# A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE NAME CHANGE OF LOUIS TRICHARDT TO MAKHADO WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

by

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# DECLARACTION

I declare that **A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE NAME CHANGE OF LOUIS TRICHARDT TO MAKHADO WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES,** hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the degree of **MASTER OF ARTS IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES** has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other university; that is my work in design and in execution, and that all material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.


…………………………                                        ………………………………
**Initials & Surname(Title)**                                        **Date**
**Student Number……………………….**

# DEDICATION

**This dissertation is dedicated to:**

**My Wife**

Mashudu Sylvia Mudau

**Our Children**

Robin Khuthadzo

Ronell Shandukani

Rendani Jacqueline

**My Parents**

Matshete Jack Mudau

Mavhungu Rosina Mudau

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to investigate, analyze and examine the historical background of Louis Trichardt, the renaming process with special reference to principles and procedures outlined by the *South Africans Geographical Names Council*.

The study demonstrates the importance of principles and procedures when renaming a place. Ignoring these principles and procedures as outlined by the South African Geographical Names Council results in unnecessary confrontations and expenditure as it has been the case with Louis Trichardt.

The study also reveals that not abiding by the rules, results in the polarization of communities. It also demonstrates how places should be renamed, which names are recommended and who should be involved.

In the end, recommendation were suggested for the smooth renaming of places. This will help in coming up with names that will be acceptable to all.

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# CHAPTER 1

## 1.1    INTRODUCTION

A name is a very important social and cultural construct  to forge unity, identity, values, and self-esteem within and among communities.  It instills a sense of pride and honour. Throughout the whole world, names have been given with specific reasons in mind.  They are given in order to commemorate, honour, or distinguish one place from the other.

Naming either a person or a place is influenced by different issues, such as cultural, social, economic, political, historical and other aspects.  On the one hand, some names are given to express, among others, anger, unity and class.   On the other hand, some names, particularly place names, are given in order to honour or commemorate those who played prominent roles in their communities.

There are different categories of names such as place, personal, stage and nicknames. Looking at these different categories, different factors will, to be sure , play a role in giving names in each category.  In South Africa, there was a tendency of naming places after headmen, missionaries and other prominent personalities.  Nowadays, there is a major shift from this practice.  Naming patterns will always change, depending on the situations and circumstances around which people find themselves.

Immediately after South Africa  became a democratic country,  people felt a strong need for name changing.  The new style was to change from colonial names to names that were regarded as being more African in nature.  Both place names and personal names, which were in Afrikaans or English, were found to be less desirable and thus had to be changed. According to De Klerk (1999), a large number of political leaders abandoned their foreign names in favour of African ones due to political changes in South Africa.

People became obsessed with finding their lost identity. However, there is no guarantee that this trend will continue to be relevant to the coming generation as everything depends entirely on prevailing situations and circumstances. Principles and procedures that serve as guidelines when renaming places forms the basis of this study.

## 1.2    BACKGROUND TO THE PROBLEM

Colonialism has dealt a very serious blow to the African continent. Not only did colonialists steal the continent's riches, but they also brainwashed its people to the extent that they saw everything that is African as being offensive. This is why some Africans tend to identify themselves more with Europe and the European way of doing things. Europeans took advantage of this attitude. They renamed some of the places in a way that promoted hatred, humiliation, domination and antagonism among communities. In his work, Sengani (2007:2) states that:

> In most cases, the name-givers being people in powerful institutions such as government, the elders in the community or family have been praised for their wisdom in creating and choosing names for themselves and the powerless without ever checking the kind of names and the impact their message or discourse have on the powerless.

This is exactly what the apartheid government did in South Africa. Many places were given names without consulting the affected people. In most cases, such names were to be accepted without questions being asked. Sengani (2007:2) further points out :

> Names can seem befitting to anyone or anything that carries them, but it has become obvious that they can be enhancing or damaging, if not deadly to their carriers and the addressees. On the other hand, the powerless groups can resist and construct a discourse of empowerment through both negative and positive names.

Like in any other African country, the change in government in South Africa heralded the need for a change in different sectors of life. People felt the need to replace English and Afrikaans names with names that were more Afrocentric in nature. Some of the examples in Africa are Bechuanaland, Gold Coast, Lourenco Marques, Abyssinia, and Salisbury, as they were known before. After independence, the need to break away with the past was felt. The affected people who were then powerless, decided to disassociate themselves from less relevant and meaningless names. They renamed their places as follows:

- ► Abyssinia = Ethiopia
- ► Bechuanaland = Botswana
- ► Gold Coast = Ghana
- ► Lourenco Marques = Maputo
- ► Salisbury = Harare

From the above examples, one can deduce that the process of name changing has been with us for a long time in many different parts of the world, particularly those that were colonised. It is a process that will continue as long as people feel the need to do so. In his study, Mabotja (2005:18) illustrates that:

> When white settlers arrived, they might have found that the names were too difficult and these names were either anglicised or changed completely. It was also their way of claiming territory.

The above-mentioned statement bears testimony to the fact that name changing is a process that will continue depending on what the people concerned find to be more relevant to them at any given place and time. South Africa and its people is no exception to this. Most place names in South Africa are foreign and, as such, need to be changed. The process of changing place names started as early as 1994 after the dawn of the new era. Before 1994, the National Party government, which was the government of the day, was the only dominant force in place naming.

Very little or no efforts were made to consult with those who were immediately concerned with naming some of these areas.  Hence,  some names were unacceptable to some citizens.

In his study, Sebashe (2004:9) makes mention of some of the derogatory names given by the apartheid government.  These names were given in order to ridicule other racial groups which were non-whites.  He mentions names such as *Kaffirs Dam* and *Boesmangat* found in the Northern Cape.  These and other many names are distasteful and needed to be changed.

Before embarking on  name changing process, however great care must be taken as this can also sow divisions among people.  Changing place names can involve quite a number of things such as redrawing of maps, telephone directories, road signs, letterheads and other official documents.

Proper principles and procedures should be followed when proposing a new name or changing a place name.  The *South African Geographical Names Council* is the relevant authority that deals with place naming. The following questions should be asked before embarking on a name change:

> ► Why do we need a new name?
> ► Is the present name not good enough?
> ► Who gave the name after all?
> ► What will the implications be?
> ► Is it economically viable?
> ► What are the appropriate names?
> ► Who should be consulted in this process?
> ► What are the underlying principles and procedures stipulated by the
>   *South  African  Geographical Names Council*?

If these and some other pertinent questions are fully answered , the possibility of finding a more appropriate and acceptable name becomes greater . Failure to follow this process could render the whole process null and void, as has been seen in some cases in Limpopo. Sebashe (2003:3) for example , indicates that, "in Limpopo Province, new place names such as Mark Shope and Ngoako Ramalepe evoked extremely negative responses from residents, while others such as Mokopane and Bela-Bela are well accepted."

Some of the name change proposals were never adopted and had to be shelved. In the case of Louis Trichardt, however the situation was altogether different. The town was renamed Makhado, much to the dismay and disapproval of other groups of residents. After the court ruling emanating from the pressure from the opposing groups, the name Makhado had to revert to Louis Trichardt. In this case, the impact was felt as taxpayers' money was used when changing official documents and road signs. Affected communities are still faced with a problem as the debate still rages on and attempts are being made to reinstate the name of Makhado.

## 1.3    AIMS OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to examine whether proper procedures and principles were followed in the renaming process of Louis Trichardt to Makhado. This study investigates the following:

> ► Were proper principles and procedures, as set by the *South African Geographical Names Council*, followed?
> ► What went wrong in the case of Louis Trichardt?
> ► What are the recommendations in order to rectify the mistakes?
> ► What are the consequences and how do they affect local residents ,South Africans and the country at large ?

## 1.4   RATIONALE FOR THE STUDY

Many scholars have commented about renaming processes in general after the country achieved its political independence.  A lot still needs to be done regarding proper principles and procedures that should be followed when going about this process.  Therefore, this research project could not have come at a better time as it deals with one area that is of greater importance in the successful renaming of places in the Republic of South Africa.

## 1.5   SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study is of paramount importance in that it will serve as a reminder that following proper principles and procedures is the only way to go when renaming places.  The study has also tried to highlight problems that could be encountered if proper procedures and principles are not followed.  In the end this study will help a great deal in that unfortunate future embarrassment and unnecessary expenditure would be avoided.

## 1.6   METHODOLOGY

Different research methods have been used in order to render this study reliable, effective and credible.  It is the intention of the present researcher to employ the following research methodologies:

### 1.6.1   The qualitative research method

The qualitative research method was deemed  the most appropriate and relevant one for this type of study.   On the one hand, it will help us to understand why things are happening the way they do and, on the other hand, it will help in unearthing the cause of the problem. In his study, Mokgokong (2004:5) states that:

> The qualitative research paradigm is usually used when a researcher's aim is to understand human behaviour, and wants to probe into the meaning that people attach to specific events and their own experiences.  This research paradigm is relevant to this study because it will help the researcher to understand people's attitude, how they react to different situations and what is of value to them.

Creswell (1994:2) also  describes the qualitative research method as "An enquiry  process of understanding a social  human problem, based on building a complex, holistic pictures, formed  with words, reporting detailed views of informants and conducted in a natural setting."

This method was found  relevant to this study because it takes into consideration people's attitudes and views in a detailed manner.  It also puts much emphasis on context in order to produce or come up with proper meaning.

### 1.6.2  **Data collection**

The researcher  used the following methods to gather relevant information about principles and procedures that serve as guidelines for place renaming.

### 1.6.2.1  Primary research method

The present researcher consulted with up to forty (40) respondents from different walks of life within the Makhado Municipal area.  This includes residents, municipal officials, politicians from different political parties and business people, as these form part of this municipality.

The respondents were chosen as follows:

- ► Five (5) ruling party
- ► Five (5) opposition parties
- ► Five (5) Black residents
- ► Five (5) Indian residents
- ► Five (5) White residents
- ► Five (5) Residents from villages around Makhado
- ► Five (5) Municipal officials
- ► Five (5) Business people.

Through this way, the present researcher has gathered relevant first hand information as it came from the people who are directly concerned with the problem at hand. The present researcher utilized mainly an open-ended questionnaire wherein respondents were asked to answer questions.

1.6.2.2   Secondary research method

This research method provided the present researcher with second-hand information because it had already been collected by someone else. The present researcher sifted the information he needed in order to validate his study. This type of information is obtainable from earlier researchers, newspapers, journals, the Internet, government publications, and books.

1.7      **SCOPE OF DELIMITATION**

Despite the fact that the renaming process is a national issue, this study was only limited to Limpopo Province, in particular, the Makhado municipal area.

## 1.8    LITERATURE REVIEW

A great deal has been written about naming in general.  Place renaming is a field that still has to be researched , although few researchers have already made attempts to do so.

In South Africa, place renaming is still a new phenomena and information about relevant principles and procedures is not properly researched.  Some of the works in this field are the following:

### 1.8.1    Sebashe (2003)

In his study, Sebashe (2003) mentions that a name is an important social and cultural construct in all civilised countries.  It gives a sense of self-identity, self-value, and self-esteem.  He  goes on to say that in South Africa, both Blacks and Whites attach meanings which suit their respective sentiments.  This is what in the first place, caused problems between these two groups in South Africa, because names were not given with the aim of promoting unity but rather of further polarising  these two groups.

Some areas inhabited by Black people were given names that did not appeal to them.  They were just forced on them, hence the sudden need to rename these places.  An example here would be an area such as Sophiatown in Johannesburg that has been renamed Triomf (meaning triumph after the White people chased Black people away and declared this area a White residential area).

Sebashe's study is relevant to the present study in that it   helps  the researcher to investigate thoroughly whether new names that are being proposed are divisive or uniting. The researcher  also investigated  whether these new names appeal to all the people or to only a small section of the people living in a particular area.

1.8.2   **Reifsnerider (2001)**

According to Reifsnerider (2001), a safe way of renaming a place is to use topographical features, cultural, historical, and natural phenomena.  This is in line with the guidelines proposed by the *South African Geographical Names Council*, which maintains that names given after such phenomena are neutral and unifying. Based on the information given above, the present researcher investigated  to what extent was this a safe way of renaming places .This study is  very helpful as some of the areas that sparked controversy were renamed after individuals or people.

