them by the Committee. Working Parties

(2) Each working party shall consist of such number of members, some of whom may be members of the Committee, as the Committee may direct.

(3) In appointing members of a working party the Committee shall have regard to the need to provide for a wide geographical representation and possession of the necessary skill and knowledge to enable them to make useful contribution to the deliberations of the working party.

(4) Subject to its terms of reference, every working party may regulate its own procedure.

Decisions
of the
Committee

10.—(1) A decision of the majority of the members present and voting at a meeting of the Committee shall constitute a decision of the Committee.

(2) Every decision of the Committee shall be communicated to the Minister in the form of a recommendation.

(3) There shall be taken such action in respect of the recommendations of the Committee as the Minister may direct.

SCHEDULE

Section 3 (2)

CONSTITUTION AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

Constitution
of Committee

1.—(1) The Committee shall consist of—

- (a) a chairman who shall be appointed by the Minister;
- (b) such other members not exceeding seventeen as may, by notice in the *Gazette*, be appointed by the Minister—
 - (i) one member representing the Ministry responsible for Education;
 - (ii) one member representing the Ministry responsible for Planning;
 - (iii) one member representing the National Swahili Council established under the National Swahili Council Act, 1967;
 - (iv) one member representing the Ministry responsible for Minerals;
 - (v) one member representing the Prime Minister's Office;
 - (vi) one member representing the Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs;
 - (vii) five members from the University of Dar es Salaam representing the disciplines of geography; research in land use; history and languages respectively;
 - (viii) five other members appointed by the Minister representing such institutions in Zanzibar as the Minister may determine.
 - (ix) one member representing a professional association of surveyors.
 - (x) one member representing the Ministry responsible for Land Surveys and Mapping.

Act, 1967
No. 27

(2) A member of the Committee shall, unless his appointment is sooner terminated by the Minister or he otherwise ceases to be a member, hold office for such period as the Minister may specify in his appointment or, if no such period is specified, for a period of three years from the date of his appointment and he shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(3) Any member of the Committee may at any time resign by giving notice in writing to the Minister and from the date of the receipt by the Minister of the notice he shall cease to be a member of the Committee.

(4) If any member of the committee is without permission absent from more than four consecutive meetings of the Committee or without such permission is absent from the United Republic for a period exceeding two years, he shall cease to be a member of the Committee.

Casual
Vacancies

2. Where any member of the Committee ceases to be a member before the expiration of his term of office, the Minister, after consulting the Committee, may appoint another person in his stead to hold office until such time as the first-named person's term of office would have expired had he not ceased to be a member as aforesaid.

Vice-Chair-
man

3. The Committee shall elect from amongst its members a Vice-Chairman who shall hold office for one year but shall be eligible for re-election.

4.—(1) Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Committee shall meet at such times and places as may be necessary or expedient for the transaction of business. **Quorum and Procedure**

(2) At any meeting of the Committee nine members shall constitute a quorum.

(3) The Chairman shall preside at any meeting of the Committee, or in the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall preside and if both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman are absent from any meeting, the members present at the meeting shall elect one of their number to preside at that meeting.

(4) In the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his deliberative vote.

(5) Minutes in proper form of each meeting of the Committee shall be kept and shall be confirmed by the Committee at the next meeting and signed by the Chairman of that meeting.

5. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 relating to a quorum the Committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy in the membership and no act or proceeding of the Committee shall be invalid by reason only of some defect in the appointment of any member or of the attendance by a person who purports to be a member thereof. **Vacancies not to invalidate proceedings**

Passed in the National Assembly on the fifteenth day of October, 1982.


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Clerk of the National Assembly