1.8.3   **Mabotja (2005)**

In his study, Mabotja (2005) states that the Limpopo government started the name changing process by renaming the province, which was then called the Northern Province, to Limpopo Province in 2002.  Pietersburg became Polokwane, Messina became Musina, Potgietersrus became Mokopane, Warmbaths became Bela-Bela, Phalaborwa became Ba-Phalaborwa,  and, Nylstroom became Modimolle.  According to him, this name-changing process in Limpopo Province was met with mixed feelings across the province.

Mabotja further stated that the provincial government became a victim as it was slated for bad timing and waste of money.  This goes on to show that name changing  process is a complex affair.  Again it is very difficult to come up with a name that will please everyone. The situation is made more complex if proper procedures and principles, as stipulated by the *South African Geographical Names Council*, are not followed, as it had been the case with some towns and cities in and around Limpopo Province and the whole country.

Mabotja (2005) further indicates that Tzaneen made headlines when the council wanted to change the name to Mark Shope.  People demonstrated against this and wanted the name to remain Tzaneen.  Proposals to rename big cities such as Pretoria to Tshwane have also caused protests from many people who thought that the African National Congress (ANC) led government wanted to wipe out their history

The problems surrounding the renaming of Tzaneen to Mark Shope had been very crucial to this study. The researcher investigated whether the renaming of both Louis Trichardt and Tzaneen were rejected on the same principles or not. Similarities and dissimilarities were established in this regard. Where problems appear to be common, solutions to these problems were suggested.

### 1.8.4   AENS *Daily Sun* 29 June 2005

According to the *Daily Sun* (of 29 June 2005), a concerned group called the Chairperson's Association took the Makhado matter to court. This group was consisted of representatives of the business community .They argued that the name change would be costly.

Another group, made up of representatives from Shangaan and Afrikaaner communities, according to the report, did not want the town to be named after a Venda king. The researcher made use of this argument presented by the Shangaan people to investigate whether or not the issue of tribalism played a role in the rejection of the proposed name of Makhado to replace Louis Trichardt.

### 1.8.5   Neethling (2000)

Neethling (2000) states that a significant feature of the naming process is that generally speaking, naming is not restricted to certain gifted or possibly experienced individuals, but many individual groups in any given society participate. From this statement, one can therefore conclude that, indeed, naming is a process that should not be taken for granted. For a proposed name to be accepted, proper consultation with different stakeholders should be made.

The study by Neethling helped the researcher to thoroughly look at whether or not all the concerned groups in the Makhado Municipal area participated in the name change debate.

This did not happen. The researcher also evaluated the reasons why some groups  did not participate and how their non-participation affected the whole process of renaming this town Louis Trichardt.

### 1.8.6   Jenkins, Moller and Raper (1996)

Jenkins , E.R.,Raper,P.E., and Moller, L.A.  (1996) state that changing names is part of a process of change in the tide of a country's history.  It acts as a mirror of the dynamic forces of changing historical, relational, sentimental and idelogical attitudes towards change.  From the above statements, it is amply clear that in any society that has undergone a political or regime change, the process of name changing is inevitable.  It is a process that has to compliment the change in politics, otherwise any change without the change in cultural identity cannot be seen to be real.

The study by Jenkins , E. R., Raper,P.E.,and Moller, L.A.(1996) helped the researcher to look at the necessity for  name changes.  The researcher also  investigated whether these changes were necessary or not.

### 1.8.7   Mayhem (1992)

In her study, Susan Mayhem maintains that place names label, define, and represent places and people.  She further goes on to state that under colonialism, places were renamed and while many pre-colonial names were restored after independence, scores have been irretrievably lost.  This goes on to show that place names will always have a bearing on the people living in a particular place.  A true identity of the people can only be established by the name of the place they live in.

The researcher made use of the above statement by Susan Mayhem to investigate whether colonial names that needed  to be changed were relevant or not.  The present  study also looked at proposed names, to see whether  they defined  and represented the people living in these areas.

### 1.8.8 *Zoutpansberger* (**20 April 2007**)

According to the *Zoutpansberger* (20 April 2007), a weekly newspaper circulating in the Louis Trichardt area, the Democratic Alliance (DA) argues that the name change of Louis Trichardt to Makhado is unnecessary.

The following statements and questions form the basis of their arguments:

(i)     Geographical names are part of historical, cultural, and linguistics heritage of   the nation, which will be better to preserve than to destroy.

(ii)    Is the name change going to promote good relationship amongst all cultural, racial, religious and business groups in the greater Makhado Municipality?

(iii)   Is the name change done with emotional feelings or is the African National Congress (ANC) in contact with local communities, including all parties mentioned in and around Louis Trichardt?

(iv)    This will alienate people from each other.

(v)     Names must rectify the imbalances and reflect the cultural diversity.

(vi)    Unless names are not beautiful or otherwise indisputably offensive, existing names should be retained.

From the above-given questions and statements by the Democratic Alliance, it can be concluded that the whole process of renaming was flawed.  Even if the name Makhado were to be accepted, proper consultation was not undertaken, hence the objection by other groups.This article was very important to this study as it addresses some of the procedures for place naming.  It also helped the present researcher to find out whether proper procedures and principles were followed as argued by the Democratic Alliance Party.

### 1.8.9 *City Press* (8 June 2008)

In his article entitled 'Rebranding South Africa', Loyiso Sidimba, writing for *City Press*, states that: "It has been called a necessary evil and been met with fierce opposition. But, finally, the government's name-changing process is gaining momentum."Furthermore, he maintains that the task of renaming South African towns and cities has always been a contentious issue. He goes further to indicate that name changes for Pretoria (Tshwane), Louis Trichardt (Makhado), and Potchefstroom (Tlokwe) have been met with resistance, with locals using the legal route or at least threatening to do so.

According to the author of this article (*City Press*, 8th June 2008), this process described by its champions as a 'necessary evil', is gaining momentum, with the Arts and Culture Minister Pallo Jordan recently launching a public hearing in Cape Town. The article stated that the Minister hopes that the hearings will "test public opinion on the transformation and standardisation of geographical place names."

According to the article (*City Press*, 8th June 2008), the Minister argued that giving a conquered territory a new name is intended not only to rebrand the territory, but also to erase the achievements, culture and historical record of the previous inhabitants. He further stated that there was not a single geographical feature, place or settlement in South Africa that did not have a name prior to the arrival of the first European settlers in 1652. States-indigenous and colonial – have defined and redefined this piece of the continent as one superseded the other. These changes, according to the Minister, are part of the dynamic texture of the South African history.

From the above-mentioned statements, one is left with no doubt that, indeed, the process of name-changing has been with us for a long time and will continue to be with us as long as people live. People will always want to change place names in order to suit their prevailing conditions, status, feelings, and situations. Names that are found to be less relevant or less desirable will always have to make way for new ones. The most difficult questions to

answer before embarking on the  name-changing  process are when, how, and why should it be done?

The article by Loyiso Sidimba greatly  helped  the researcher as it deals with the most relevant and recent issues concerning  place-renaming.  It talks about the legal route taken or the intentions of the local people to do so against some of these names. The researcher found this helpful in understanding that the taking of the legal route has not been the case with Louis Trichardt only.  The present researcher also looked at the court proceedings and the judgments that followed in different cases, in particular, the Louis Trichardt case.

# CHAPTER TWO

## THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF LOUIS TRICHARDT AND ITS ENVIRONS

## 2. INTRODUCTION

The main aim of this section is to examine the historical background of Louis Trichardt. In order to further this aim, the following areas will be scrutinized: the historical background of Louis Trichardt, early Settlers of the Soutpansberg area, the founding of the town, surrounding villages and townships.

In terms of historical background, a comprehensive analysis of the Settlers from Africa and Europe will be examined. Furthermore, this section will also look at recent political setup such as the establishment of the Transitional Local Council (TLC) up to the new Local Municipality.

The researcher will consolidate information gathered through questionnaires distributed among different sections of the public, sources of reference and elderly informants. This chapter will try to find out who the real owners of the land around the Soutpansberg were. In the end, the chapter will try to answer the following questions:

- How did Louis Trichardt, the town, originate?
- Who were the town's early inhabitants?
- Who were the real owners of the land around the Soutpansberg?
- How was Louis Trichardt transformed into a multi-racial municipality?
- Which areas of Louis Trichardt were originally designated as black residential areas? .

The history of modern-day Louis Trichardt dates back some 1900 million years ago. According to Tempelhoff (1999:1), this was when the Archaic sediments and lava, known as the Soutpansberg group, emerged to contribute to the formation of an impressive mountain range. This area was thought to be inhospitable. Environmental conditions that were ever-changing, made this area not conducive to human settlement.

The area was so mountainous  that it was practically impossible to travel between this area. Living in this area was somewhat  difficult, but traces of early human settlement were found in this area. The above-given view is supported by Giesekke (1998:6) who writes:

> In ancient times, Stone Age people lived in this area, their tools can still be found here. Bushmen also lived here long ago. Their rock paintings can be seen in sheltered places in the Soutpansberg.

The above statement attests to the fact that this area was already occupied by people prior to the arrival of the first *Voortrekkers*. Beside these discoveries of tools and other forms of art, a salt pan found in the Western side was also a source of attraction that could possible have attracted people to settle in the area. Tempelhoff (1999:1) in his description of the place maintains that:

> The presence of the salt pan in the Western side was an important factor that would contribute to human settlement in the region to take place in centuries to come.

Although the Soutpansberg area was mountainous, this could have been a good reason enough to put up settlements as such places were preferred during times of wars. According to Tempelhoff (1999:4), the only other suggestions that human beings settled in the area long ago, are the artistic records found between 275 and 1700 A.D., which included paintings or drawings of animal faces on smooth rocks.

According to Tempelhoff (1999), they used bird excrement, limonite, charcoal as well as manganese to make these paintings.

From the above statement, one can therefore conclude that this area had long been occupied by different people who also had different approaches to life. They were people with a passion for the beauty of nature. That in itself was a testimony of some form of early civilization among the early Black Settlers of the area.

## 2.1 EARLY SETTLERS OF THE SOUTPANSBERG AREA

### 2.1.1 Settlers from around Africa

Different researchers have come to the conclusion that groups of Settlers from the Great Lakes region of Central Africa, started to move and settled around Southern Africa as early as the 17th century. Among these groups were a group of people called the Vendas. The Venda people are regarded as one of the earliest Settlers in the Southern African region, the Soutpansberg in particular. With regard to the above-mentioned view, Tempelhoff (1999: 17) points out that:

> In about 1688, a ruler by the name of Dimbanyika established himself at Lwandani, north of the Limpopo river and managed to consolidate smaller communities into what was subsequently termed Venda.

With reference to the above-given assertion, it is certain that the Venda people were among the first if not the first group to settle in the Soutpansberg area . Judging by the time of their arrival, 1688, it is very clear  that these people can rightly claim ownership of these areas in the Soutpansberg. The above claim is further, supported by Wessmann (1909:9), when he asserts that:

> There are no districts of South Africa more exquisite to the senses nor invested with great romance than the lands in the Northern Transvaal which are the demesne of the Bavenda. This tribe was the last to surrender its independence. It comprises about one-third of the entire population of the Soutpansberg district. The tribe's terrain is the whole of

rugged mountain country between the Levubu and Limpopo Rivers.

Even today, the Venda people are the most dominant tribe along the Soutpansberg area. They settled in these rugged mountains and even built their capital above these mountains. Even in the vicinity of the present day Louis Trichardt, the people who lived there were the Venda people. This is supported by Van Warmelo (1940:51) when he states that:

> Tradition says that the original inhabitants of Venda were the people of Raphulu. They lived at Tshirululuni, above Louis Trichardt.

Many researchers had found that the Venda people came to these areas of the Soutpansberg way back in the 17th century. A lot has been mentioned about their presence in these areas as opposed to other tribes. Their claim of the land around the Southpansberg is based on facts.

The Venda tribe were said to have originally occupied a large area of the Transvaal, up in the North. During the early ages, they used to be scattered even in areas far beyond the Southpansberg. Tempelhoff (199:17) in his study indicates that:

> Between the period 1688 and 1800, there were four Venda monarchs in the region between Limpopo river in the North, the Olifants River in the South and the Mogalakwena river in the West. The monarchs respectively were Dimbanyika, Dyambeu, Thohoyandou and Tshisevhe, their capital was Dzanani II in the Nzhelele Valley.

The above assertion serves to prove that indeed the Venda tribe originally occupied a large area of the Northern Transvaal long before anyone did. They lost their areas due to conflicts with other groups that came later on. Tempelhoff (1999:18) goes on to share some light in this regard when he asserts that:

After about 1800, when Mpofu (son of Thohoyandou) came into power, the capital of the Venda Kingdom was shared between the Nzhelele and Tshiruluuni. This area above Hanglip was ostensibly used for residential purposes. The cattle grazing region was below the mountain in the region where Louis Trichardt is situated today.

The above view, adds to an already clear assertion that the Venda people arrived in this area of the Soutpansberg long before other people. They did not only arrive, but also made use of the areas around Soutpansberg. On top of the mountains, they established their capital Tshiruluuni and below the mountains, the location of the present-day town of Louis Trichardt was their grazing land.

Anyone who could come and try to disturb such peaceful arrangement would be looking for war as did the first *Voortrekkers* who arrived there. No any other tribe, including the Vendas, would be willing to vacate their land as was expected by the *Voortrekkers*. According to oral literature, it is a widely known fact that the Venda people built their residences on top of the mountains for security reasons. The same was true with the Venda people in the Soutpansberg. This view is shared by Tempelhoff (1999: 18) :

> The Venda king and his followers could see when their enemies approached. They could also defend themselves much better in the case of an attack.

This area therefore had been chosen by the Venda people for its strategic position. They could also put a watchful eye on their cattle grazing below. This set up was very peaceful until the arrival of the first *Voortrekkers* in the Soutpansberg, Langhans van Rensburg and Louis Trichardt.

Beach quoted in Maylam (1986:52) also attests to the fact that the Venda people were the earliest inhabitants of this area of the Soutpansberg when he points out that:

> We now know that the basic Venda-speaking people have been present in the Soutpansberg from very early times.

The above assertion is of course another testimony to the ever-presence of the Venda people in the Soutpansberg. Many researchers as has already been observed, have concluded that this tribe, the Vendas, were the first to arrive here, thereby making them the rightful owners of the land around the Soutpansberg.

Another light in this regard s shed by a *Learn and Teach publication* (1981:5) which maintains that:

> About 350 years ago, the Venda came to live in the Northern Transvaal on the land around Soutpansberg.

Beach quoted in Maylam (1986:52) further supports the above statement by saying that:

> It is known that a Venda state existed around the early eighteenth century and before. This state was known as Thovhela.

The above assertion bears testimony to the fact that indeed, a Venda state existed many years ago. The name Thovhela, even though it existed then , is not known to an average Venda-speaking person. This suggests that this state existed many years ago. However, the name Thovhela is today used to refer to Kings. Magubane (1998: 82) in his quest to investigate the origin of the Venda people maintains that:

> Many Venda see themselves as traditionalist, but their culture has been very dynamic and adaptable. In the past, they controlled a vast area in the North of the country. Today, as a result of land seizure by Whites, in the late 19th century, and the apartheid policies from the 1960s, they are centered in the North-East, mainly around Makhado and Sibasa in the Limpopo Province.

This above-mentioned view as expounded by Magubane attests to the fact that the Venda people originally controlled a vast area even beyond the Soutpansberg. This area therefore

appears to be the centre of the Venda territory. It is evident even today that the Venda people have a large influence in the areas around the Soutpansberg.

According to oral history, the Vhavenda people are the descendents of a tribe that left central Africa and began wandering southwards at the same time as Jan Van Riebeeck in 1652. After traveling for some years, they needed a rest. They found an ideal place near Mabelingwe in Zimbabwe. They met a smaller tribe known as Vhalemba, who were from North Africa. They stayed together and they were absorbed into each other, becoming one tribe, to be later known as Vhavenda.

While they were in Zimbabwe, their older leader died, and Dimbanyika became the new leader. They crossed the Limpopo river and settled in the Southpansberg mountains. This is how the Venda tribe came into being. According to Giesekke (1998:6), from about the mid-17th century, small groups of people entered the area from the North and South. One of the last group, and by far the biggest group to arrive here, were the Vhasenzi.

## 2.1.2 Settlers from Europe

Settlers of European origin settled in the Soutpansberg area during the 19th century. They arrived in this area of the Soutpansberg two centuries late than the settlers from Africa. According to Tempelhoff (1999:21), Trichardt and his people moved up to the Soutpansberg in May 1836. Shortly after this, he was followed by Van Rensberg who arrived in June 1836.

These were among the first *Voortrekkers* Settlers to reach the Southpansberg area. After the two groups of Settlers, another one arrived under Andries Hendrick Potgieter. Louis Trichardt and Potgieter according to Tempelhoff (1999:21) decided to combine their forces and form a settlement in the Soutpansberg areas. Their dream was unfortunately never realized. The summer heat of the Soutpansberg forced them to more away from the salt pan.

They later settled in Schoemansdal between 1836 and 1837, named after Stephanus Schoeman. The *Voortrekkers* lived among the Black communities of the Soutpansberg. These people were the Ramabulanas, who were the owners of the land around the Soutpansberg region. To substantiate this , Tempelhoff (1999:21) writes:

> During the stay of the Trichardt trek at Soutpansberg there were indications in his diary that the Voortrekker leader established sound relations with the local Black communities.

The reason for this was to avoid confrontations as they knew that they were in other people's land. They were trying to foster a spirit of co-existence. Referring to Louis Trichardt, Tempelhoff (1991:21) goes on to say that he had considerable dealings with the Venda ruler Rasetuu Ramabulana and Mashau.

The above-mentioned statement indicates the fact that they knew that they had to build good relationships with the leaders of the people with whom they were going to interact on a daily basis.

In August 1837, Trichardt decided to attempt a trip to Delagoa Bay. They left the Soutpansberg the same year. It was a journey that would take two months. Many of them died of malaria, including Louis Trichardt himself at the age of 55 in October 1938. After Louis Trichardt's death, another Voortrekker leader by the name of Andries Hendrick Potgieter settled in the Soutpansberg in May 1848.

According to Tempelhoff (1999:22), Potgieter founded a settlement called Soutpansbergdorp situated 17 kilometers west of present day Louis Trichardt. In due course, the name of this settlement changed from Soutpansberg to Schoemansdal, named after Stephanus Schoeman. Another prominent figure of the past to have settled in the Soutpansberg was a Portuguese trader by the name of Joao Albasini, who arrived in 1848. Albasini left Schoemansdal in 1857 for a farm at Luonde, near the present Louis Trichardt.

The town of Schoemansdal was at this time flourishing as a trade centre and hunting ground. This statement is supported by Giesekke (1998:23) in his assertion :

> In those days hunting was no-sport, it was an industry. The meat provided settlers with food. The leather hides were used for clothing (e.g. shoes, jackets, belts and pants).

During those days, life in Schoemansdal was normal, for now. There was a good relationship between members of the society. Residents of Schoemansdal soon interacted with the Venda people and there was a great degree of trust and co-existence among the Venda and the settlers. To attest to this, Tempelhoff (1999:25) maintains that Schoemansdal existed for a period of 19 years (1848-1867). This shows that for a long period,  people lived in harmony with no threats of war. But surprisingly, tempers were boiling as it would later turn out to be. Giesekke (1999:23) in his assertion about good neighborliness among this communities states that:

> But as life improved, the people of Schoemansdal became lazy and greedy. Hunting was soon left to Venda trackers. The trackers were given guns and ammunition, and told to hunt for elephant.

There was thus, a great degree of trust between these communities. According to elderly informants, White people were so relaxed in such a way that they started to settle on land which the Venda people felt was theirs. While they were there, they started to undermine traditional rulers. They took their land, removing  people away from their rulers. Although it is not  clear as to what triggered the war, this was seen as a very good recipe for war.

## 2.2 THE EVACUATION OF SCHOEMANSDAL

### 2.2.1  Makhado's ascension to the throne, 1864

After the death of his father, Ravele Ramabulana, Makhado became the new ruler of the Venda people in 1864. Makhado was a brave ruler, who was capable of making good decisions. Under Makhado, as the new ruler, the Venda people were no longer prepared to accept the presence of the White people in the Soutpansberg. This is supported by Van Warmelo (1940:57) when he states that:

> Makhado had not long been on the throne when he began to get in bad terms with the White men when he observed that they were full of pride and took away from his people what belonged to them and showed himself scant respect.

The ruler of the Venda people, Makhado and his subjects were beginning to feel uncomfortable by the presence of foreigners in their own land. Tensions arose between Makhado and the Settlers. Makhado was in the meantime, preparing himself for war. The Settlers were not aware of what Makhado had in mind. Makhado assembled his men, and armed themselves with guns which they had earlier refused to hand back to their owners during one of the many hunting expeditions.

According to Van Warmelo (1940:58), one day the Boers had him called, but he merely sent some young men, by which they understood that he wished to slight them. They sent armed men to his *kraal* to ask for an explanation, but they only got an impertinent reply. They continued arguing with one another and this caused a big problem. It came to a fight and the Boers had to flee.

Makhado, 'the Lion of the North' as he was called, emerged victorious. His bravery and fearlessness was shown in many fights he engaged with the Boers and still emerged victorious. To show his bravery and fearlessness, he was quoted in Van Warmelo (1940:58) saying " these little White men have become too much at home in the country of

my father."Makhado's statement was an indication that he was indeed fearless and prepared to defend what he thought belonged to him. During that night  he attacked and killed them and their children and drove others out. From that day, a mutual hatred arose. All the trust between these two communities was lost.

## 2.2.2 Factors leading up to the final evacuation of Schoemansdal, 15 July 1867.

Sporadic attacks on White farms were launched in March 1865. These were after the Volksraad in Pretoria introduced the Native Tax. This decision did not go down well with the Venda people and their ruler. According to this law, every native had to pay tax to the Zuid Afrikaanse Republiek (ZAR) government. The Venda people were surprised because according to Giesekke (1998:25) they asked themselves; "Why should the Vhavenda pay taxes to the White government? Did the Whites not come to live in the land of the Vhavenda? By rights the Settlers should be paying taxes to the Vhavenda." Although there were no direct causes of tensions and wars between these two communities, the introduction of the Native Tax was one of them. The above view is further attested by a *Benso/Rau* publication (1979:21) which says:

> The tax and other factors aggravated the already tense situation and compelled Commandant Paul Kruger to lead an army of the  ZAR into Soutpansberg but he failed to subjugate Makhado and his uncle Madzhie.

On July 1865, the Venda warriors attacked Schoemansdal, unfortunately, the Settlers were much more prepared. They could not penetrate the thick walls of the fort. These attacks were now on a daily basis. Every night, the warriors would attack the Settlers, but the Settlers stood their ground. These attacks were masterminded by Madzhie, who was Makhado's uncle.

Schoemansdal was a White settlement west of Louis Trichardt of today. It is about 55 km away from town. During these mighty raids by the Venda warriors, they stole cattle, guns

and ammunition. They were now heavily armed, a situation that threatened and made the Settlers restless. Several attempts were made by the Settlers to drive Makhado out of his stronghold of Swongozwi, but they were not successful. Makhado was able to defend himself and the Settlers had to retreat.

Several attempts were again made against Makhado, but as usual, he stood his ground. Meanwhile, he continued his mighty raids on the White Settlers, destroying everything he came across. It was because of the success of these mighty raids that earned him the nickname 'Tshilwavhusiku tsha Ha-Ramabulana, (the night fighter of Ramabulana's). In the meantime, this proved to be too much for the Settlers. Giesekke (1998:27) notes:

> Schoeman knew they could not go on like this. He wrote an urgent letter to the Pretoria government requesting assistance to drive Makhado out of his stronghold.

The above statement is a testimony to the fact that Makhado was indeed a thorn in the flesh of the Schoemansdal Settlers. They tried all the tricks to subjugate him, but failed to do so. In June 1867, General Paul Kruger arrived at Schoemansdal with his commandos. Makhado was not to be intimidated by this. He stood firm and did not want to compromise his independence. Makhado's boldness is also confirmed by Giesekke (1998:27) who states that:

> Kruger and his commandos arrived at Schoemansdal in June1867. A messenger was sent to Makhado to request a meeting of the leaders of both sides. But Makhado refused to meet with Kruger, and the mighty raids continued.

Makhado was more determined to fight for his independence in the land of his father. His commitment to the freedom of his people and fighting for his father's land was unquestionable.

It was Makhado's bold defense of his land in the Soutpansberg that made Kruger and the Settlers realize that it would be impossible to drive Makhado out of his fortress without more ammunition. According to Giesekke (1998: 28) Kruger and his men were dismayed

by the news that there would be no more ammunition. They were told to make do with what they had. A meeting was called on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1867 to explain the situation. The residents of Schoemansdal started packing as much as they could onto their wagons.

At sunrise, 15 July 1867, they left Schoemansdal and settled at a new place called Marabastad, just South of the present-day Pietersburg. Tempelhoff (1999:27) commenting about Makhado's bravery and the evacuation of Schoemansdal, maintains that:

> Eventually on 15 July 1867, at the instruction of Paul Kruger, Schoemansdal was evacuated. Makhado's position and status went from strength to strength. He was able to hold his throne as the only ruler who had not yet been defeated by the forces of the White government of the South African Republic

Makhado was indeed a fearless ruler. Up in the far north, he was regarded as the only ruler who fought bravely against colonialism. He fought gallantly to protect what he thought belonged to his people, the land. He did not want to compromise the independence of his people .To attest to this view, Tempelhoff (1999:27) illustrates that:

> This status was further enhanced when the mighty Pedi, under the ruler of Sekhukhune, were defeated in1879 by the British troops under Sir Garnet Wolsely. The Venda monarch clearly had a rating of supreme authority in the Northern Transvaal which was not equaled.

After the evacuation of Schoemansdal, a few farmers refused to leave. Some settled near Goedewensh, where Joao Albasini offered them protection. In the meantime Schoemansdal was looted and razed to the ground.

According to Giesekke (1998:29) it was the only town in the history of Settlers to have fallen to a Black ruler. After that, Makhado was once again the ruler of his Kingdom in the Soutpansberg. By this time, everyone among the Voortrekkers knew Makhado. They were no longer willing to take chances. They tried to persuade him to come down and talk to

them, but he was reluctant. The following are some of the incidents in which Makhado stood his ground and did not want to be moved by a mere extension of a hand of friendship. These incidents below as stated by Giesekke (1998:31) show that Makhado did not want to trust, compromise nor appease the Settlers at the expense of his people and land.

After the arrival of missionaries, many chiefs were happy to have them in their areas, although not always for the best reasons. Some hoped to get guns and trade with them. Makhado however, remained suspicious of all White people and refused to have any mission stations in his kingdom. The above stance, taken by Makhado was an open defiance against the invasion of the White Settlers in his father's land.

In April 1878, British officials visited the Soutpansberg to explain their new policies to the people. All the chiefs came to the meeting except Makhado. From then on Makhado despised the other Venda chiefs for pandering to the Whites and used every opportunity to show them his might. Again Makhado openly defied the British in order to show them that he was the only unwavering chief of the area.

In 1893, the ZAR could no longer ignore the happenings in the North. Towards the end of 1893, Gen. Piet Joubert, the Kommandant Generaal of the ZAR, warned Makhado not to listen to agitators from the North. Makhado was invited to Pretoria to discuss his grievances.He ignored the invitation. By doing this, Makhado wanted to show them who he was. Early in 1894, Joubert came to the Soutpansberg to speak to Makhado. But warriors refused to allow Joubert across the Doorn River and had to turn back without having seen Makhado.

This and all other incidents mentioned above, show that Makhado was not a weak leader who could be easily swayed away by circumstances. His intelligence and military exploits proved beyond any reasonable doubt that he was a very rare breed of a leader. He could see right into the minds of the Settlers, what their intentions were.

## 2.3 MAKHADO'S ACT OF RESISTANCE AS NARRATED BY MOELLER-MALAN

Another account of Makhado's bravery and defiance was that given by Moeller - Malan (1953: 169) who indicates that:

> Then the governor went to Tshivhase, near Sibasa. They all came and paid homage to him. Each man had to pay 10s in tax, and the borders were once more proclaimed. Only Makhado did not come.

This was an action of no comprise.Makhado wanted to remain independent, proud of himself and his tribe. He scorned those who paid homage to a White Chief. He was quoted by Moeller-Malan(1953:169)as saying that "since you are no longer proud of guarding Vendaland, I shall myself come and eat you up".

This was a reference to raids. In all those raids, he returned triumphantly, along with cattle and people.The bottom-line of all this was that he was a no nonsense ruler, who did not want any interference from the Settlers. Again, Moeller-Malan (1953:174), in some of Makhado's responses states that:

> Makhado, wishing a complete breakaway from the White people, sent one of his indunas to the Reverend Hofmeyer at Goedgedacht in which he said: You and your mission station are in my way. I do not want to see you again.

This was a direct reference to the missionaries in his land. He did not want to see them in his land as he was very sceptical about them. He did not trust them. His main fears were that they would take away his land and its people. To add more on Makhado's resistant ways, Moeller-Malan (1953:182) states that:

> The Reverend Wessmann sent word to Makhado by Moses, a man who was a trusted friend to the missionaries, and also related to the Chief: "Have I the permission to come and visit you with a letter that speaks with the voice of the father at Pretoria?" "Tell the Morena, if he comes on a personal visit to me, he shall be very welcome. But if is in connection with something that way-pointing towards Pretoria he had better stay at home, for I am ill, much too ill to listen to anything from that quarter.

After hearing the contents of the letter, according to Moeller-Malan (1953:182), Makhado was said to have clapped his hands over Reverend Wessmann's ears and exclaimed:

> Do not speak to me in that language (the Dutch he had heard and partly spoken since childhood), I will not listen to you! Speak to me in my own language.

Makhado was relentless in his quest for total independence of his people. His resistance to White occupation and domination was a real inspiration to the fight against colonialism in South Africa. Meanwhile, the number of White people in the Northern Transvaal was increasing. It was now possible for them to instigate wars with different tribes in the Northern Transvaal. Different tribes in the Northern Transvaal were defeated by the Settlers. It was decided that they would finally round-up these wars with Makhado, as they feared him. Makhado was always able to defend himself against any attack. With regard to Makhado's ability to defend himself, Tempelhoff (1999:32) reveals that Makhado, for as long he lived, was able to hold his own against the South African Republic.

The government knew that it was very important for them to establish an urban centre, even if it was very close to the mountain. But this would not be readily accepted by Makhado and his people. In 1891, plans were set in motion for the establishment of a town. The government informed Makhado about its intention to establish a town on Rietvlei. Tempelhoff (1999:33)indicates that Makhado let it be known that his subjects would not

approve of the measure. But Munnik, who was a Magistrate in the Soutpansberg, assured him that the government would not be halted by that consideration.

The situation became volatile and a fierce fight ensured. Unfortunately, Makhado ,the hero of the Venda tribe,was fatally wounded and died on 11 September 1895 at an early age of 55. With regard to Makhado's death, Moeller-Malan adds that:

> But Makhado, the great Bull Elephant of the North, who had led his herd to the height of their strength and power of resistance, was wounded to death- betrayed from within, by his own flesh and blood, like most of the chiefs that came and went before him. He, the bravest, strongest and kindest, the most cunning of them all.

Tempelhoff (1999:33),writing about Makhado's death states that:

> Indeed Makhado's death was a great loss, not only to the Venda tribe, but to the whole of Northern Transvaal, as he was the only ruler who before his death was still yet to test defeat in the hands of the White Settlers. He had successfully defended his territory and subjects more than any other ruler during his time.

## 2.4  EVENTS  AFTER THE DEATH OF MAKHADO

After the death of Makhado , the White settlers did not waste time in attacking the natives. Mphephu, succeeded Makhado, his father. During his few months as a ruler of the Venda people, he made the biggest mistake by making peace with the Whites. But this did not mean that  confrontations had ceased.With regard to the above view, Giesekke(1998:32) states that:

> But every time, the surveyors were forced back by threatening warriors, as soon as they entered Mphephu's territory.

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Mphephu, like his father, did not want any disturbance in his father's territory. The surveyors referred to in the above statement, were those who wanted to establish a new town in the vicinity of Makhado's territory. Commenting about this, Giesekke (1998:35) has this to say:

> They sent surveyors into the Western areas of the Mphephu Kingdom (near Mara) to measure up the land. They had hardly begun when Mphephu's warriors threatened to shoot them and they had to leave. This was an open declaration of war.

General Piet Joubert, was reluctant to go to war with Mphephu, preferring negotiations .By that time, war was inevitable and Joubert made final preparation with the help from the commandos from various regions of the Zuid-Afrikaanse Republiek. All the preparations for war were completed by the end of October 1898.  With regard to the final attack on Mphephu, Tempelhoff (1999:38) states that on 16 November at 04:30 the Republican forces attacked Luatame from the West, the South and the East.

This attack led to the disintegration of Mphephu's once mighty kingdom. Unlike his father, Mphephu was unable to offer effective resistance. He stood no chance against the combined forces of Pretoria, Potchefstrom, Waterberg, Heidelburg and Standerton.

 His capital of Luatame was taken over and residents were forced to flee. Attesting to the above-mentioned statement, Tempelhoff (1999:38) reveals that:

> After unsuccessfully seeking refuge with his people in the east, Mphephu and some of his followers fled across the Limpopo river into Rhodesia where he was disarmed by the police in Mashonaland.

The ZAR government finally achieved its objective of driving Mphephu out of the area,thereby creating a conducive environment for the establishment of a town at the foot

of the Soutpansberg  as it was the dominant idea since the evacuation of Schoemansdal in 1867. A *Benso-Rau* publication (1979:22)comments on Mphephu's defeat:

> This defeat marked the final subjugation of the Vhavenda by the ZAR.The establishment of the town of Louis Trichardt was one of the immediate result of the Mphephu war.

Mphephu's defeat closed the chapter in the struggle against foreign occupation of the land in the Northern Transvaal. Before Mphephu came to power, his father Makhado was the only ruler in the whole of South Africa to have continually and successfully defended his kingdom against foreign occupation. The above view is further supported by Giliomee  and Mbenga (2007:175) who states that:

> As the Boers began to reoccupy the Soutpansberg areas in the 1880's they carried out military campaigns against the Venda in order to bring them under Boer government control. In the mid 1890's, Makhado's successor, Mphephu defended Venda independence and refused to the Boer. rule. But in 1898, a Boer force of some 4000 men invaded and defeated the Venda Chief Mphephu and many thousands of his followers fled across the Limpopo river into Shona country in present - day Zimbabwe Thus ended the freedom of the last independent African Chiefdom in South Africa.

The victory of the ZAR in the Soutpansberg was indeed a great achievement in the history of the White Settlers in the Northern Transvaal and the Republic of South Africa as a whole. It was after this victory that White people began to remove Black people from their fertile land and resettle them in barren and mountainous land.

Makhado, the great Chief of the Vhavenda, was indeed a super-hero to the people of the Soutpansberg and South Africa as a whole. His contribution to the independence of his people and the fight against colonialism cannot be over-emphasized.

## 2.5 THE FOUNDING OF LOUIS TRICHARDT

### 2.5.1 Early history of the town

Louis Trichardt was founded in February 1899. This was after the defeat of Makhado. In accordance with the history of the founding of Louis Trichardt, http://en. wikipedia.org / wiki / Louis Trichardt (2008) points out that:

> Like many other towns, in South Africa, Louis Trichardt had its origin in Voortrekker settlement of the area. Two groups of Trekkers reached the Soutpansberg mountain range in 1836, one under the leadership of Louis Trichardt (born in Copenhagen, Denmark, 1783-1838) and the other under Hans van Ransburg. Van Ransburg decided to take his group further east, towards Lourenco Marques (today Maputo) in what is now Mozambique, but his entire party was killed en route. Trichardt and his group stayed near the mountain, camping near what eventually became the town of Louis Trichardt. After a year of staying in the area, they decided to head for Lourenco Marques, a journey that took them 7 months to complete, killing more than half the group (including Trichardt himself) en route. Other Trekkers soon settled in the area, clashing with the Venda people living in the area. The town of Louis Trichardt was finally founded in February 1899.

It is quite clear from the above that the town was founded in the vicinity of the Venda territory, hence the clash that followed. To expand the above assertion, the *Standard Encyclopedia of Southern Africa-vol* 7, carries the following information:

> Louis Trichardt was established after war against Bavenda chief Mpefu (Mphephu), successor to Magato (Makhado) on the farms Bergvliet and Rietvlei. General Piet Joubert named it after the Voortrekker leader at the request of his grandson, Colonel S. Trichardt. It was surveyed in 1898 and proclaimed a town on 13 February 1899.

It is quitevery interesting to note that even during the early ages, people felt the need to name places after people they considered their heroes. This town was named after a great trekker, Louis Trichardt, who was a hero to the Boer people.

Ironically, his heroic deeds were to occupy other people's land in an effort to finally subjugate them. To the Venda people, Makhado was also a hero who led them against all foreign invaders. Bulpin (1993:243) states that:

> The great hero- Chief of the Venda was Makhado, who led them in the battle against the ivory hunters in Schoemansdal. When Europeans abandoned the town, in 1867, Makhado reigned supreme over the area of the Soutpansberg, and it was not until 1898 that the Transvaal government regained control.

Finally, a number of White Settlers returned to settle in the newly established town. General Piet Joubert kept his promise and built a small church on the spot where the commandoes had camped the day before the Mphephu war. Mphephu and his people were relegated to the 'Native Reserves'. In 1924, Mphephu, the son of Makhado died at Nzhelele. He was buried in the ancestral graveyard, near Hanglip. Even today, members of his family are still buried there.

**2.5.2 Louis Trichardt declared a municipality, 1934.**

Louis Trichardt was declared a municipality in 1934. The Municipal Council was controlled by the Whites who were very conservative. They propagated White supremacy, but their policies did not do any good to the municipality. Boycotts, especially consumer boycotts, became the order of the day in this municipality.These boycotts were organized by the Congress of South African Trade Unions COSATU in the first place and then the United Democratic Front (UDF). The policies of the council were based on apartheid. They did not want to mix with other racial groups. Black people, including Coloureds and Indians were no longer allowed to live and have businesses in town. Originally, however,

Indians were allowed to have businesses in town. This was before the introduction of the Group Areas Act of 1950.

Before, this Act was known as the Native Affairs Act of 1920, and was later called the Reservation of Separate Amenities Act of 1953. According to this Act, any group, based on its colour should have its own separate amenities for its exclusive use. Blacks, Coloureds, Indians and White people should not share any amenity, from toilets to schools. Consequently,Black people were not included in the municipalities and parliament of this country. Giliomee and Schlemmer (1989:95) quoted Verwoerd in parliament in 1959 as saying:

> The Native Representatives cannot be retained because they are declared enemies of this policy of emancipation. What they say in Parliament is not important, but it is because of access they have to the Natives, and the status they have acquired to create the wrong impressions in the minds of the Bantu masses, to try to dissuade them from the process of growing independence, that they should be deprived of this opportunity to abuse their position.

From that day, Black people were no longer represented in any form of government. They were excluded and separated into their own areas, away from White people.

## 2.6 LOUIS TRICHARDT'S TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGES

A township, according to *Chamber's Compact Dictionary* (2000:832) is defined as 'an urban area that was formerly set aside for Non-White settlers.' According to the above definition, it is clear that these areas were designed with the sole aim of dividing people according to the colour of their skin. A true reflection of the fact that when Settlers came to our country, they wanted to take what belonged to Black people for their own exclusive use. To further substantiate the above –mentioned view, Giliomee and Schlemmer (1989:83), quoted a speech by the then Prime Minister, J.G Strydom in 1949 in which he maintains that:

> "The White population of our country, which is in the minority, can remain White only if they retain their consciousness of colour…(and) their national pride, their pride as a race … A sense of colour cannot be maintained on the basis of equality, that is, if there is no apartheid for daily intercourse in social affairs, politically or in any other field."

This was the underlying philosophy of communal apartheid. They had to reinforce this by introducing segregated residential areas and public amenities. From the introduction of the Native Act of 1920, Reservation of separate Amenities Act of 1953 and the Group Areas Act of 1950, the idea of townships among others was born. Louis Trichardt is surrounded by among others, the following townships and villages:

**2.6.1 Tshikota**

This is a township south-west of Louis Trichardt. It is about 3 kilometers from Louis Trichardt. This was the first township of Louis Trichardt, proclaimed on 15th October 1917. This township was situated north of the current township called Tshikota. It was in this township that the name of Makhado was first suggested. According to Tempelhoff (1999:172), at a meeting of the Native Advisory Board held on 04th March 1954, Mr S. Netshilindi recommended that the new township be called "Makgado Location". Unfortunately, the name was not widely supported.

From the above assertion, it is clear that Black people had the name Makhado in their minds for a long time. The township was subsequently named after Tshikota, a ruler who resided in the area in the nineteenth century. The name was widely supported. The government succeeded in this regard and people were segregated in this Blacks-only township.

## 2.6.2 Buysdorp

This is a Coloured township west of Louis Trichardt. It was named after Coenraad de Buys, one of the pioneers of the Buys community. *The Tourism Blueprint Reference Guide to the 9 Provinces of South Africa* (1997:281) refers to Buysdorp as the settlement of a fascinating local people descendants of Coenraad de Buys who settled in the area many years ago before the arrival of the *Voortrekkers*. Many years after the *Voortrekkers* arrived, they again relegated his people to the very same area, this time with the aim of enforcing their policy of separate development.

## 2.6.3 Eltivillas

This is an area north of Louis Trichardt. It is about 2 kilometers from Louis Trichardt. It is an area meant specifically for the Indian people. A new shopping complex and residential area was developed in order to keep the Indians away from town. Raper (2004:87)refers to Eltivillas as a township 2 kilometers from Louis Trichardt. The first part of the name is derived from the initial letters of Louis-Trichardt.This area was also developed with the aim of resettling the Indian community away from town.

## 2.6.4 Gertrudsberg

This was started as a Berlin mission station, on the farm Ledig. It was founded for the Venda people during the end of the nineteenth century. This mission station became an important centre for Black people along the Soutpansberg. Many people who worked in town as domestics, made this place their homes. During the start of the 1960s, people were told to relocate to Zamekomst farm, which belonged to Mr J.Grieve. This was the start of forced removals.

### 2.6.5 Zamekomste

This is an area west of Louis Trichardt. It is about 35 kilometers from Louis Trichardt. People living in Getrudsberg were forcefully removed and relocated to this area. Soldiers were used in carring out the order. It is an area under Chief Kutama. Today, it is a complete village with many people residing there.

### 2.6.6 Madombidzha

This is another area west of Louis Trichardt. It is about 15 kilometers away from town. Residents of this area were from the second half that did not want to go to Zamekomste after being forcefully removed from Getrudsberg. They then choose to reside in Madombidzha,which is closer to town, under Chief Sinthumule.

### 2.6.7 Dzanani

In the north of Louis Trichardt, there are a number of villages that constitute what is known as Nzhelele village. This is comprised of Maname next to the Hendrik Verwoerd tunnels, Tshikuwi, Tshirolwe, Luvhalani, Matsa, Biaba, Tshituni, Matidza, Rabali, Mandiwana, Madzhatsha, Mamuhohi, Vhutuwangadzebu, Dzanani Musanda and Sendedza. All these and other villages have their own chiefs who all fall under Paromount Chief Toni Mphephu Ramabulana. The inhabitants of these villages also depend on the town of Louis Trichardt for employment and shopping. All these villages are far away from town.

### 2.6.8 Elim/Mpheni

This area started as a Swiss mission station. In this area, both Vendas and Shangaans live together, with the Vendas mostly found in Mpheni and the Shangaans concentrated around Elim Hospital and Waterval.

## 2.7 THE PRESENT DAY LOUIS TRICHARDT

This is a town in Limpopo Province, South Africa. It is settled close to the Soutpansberg mountains. Information retrieved from http://en . wikipedia. org/wiki/ Louis Trichardt (2008) states that:

> Louis Trichardt (for a short period known as Makhado) is a town situated at the foot of the Soutpansberg mountain range in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. It is in a fertile region where litchis, bananas, mangos and nuts are grown. The municipality area comprises 754 727 square kilometers (km2). The national road runs through the town.

Louis Trichardt, like other conservative towns was hit by a spate of consumer boycotts. Among the demands were the development of townships like Tshikota and an end to the segregation of the town's public amenities. In March 1991, Mr Amie Venter, the Minister for Local Government informed the council that the town's public facilities should be open to all people.

### 2.7.1 Transition to multi-party democracy

The winds of political change were blowing all over South Africa. Louis Trichardt was also hit by these winds oftransformation. The transition here started in August 1992 after the ANC sanctioned a countrywide mass action campaign. This was the beginning of an end to the conservative ways of running the town of Louis Trichardt.

A group of around 500-600 people marched through the streets of Louis Trichardt and handed over a petition to the new Mayor ,Councillor Johan Moolman in the Civic Centre. According to Tempelhoff (1999:292), among the demands contained in the petition, were an end to all forms of discrimination and baasskap mentality,which is a mentality that promote White supremacy over Black people.

At that time, according to Tempelhoff (1999), there was a non-political organization called the Transvaal Local Government Association (TLGA) whose main aim was to incorporate local authorities across the racial divide into one body. Louis Trichardt Town Council was also expected to join up with this organization. Tempelhoff (1999) went on to state that not surprising, the Town Council of Louis Trichardt, which was very conservative, decided to remain part of the Transvaal Municipal Association (TMA), instead of joining the Transvaal Local Government Association. In February 1994, the Transitional Act on Local Government was approved by the South African parliament. This Act was to see to it that local councils went through a period of transition where they had to include all races and be in line with the new democratic order taking place in South Africa.

The formation of these forums was given a go-ahead by the Town Council of Louis Trichardt in March 1994. The main task of this forum was to prepare the local elections. This forum had to be non-racial and inclusive. It included the town itself, Eltivillas and Tshikota. Its first hurdle was to negotiate on the area of jurisdiction to be served in terms of the new local authority.

These arrangements did not please a number of individuals. In reaction to this new political set up being negotiated, the local branch of the Afrikaaner Volksfront (AVF) put up notice boards at the entrance of the town which read "Louis Trichardt is a Volkstaat". This was a direct challenge to the new political landscape taking shape. But this defiance did not deter any efforts to establish a negotiated and acceptable Town Council.

### 2.7.2 The establishment of the transitional local council (TLC)

On 20 April, several civic organizations attended a meeting to discuss the future of the local government. According to Tempelhoff (1999:323), among the organizations that attended were; the Town Council, Tshikota Co-ordinating Committee, Tshikota Residents Committee, the Soutpansberg Afrikaanse Sakekamer, the Rotarians, Junior Rapportyers, Vleiforntein, Waterval and Sinthumule, Vuwani Local Government Council, the District

Agricultural Union and the Schoemansdal Geloftefeeskomitee. The main aim of this meeting was to discuss  the geographical region to be served by the new transitional local council. The ANC on the one hand argued that the new transitional local council had to include the town, Tshikota, Eltivillas, Vleifontein and Sinthumule. On the other hand, the mayor of Louis Trichardt, Councillor Johan Moolman, wanted the new council to comprise Tshikota, Louis Trichardt and Eltivillas. No consensus could be reached on this matter.

Finally, according to Tempelhoff (1999:326), this matter was resolved by the Arbitration Board on 23rd  July 1995. The board decided that the area would consist of Louis Trichardt, Kutama, Sinthumule, Tshikota and Eltivillas. Again, not all parties were satisfied with the decision. Beside these disagreements, the Greater Louis Trichardt Transitional Council was finally established on 13th  February 1995. It was comprised of  24 councillors. The other 9 councillors who already existed were included as members of the new council. Mr.C.E Terblanche of the Conservative Party was an additional member.

The two members from the Indian Management Committee were Messrs A.A. Chaya and N.M. Desai. The non-statutory members according to Tempelhoff (1999:327) were  Ms E. Lishivha, M. Manyuha, Messrs N.P. Magwala, T. Mashau, N.E. Matodzi, V. Mmbadaliga, M.J. Murulane, M. Ndhlovu, S. Noor, T.E. Ramakhanya, M.D. Ramovha and M.R. Selepe. Tempelhoff (1999:327) sheds more light on the activities of the new council when he states that the new council held its first meeting on 17th  February 1995.

Mr Solly Noor was voted chairman of the management committee while Councillor Johan Moolman was once again the mayor. The issue of the incorporation of Kutama and Sinthumule was still not properly resolved.

The developments in the new council were always confrontational. Consensus on a number of issues could not be reached. This is further expanded by Tempelhoff (1999: 328) who points out that "In the period leading up to the election, fierce fighting was the order of the day at council meetings".

During the meeting of 5th of March 1995, 12 councilors voted against the inclusion of Kutama and Sinthumule while 10 councilors did not vote. The non-statutory members of the Council were not happy with the decision.The ANC and SANCO lodged a consumer boycott in protest against this. Their aim was to apply pressure to the TLC to incorporate Sinthumule and Kutama into the Louis Trichardt Transitional Local Council. On 29th May1996, elections were held in the area. The ANC received most of the votes. Out of 17 770 votes, the ANC received 14 084, the Residents Association 1932, 1209 went to the National Party and 546 to the Pan African Congress.

According to Tempelhoff (1999:334), the proportional candidates who were elected to the council were:

> (i)     Mr Solly Noor
>
> (ii)    Julia Ramadwa
>
> (iii)   Eccles Matodzi
>
> (iv)    Jubilee Ramabulana
>
> (v)     Barend van Heerden

**Other  councilors for the wards were:**

> (vi)    Norman  Mabila- Ward 1
>
> (vii)   Phineas Kutama-Ward  2
>
> (viii)  Isaac     Mutshinyali- Ward 3
>
> (ix)    Patric    Sikhutsh  - Ward 4
>
> (x)     Edward  Malima-  Ward 5
>
> (xi)    Johan    Moolman –Ward 6
>
> (xii)   Schallie  van  Schalkwyk- Ward 7
>
> (xiii)  Brink  Schlessinger- Ward 8
>
> (xiv)   Louis  Holtzhausen –Ward 9
>
> (xv)    Dr  Suwill  Rurolph- Ward 10

After the May 1996 elections, the town's first Black mayor, Mr Sikhutshi was voted into office. His election did not go down well with opposition parties, especially White opposition. They considered him not fit for office.

Opposition parties like the Democratic Alliance (D.A), described the ANC's reluctance to debate about the fitness of the new mayor in office as a matter of great concern which did not encourage people to co-operate. Despite these public protests, Councillor Sikhutshi was elected for another term in office. He was subsequently succeeded by Councillor Norman Mabila. At present, the Mayor is Councillor Mavhungu Luruli.

This effectively closed the chapter of the Conservative Party's control of the Council. The town of Louis Trichardt was finally transformed from an apartheid style of administration to a new multi-party institution.

## 2.8  THE NEW MAKHADO MUNICIPALITY

Makhado Municipality was first established on 31st October 1994 as the Louis Trichardt Town Council. However, following a new municipal demarcation, a number of municipalities were established in 1997.

Again, following the Municipal Structure Act of 1998, the municipalities were merged into an NP 344 Municipality that is now known as Makhado Municipality. Makhado Municipality includes the areas of Louis Trichardt, Nzhelele, Tshipise, Elim, Tshitale, Hlanganani, Levubu, Vuwani, Alldays, Buysdorp ,and Bandelierkop.

Both the municipality and the town are named after a Venda warrior king, Tshilwavhusiku Makhado Ramabulana. The name was given because Makhado defeated the Boers, with the help of a mythical Venda drum, Ngoma Lungundu, during the Great Trek on the Soutpansberg mountains to prevent the Boers from advancing further North into his

territory. The name of the town Makhado recently reverted to Louis Trichardt following a judgement of the High Court.

The Council instituted the process anew following this judgement. It is on that basis that the researcher finds it necessary to investigate the problems around this issue. The research also investigated as to what went wrong, what could have been done, and in the end he provides some recommendations.

**CONCLUSION**

The researcher has traced the history of Louis Trichardt from the days of colonisation up to the present political dispensation. It has been established that White people lived in the area long ago, but they had found people already living there. The Venda people were the earliest inhabitants of the area. The two groups of people, White and Black people found it very hard to live harmoniously with each other. There was a complete lack of trust between the two. This then resulted in them having endless confrontations. The struggle for land ownership had been a long, sometimes painful process characterized by deaths in certain instances.

The new struggle now is not about land ownership, but about what name the town should be given. Different political formations and resident associations hold different views on this issue, hence the continued and endless disagreements on the name of the town.

# CHAPTER THREE

## PLACE RENAMINING, PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

### 3. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this chapter is to examine the way in which public institutions are renamed. Among others, public institutions will include municipalities, towns and cities. The study will focus on principles and procedures to be followed when going about this whole process. Furthermore, it will attempt to answer or investigate whether the said principles and procedures were adhered to when renaming the town of Louis Trichardt.

In the end, this Chapter will answer the following questions:

> ➢ What are the principles and procedures to be followed?
> ➢ Which ones were followed and which ones were not?
> ➢ How were they transgressed?
> ➢ What is the main problem?
> ➢ Who is having a problem and why?

### 3.1 AN OVERVIEW OF NAMING PRACTICE

Place naming has always been an interesting process in every society. People name their places for various reasons. Every name is given in accordance with the beliefs and cultural dynamics of a society. No name is given for the sake of it. Names given to a place reveals something which is deep – rooted in that particular community.

In other words, names reveal the character and behaviour of a community. Every community would want to have a name that reflects on its cultural background, history and the way they live.

Scott, Foresman (2003:88) remarks as follows regarding the naming practice within a community:

> A community name tells something about it. The more you learn about a community, the more its name means.

The above assertion attests to the fact that a place name should have a direct bearing on the community living in that area. In other words, the name of a place should tell something about that particular community. There has to be a link between the community and what the name suggests. Naming a place should be like placing a name in the sense that you give a place its proper name, a name the place and its inhabitants could easily identity with. Therefore the whole idea behind place renaming is to place back a proper name in its proper place.

It other words, this whole process of place renaming was started with the main aim of reconnecting the events of the past with the resident communities and the places themselves. The idea was to remind them of their history, where they come from and the events that made them what they are. Sebashe (2007:104), in his study about the naming practices among the Baphalaborwa reveals that:

> The Baphalaborwa applies this pattern when naming places of residence. They usually bestow a name in relation to the events that occurred in that place or circumstances that perpetuated their forceful removal before resettling in the new area of settlement.

Place renaming is a new form of a naming pattern that emerge with the dawn of the new political era in South Africa. The main aim was to rectify the past mistakes of the apartheid government. Sebashe (2007: 105), in this regard indicates that people employ this pattern as a way of reclaiming their identity, culture and their lost heritage. Sebashe (2007: 100) further adds that:

> Everyone, be it a person or a place, is assigned a name according to the conventions of the culture in which they are found.

From the above statement, it is evidently clear that the history of a nation plays a very important role in the renaming process as people would always like to remind themselves of the past events in their lives. Sebashe further supports this by maintaining that:

> Most African names are of historical importance, since they generally refer to some events in the social history of the family or clan.

This process of place renaming unfolded immediately after 1994, the dawn of the new era. In Limpopo, as well as in other parts of the Republic of South Africa, public institutions such as municipalities towns, rivers, dams, and streets were renamed, sparking a lot of controversies and disagreements among different members of the community from different cultural backgrounds.

## 3.2 PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES FOR PLACE RENAMING

## DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

### 3.2.1 Principles

According to the *South African Concise Oxford Dictionary* (2002:927) ' principle' is defined  as a fundamental truth or proposition serving as the foundation for belief or action, a   morally correct behaviour   and     attitude. Based on this definition, this study will evaluate whether this fundamental  truth that serves  as a foundation for one's actions were properly followed in the implementation of the name change of Louis Trichardt to Makhado.

### 3.2.2 Procedure

'Procedure' according to the *South African Concise Oxford Dictionary* (2002:930) is defined as an established or official way of doing something. Again, the study tries to establish whether all these proper and official ways of renaming a place were followed in the case of Louis Trichardt.

### 3.2.3 Place

'Place' according to *Chambers Compact Dictionary* (2000:587) is defined as a geographic area or position, such as a country, city, town, village etc. In all these areas or locations, there are people who live in them,and different factors will influence their naming patterns.

### 3.2.4 Renaming

*The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (2004: defines the word 'rename' as to give something a new name. This is a process that is unfolding in the town of Louis Trichardt.Since it has already been established that the town is made up of people from different cultural backgrounds, with different history and lifestyles, renaming this town will not be an easy task. New names are given in order to redress the imbalances of the past, to reclaim territory and also to bring back a lost identity amongst others. Each cultural group in this town, i.e the Vendas, Tsongas, Pedis, Indians and also Whites would like to look at this whole process from its own perspective. This, therefore, made the process of renaming Louis Trichardt much more complex than in other parts of South Africa.

Accordingly, Sebashe (2007;105) in his study about place renaming writes that:

> This is a naming pattern whereby places are renamed, with the aim of rectifying the past mistakes by the apartheid government.

He goes on to state that people employ this pattern as a way of reclaiming their identity, culture and their lost heritage. In this process, public institutions such as towns, stadia, streets, dams and universities in South Africa were affected. The focus in the present study, as is already apparent , will be in the renaming of the town of Louis Trichardt in Limpopo, to Makhado.

## 3.3 PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES AS EXPOUNDED BY THE SOUTH

### AFRICAN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES COUNCIL

### 3.3.1 PROCEDURE FOR GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN SOUTH AFRICA

#### 3.3.1.1 The South African Geographical Names Council

*The South African Geographical Names Council* is a body established by the South Africa Geographical Names Council Act, 1998 (Act no 118 of 1998) as the body responsible for standardizing geographical names in South Africa. It is constituted by the Minister of Arts and Culture.

It is consisted of experts in place names, official languages and cultural history as well as one representative from each province, and a representative of the Chief Directorate of Surveys and Mapping and the South African Language Board.

#### 3.3.1.2 What are Geographical names?

The *Handbook on Geographical Names* defines geographical names thus:

> They are the names of features on earth that are natural or man-made and adapted, and they can be populated or unpopulated.

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### 3.3.13  What are the roles of the South African Geographical Names Council?

The South African Geographical Names Council has, among others, the following functions  stated in the *Handbook on Geographical Names* (2002:1).

- To standardize geographical names under its jurisdiction. It does this by determining the name to be applied to each geographical feature, and the written form of the name.

- To recommend standardized names to the Minister for approval. It receives and records approved geographical names and makes them known through publications and on the internet.

- It liaises with the United Nations (UN), United Nations Commission for Africa, Geographical Names Authorities of member nations of the United Nations, and other international agencies concerned with the standardization of geographical names.

### 3.3.1.4  Geographical names covered by the South African Geographical Names Council

According to the *Handbook on Geographical Names* (2002:2) the  following geographical names are covered:

- Geographical names of national concern including, but not limited to towns, suburbs and any form of human settlements, post offices, railway stations, highways and government dams.

Natural landforms, e.g. mountains, hills, rivers, streams, bays, headlands and points, islands, passes ,'poorts' and 'necks'.

### 3.3.1.5 Geographical names outside the jurisdiction of the South African Geographical Names Council

- Juristic names i.e. the name of the country, the names of provinces and the names of local authorities.
- Features under the control of local authorities e.g. streets, municipal buildings, squares, parks and cemeteries.
- Privately owned buildings and farms.
- Cadastral names (names of geographical areas used for the registration of land ownership.

### 3.4 PROVINCIAL GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES COMMITEES (PGNC [S])

These committees are established in terms of Section 2 (2) (a) of the South African Geographical Names Council Act, 1998. They are established by the provincial department responsible for arts and culture after consulting with the South African Geographical Names Council (SAGNC).

### 3.4. 1 Functions of a Provincial Geographical Names Committee

A *Handbook on Geographical Names* (20002:3) stipulates the following as among the functions of a *Provincial Geographical Names Committee:*

- A Provincial Geographical Names Committee is responsible for advising local authorities and working with them in ensuring that they apply the principles of the *South African Geographical Names Council* to the names under their jurisdiction.

- A *Provincial Geographical Names Committee* makes recommendations to the *South African Geographical Names Council* on the  geographical names under their jurisdiction.

- A *Provincial Geographical Names Committee* makes recommendations to the South African Geographical Names Council on the names of geographical features that fall within its provincial boundaries. It should do preparatory work for the submission of names to the *South African Geographical Names Council*, and is responsible for seeing to it that local communities and other stakeholders are adequately consulted.

- A Provincial Geographical Names Council liaises with the South African Geographical names Council on promoting research and ensuring that unrecorded names are collected.


## 3.4.2  Reasons for standardising  geographical names

The *Handbook on Geographical Names* (2002:3) gives the following reasons for the standardisation of geographical names:

- People tend to give the same name to different places.
- Names may sound the same or spelling of one place name may be very close to that of another.
- Names can be spelled in different ways.

In a multilingual country such as South Africa, places often have more than one name. In order to avoid confusion and misunderstanding, geographical names have to be standardised by the relevant authorities throughout the world.The *Handbook on Geographical Names* (2002:3) states that it is important to standardize names for the purpose of affirming a country's history and national identity, and for purposes such as trade and commerce, transportation, communications regional and environmental planning, social   service, science and technology, elections and censuses, tourism, disaster management and search and rescue operations.

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### 3.4.3 Policies for Standardisation

According to The *Handbook on Geographical Names* (2004:4), standardisation is based on:

- The current orthographic (spelling) rules of the languages from which the names are derived.
- The wishes of the local population provided they are not in conflict with the principles of the South African Geographical Names Council.
- The historical use of the name.
- Redress, where a name is changed on the basis of historical consideration.
- United Nations resolution on the standardisation of geographic names.
- Any other relevant factors which the South African Geographical Names Council may identify.

### 3.4. 4  Principles for geographical names in South Africa

The *Handbook on Geographical Names* (2002:4),states that the same policies and principles established by the South African Geographical Names Council apply to all geographical names, including those that do not fall under the direct jurisdiction of the South African Geographical Names Council. It is the duty of the Provincial Geographical Names Committees to ensure that local authorities are aware of these principles so that they can be applied to the names of streets and other features that fall under the jurisdiction of local authorities. The following are some of the principles for geographical names as contained in the *Handbook of Geographical Names* (2002:5).

### 3.4. 5  Geographical Names that should generally be avoided

- Names that have already been approved for other places in South Africa.
- Names of places in other countries, and names of countries.

- Names of which the spelling or pronunciation is so close to that of an existing name that confusion might result.

- Names that are blasphemous, indecent, offensive, vulgar, unaesthetic or embarrassing.

- Names that are discriminatory or derogatory as regards race, colour creed, gender, political affiliation or other social factors.

- Names consisting of a personal name only, without an additional generic element (such as "park").

- Names that may be regarded as an advertisement for a particular commercial product, service or firm.

- Names that are too long or clumsily compounded.

### 3.4. 6 Naming places after a person

- Names of a living person should generally be avoided.

- Geographical entities named after persons should be in accordance with the stature of the person concerned (not, for instance, naming an obscure feature after a person of national importance).

- Written submission should, where possible, be obtained from the individual or the individual's family or heirs before that person's name is used.

### 3.4.7 One name for one entity

- Each individual feature or entity should have one official name.

### 3.4.8 Recognition of name not previously approved

Names already well established and in popular use may be submitted to the *South African Geographical Names Council*. According to the *South African Geographical Names Council* handbook (2002:6), geographical names are part of the historical, cultural and linguistic heritage of the nation.

Existing names according to the *Handbook on Geographical Names* (2002:6) can only be changed if the applicant believes that it does not meet the policies and principles of the *South African Geographical Names Council.*

### 3.4.9  Categories of names likely to be submitted for change

The following are the most common cases in which changes might be proposed according to the *Handbook on Geographical Names* (2004:7):

- A name which existed in the past but which is not at present officially recognized, and which it is now proposed to restore.
- An entity which has one or more official names, but for which other names exist, including informal names and translated or variant forms in other languages, which are not officially recognized, and which it is now proposed to recognize.
- An official name which is a modified form of a name from another language.
- Names which do not conform to the present orthography of the language concerned.
- Names which do not conform to the rules of writing names adopted by the *South African Geographical Names Council*.
- Name which are dialectal forms.
- Names which are historically incorrect, either in spelling or factually.
- A place with an existing official names or name which it is nevertheless proposed to replace with a brand new name for political or cultural reasons.

### 3.4.10 Consideration for name reviewing

- Archives, oral tradition and other resources should be consulted.
- When consideration is given to whether an original name should be restored, one factor to be taken into account may be that the original language in which the name was given may have disappeared, in which case the needs and convenience of present day society may be more important.

- It may be impossible to ascertain the correct form of the original name because its form in the language of origin is known.

- Certain legislation other than the *South African Geographical Names Council* Act governs certain kinds of geographical names (i.e. the name of the country, names of provinces and local authorities, and cadastral names.

## 3.4.11 Who may apply for approval of a name?

According to the *Handbook on Geographical Names* (2002:8) all government departments, provincial government, local authorities, the South African Post Office, property developers, and any other body or person may apply. It is against the background of these principles and procedures that the researcher finds it necessary to  evaluate whether the renaming of the town of Louis Trichardt to Makhado was properly executed or not.

## 3.5  THE PROCESS OF RENAMIMG PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN  LIMPOPO

This process of place renaming according to Sebashe (2003:105) is done with the aim of rectifying the past mistakes by the apartheid government .People employ this pattern as a way of reclaiming their identity, culture and their lost heritage. The process of place renaming is very common in Limpopo Province wherein towns, dams, streets and other public institutions were renamed. Some of the examples are:

- Louis Trichardt- renamed  Makhado
- Messina- renamed Musina
- Pietersburg-renamed Polokwane
- Potgietersrus-renamed Mokopane
- Nylstroom -renamed Modimolle
- Soekmekaar-renamed Morebeng
- Naboomspruit-renamed Mookgophong

## 3.5.1  THE RENAMING OF LOUIS TRICHARDT TO MAKHADO

### 3.5.1.1  Historical background

According to the judgement of the Supreme Court of South Africa (2007:6) Number:25 / 2006, this process was started on Friday, 25th January 2002, when the then mayor of Makhado Municipality, Councillor Patric Sikhutshi, was summoned to the office of the Provincial Member of the Executive Committee for Local Government and Housing of the Limpopo Province, where a number of names  including that of Louis Trichardt, had to be changed because, as it was put, these names reminded them of the history of oppressive colonial practices.

The following Wednesday, 30th January 2002, at a meeting of the Council, the mayor announced that the name of the town had to change before the end of February 2002, and a sub-committee was appointed by the mayor to investigate the renaming of the town. According to this judgement, (2006:6), the next day, Thursday, 31st January 2002, the secretary of the mayor, Mr NP Magwala, issued an instruction to all ward councilors to convene people's forums in their wards on Saturday, 3rd February 2002, and stated that written submissions had  to reach the secretary's office before 16th February 2002. The ward councillors were requested in this communication to invite all stakeholders to attend a public hearing on Thursday, 7th February 2002, at  2pm at the Louis Trichardt showground hall. The following day, Friday, 1st February 2002, Mr Magwala issued a notice headed thus: '**CHANGING OF THE NAME OF THE TOWN.'**

The  notice  read:

> This serves to informs you that the name of the town is about to be changed before the end of February. You are therefore requested to submit written representation to the Office of Mayor, Civic Centre in the Reception Hall, Ground Floor on or before the 06th February 2002 You may

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either fax your proposal to 015 516 4392 the said proposed list of name (s) be signed by the writers.

On Wednesday, 6th February 2002, a public meeting took place at the Louis Trichardt showground hall. It was attended by approximately a little over 100 people. In this meeting, 55 new names were suggested for the town. The municipal manager requested traditional leaders to direct the process. The dates for regional public hearing were announced as follows:

- February 12, 2002 – Vuwani
- February 13,2002 – Hlanganani
- February 14,2002 – Nzhelele
- February 17,2002 – Soutpansberg

The Vuwani meeting took place on the set date and was attended by 51 people. The Hlanganani meeting was held at Rivoni and attended by 59 people. The meeting at Nzhelele was held on 14 February 2002 and was attended by 91 people. The only meeting which did not take place was for the Soutpansberg because as they say it was due to short notice given.

In some wards of the Makhado municipality, meetings were held about the name change but they were poorly attended. In other wards no meetings were held. Ward 1, which comprises about 50% of the total jurisdictional area of the municipality, including the town of Louis Trichardt west of the national road, all the business in that part of town, the Buys community and a number of rural communities, was not able to hold a meeting about the proposed name change.

Despite this, the committee appointed to investigate the renaming of the town recommended in its report that the name of the town should be changed from Louis Trichardt to Makhado.

### 3.5.1.2. Attempts to change the name

On 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> February 2002, according to the Supreme Court judgment (2006:8) Mr Magwala sent a letter to the editor of the *Zoutpansberger*, a newspaper circulating in Louis Trichardt, which contained the following:

> 'The Executive Committee of the Sakekamer in Louis Trichardt has approached the Executive Committee of the Municipality on Tuesday the 26 February 2002 whereby it raised its concerns in relation to the change of the name of the town. The Executive Committee of Sakekamer has been requested to bring in their concerns in writing after which a meeting will follow. It is the policy of this Municipality to listen to the concerns of all its citizens and structures within this Municipality. The Municipality has already sent a report to the MEC for Local Government and Housing Mr M.J. Maswanganyi who will then ensure that necessary procedures are implemented and then gazetted. In conclusion, I must indicate that the new name of the town is Makhado.

The letter did not go down well with the *Chamber of Commerce* who then wrote to Mr Magwala, referring to the letter he had written to the editor of the *Zoutpansberger* and pointed out that what he had said in the letter was in conflict with what the mayor had said the previous day at a meeting between representative of the *Chamber of Commerce* and the executive council in which he stated that the name change be on hold until a formal meeting was held with the chamber.

Before 21th May 2002, the Council's proposed name change was considered by the names Council, but had to refer back to the Council because there was already a Makhado Township. The Names Council suggested that to avoid duplication, the council should either rename the existing Makhado and then allocate the name to Louis Trichardt. It is stated in the Supreme Court Judgement (200:9) that on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2002, the Council resolved that

Makhado Township be renamed Dzanani Township and Dzanani village be renamed Mphephu in order for Louis Trichardt to be renamed Makhado.

These name changes were considered by the *Name Council* at a meeting held on 14th March 2003. In the same year, the name of the town was changed from Louis Trichardt to Makhado.

## 3.6 CONTROVERSIES AND OBJECTIONS SURROUNDING THE NEW NAME OF MAKHADO

The name change process in Louis Trichardt was a long and arduous one. There had been some controversies and objections regarding the process. The following are some of the examples of these objections and the reasons thereof:

### 3.6.1 Objection by the South African Geographical Names Council.

According to information retrieved from http: //en. Wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis Trichardt (2002) early attempts to have this town renamed was denied by the South African Geographical Names Council because there was already a township called Makhado in the area. According to principles as outlined by the *South African Geographical Names Council*, names that have already been approved for other places in South Africa should generally be avoided.

This did not dampen the spirits of those who wanted the name changed, and as such, they asked the people of the township to change their name to something else. The new chosen name for the township was Dzanani, but when they tried to register the new township name, the South African Names Council informed them that there was another village named Dzanani in the province that had carried the same name since 1965.

Again, the authorities were not dissuaded by this and asked the people of Dzanani to change the name of their village, so that Makhado could change its name to Dzanani and

LouisTrichardt could become Makhado.According to (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki Louis Trichardt (2002) Dzanani changed its name to Mphephu, and in 2003 the name of the town was changed from Louis Trichardt to Makhado.

This was the first gross mistake made by the municipality as they rushed into things without carefully considering what the principles say. Beside, the uncertainties, the authorities managed to have the name of the town changed to Makhado, although for a short period.

### 3.6.2  Objection by the Hlanganani Concerned Group

Various groups in the region also objected to the name change of Louis Trichardt to Makhado. Some described it as tribalism and felt that the town should have received a geographical name rather than a political one.

They even went to the  extent of writing to Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Minister Ben Ngubane, protesting against the Council's attempts to name the town after historic Venda Chief Makhado. One such group was Hlanganani Concerned Group which consists of Shangaan, Pedi and Indian residents. This group claimed that the Council never consulted with the whole community and pushed for the name despite the fact that the Greater Louis Trichardt municipality had already been renamed Makhado. According to information retrieved from the internet, htt://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ LouisTrichardt (2002) the  group's spokesperson Jeffrey Gohell said on Wednesday (25/09/02) that:

> Other tribal groups, namely: Pedis, Tsongas, Indians and Whites were being deliberately excluded from the renaming process by the "predominantly Venda" council.

Gohell went on to state that; 'This is tribalism", the council should have followed the example of the Provincial Government and named the town after a mountain or a river, and

not a chief" a reference to the name of the Province, Limpopo, which is that of a river. Gohell further stated that; "that name is divisive and makes one tribe superior to the rest."

All of the above assertion were however vehemently denied by Makhado Municipality spokesperson Peter Moleya, who maintained that there was no bias towards Vendas and indicated that the rejection of a proposed name by the *National Geographical Names Council* was based on a technicality. He further maintained that a township in the area is already called Makhado and the municipality is still going to sit and discuss the way forward.

### 3.6.3 Objections by The Democratic Alliance and the Freedom Front.

Political parties like the Democratic Alliance (DA) and Freedom Front also entered the fray. They also spoke against the name change. The Democratic Alliance through its chairman in the Vhembe District, Timothy Maanda, insisted that the council had not consulted with the community and that it failed to produce minutes of public hearings. Proper consultation is one of the most important procedure for name change. According to information retrieved  from to http://en.wikipedia.Org/wiki/Louis Trichardt (2002) Maanda further indicates that:

> We are not against name changes but proper processes have to be followed. I am a Venda myself but that name is obviously divisive.

From the above assertion, it becomes clear that changing the name of the town was not an issue. The issue was whether proper procedures as stipulated by the South African Geographical Names Council were followed or not.

**3.6.4 Objections by the Soutpansberg Chamber of Commerce and the Louis Trichardt Chairperson's Association**

The Soutpansberg Chamber of Commerce representing business people in the town together with the Chairperson's Association, which is an alliance of 51 organizations representing more than 80 000 residents of the town also fought against the name change.

According to information retrieved from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis Trichardt (2005), the Chairperson's Association claimed than less than 1 % of the town's inhabitants were consulted about the name change and that a public meeting advertised to discuss the change was rescheduled without any notification, resulting in a very small number of people in attendance . The main issue here again, was that of consultation which was  not properly followed. Although other reasons were given  like the notion that Makhado was never the name of a person, the main one here was that of proper consultation.

**3.7. SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED NAME**

**3.7.1. Makhado Municipality**

The Makhado Municipality itself was the first to support and defend the proposed name. Its spokesperson, Mr Peter Moleya denied allegations that there was bias towards Vendas as the name Makhado was that of a Venda king. He indicated  that the  National Geographical Names Council rejected the proposed  name  only on a  technicality.He pointed out that the municipality would still sit and discuss the way forward.

**3.7.2  Support from the Provincial Geographical Name Committee**

The new name was approved at a meeting on Friday 20th  December 2002 despite protests by the Hlanganani group. This group called for a politically and ethnically neutral name. Despite all these, the Chairperson of the *Provincial Geographical Name Change*

*Committee*, advocate Tommy Ntsewa according to information retrieved from htt://en . wikipedia. Org/wiki/ Louis Trichardt (2002), indicated that:

> Arts, Culture, Science and Technology Minister Ben Ngubane is expected to promulgate the name early next year.

He went further to state  that: "We are aware of the ethnic despute but the majority of the people wanted Makhado. He really deserves to be  honoured because he is in the same class as other African leaders such as King Sekhukhune, who fiercely resisted colonization." The committee also gave a go ahead for the name of Makhado Township in the area to be changed to Dzanani to avoid confusion when the new name came into use.

Ntsewa also indicated that in turn Dzanani Post Office would  be changed to Mphephu. He added that the Makhado municipality had followed the relevant procedure for name changes, and had received submissions from everyone in the town. Finally, on 6 June 2003, Louis Trichardt changed its name and became known as Makhado.

## 3.8  OPPOSITION AGAINST THE  PROPOSED NAME

### 3.8.1 The Pretoria High Court ruling.

The Limpopo government had already changed the name of the town of Louis Trichardt to Makhado when a group called the Chairperson's Association decided to challenge the name change in the Pretoria High Court. This group together with representatives from the business communities, the Tsonga and Pedi people, argued that the name change would be costly and divisive. The Pretoria High Court judge, Judge Francis Legodi, however, ruled in favour of the name change. This did not go down well with the association.

According to information retrieved from http:en/wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis Trichardt (2005), a Limpopo coalition that failed to overturn the renaming of Louis Trichardt to

Makhado is to decide on Thursday, 15th September 2005 whether to appeal against Pretoria High Court's ruling or not. The decision was taken and all were in favour of appealing against the new name.

According to the Association, Louis Trichardt was not a colonialist,but the name Makhado was dividing people and undermining other ethnic groups. They also argued that the Geographical Names Committee did not consult the whole community before recommending to the ministry to change Louis Trichardt's name. The Association was adamant and would not accept defeat.

The *Chairperson's Association*, which represent more than 80 000 members, claimed that less than 1% of the inhabitants of the entire municipal area was consulted and as a result, the process was flawed and invalid. They also argued that the majority of the inhabitants of the town opposed the name change.In his submission, Counsel for the Association, Danny du Preez argued before acting Judge MK Legodi that there was no consultation with the largest ward which accounted for 51% of the area and included the town of Louis Trichardt and all businesses.

It was reported in http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LouisTrichadt(2005) that Ward Councilor Marie Helm said it had been impossible for her to call a meeting of such a large ward in the few days allowed. A public meeting in town had been advertised for a specific date, but held a day earlier without any notification, resulting in a very small attendance.

This was to support the fact that proper consultation was not done. In his submission, Counsel Du Preez went on to state that it was clear the few meetings that were held were poorly attended and not representative.

The *chamber of Commerce* argued that the name change was not economically viable for the business sector. According to them, this process would cost the town an unaffordable R18 million.

Information retrieved from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Louis Trichardt(2005) indicates that in their submission, the Minister and Council contends that there was no substance in the application and it should be dismissed. According to the Names Council and the Minister, the erstwhile Louis Trichardt was the main centre of the territory which was commonly known as Vendaland and dominated by the Venda people, to whom Makhado was a very important historical figure. However, the opposing groups, saw it the other way round. To them, Makhado was not the name of a person, but an institution and Louis Trichardt was in any event never part of Venda. They maintained that Louis Trichardt was an indigenous, pre-colonial name that was the first name for the town and never displayed any other name, and as such, should not be changed. In the end Judge Legodi dismissed their application with cost in the Pretoria High Court.

### 3.8.2 The Supreme Court of Appeal ruling

The battle for the renaming of Louis Trichardt to Makhado was back in court again. Information obtained from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Louis Trichardt (2006) indicates that the Chairperson's Association, comprising of different multiracial groups and the local business community has been granted permission to appeal against the changing of the town's name to Makhado.

It was further stated that on 18th January 2006, the Association spokesperson, Inga Gilfillan announced that documents would be served on the Arts and Culture Ministry and the Makhado Municipality on Thursday, 19th January 2006. This group was appealing after their application in the Pretoria High Court to stop the renaming of the town was rejected by Judge Francis Legodi.

According to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Louis Trichardt (2006), the group's spokesperson, Inga Gilfillan states that:

Judge Legodi has granted us leave to appeal, and after serving the papers on the Ministry and Makhado Municipality, we will apply for a date of the hearing  in the Supreme Court of Appeal.

On Thursday, 29th  March 2007, the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein ruled in favour of an appeal by a group of businessmen from the town called the Chairperson's Association against the Pretoria High Court decision. The Pretoria Court had earlier dismissed the businessmen's application to review and set aside the name change.

This northern Limpopo town, for a short period known as Makhado, had to revert to Louis Trichardt according to the  ruling by the Supreme Court of Appeal.The Supreme Court of Appeal's decision sets aside the June 2003 change of  name which was ordered by Arts and Culture Minister, Pallo Jordan. Minister Jordan and the *South African Geographical Names Council*, as respondents, were ordered  by the Supreme Court of Appeal to pay costs.

The next chapter,Chapter 4 will deal with presentation and analysis of research data.It will also look at  the impact of undermining the principles and procedures as set by the *South African Geographical Names Council.*

**CONCLUSION**

It was in this chapter that a brief overview of the renaming practice was given. It also outlined principles and procedures to be followed when renaming a place. Again, attention was also given on the renaming of public institutions, more especially towns in Limpopo, Louis Trichardt in particular.

This chapter also looked at the procedures for Geographical Names in South Africa as set down by the *South African Geographical Names Council*. It also tried to explain what geographical names are. The roles of *South African Geographical Names* were also outlined in this chapter. Another focus was on the geographical names that are covered by the South African Geographical Names Council. The chapter also looked at those geographical names that fall outside the jurisdiction of the *South African Geographical Names Council.* their functions, reasons for standardizing names, policies for standardization, geographical names that should be avoided.

In the end, the chapter gave a detailed exposition of the whole process of the renaming of Louis Trichardt to Makhado, up to the last court ruling by the Supreme Court of Appeal which ruled in favour of all the opposing groups such as the Hlanganani concerned Group, the Chairperson's Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the name of Louis Trichardt was restored back.

# CHAPTER FOUR

## PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH DATA

### 4.1 INTRODUATION

The process of renaming a place is an arduous one. It is both complicated and very sensitive. It can cause divisions instead of unity.This is so because this process affects quite a number of people with different cultural background, ideologies, attitudes, values and emotions. What sounds to be a good name to a certain group of people, may not necessarily sound the same to the other. Names, be it a place name, or a name of a person reveals through meanings the context, intentions, attitudes and the behaviour of those who gave them. Sebashe (2007: 173) acknowledges that names through  their meanings, may divulge different aspects of life that may prompt people  to attach certain connotations to their lives. It is therefore of utmost importance that when renaming a place, special attention should be paid to all the necessary procedures and principles, so that a more accommodating and conclusive agreement can be reached in his regard.Many times, money and political haggling could be spared if proper channels are followed.

This study, therefore, attempts to analyze the extent to which these procedures and principles  were followed in the renaming of Louis Trichardt to Makhado. In the process of analyzing the data, light shall also be shed as to what went wrong in the case of Louis Trichardt. This chapter will also  attempt to answer the following questions:

- How does the name change effect  people?
- Who are those who are affected?
- What is the real problem?
- Why should the town change its name and why  should it ?
- Who are the looser and who are the benefactors if any?

In this study, tables are used to summarise the results of the survey in terms of the relationship between the process of the renaming of Louis Trichardt to Makhado by the Makhado Municipality and the procedures and principles as propagated by the *South African Geographical Names Council*. The survey is comprised of twenty-one (21) questions categorized into section A, B, and C. In the first set of questions, Section A, contains personal information and the respondents were expected to put a cross next to the information that best describe  them.

Section B, deals with principles and procedures to be followed when renaming a place. Respondents were asked to answer nine (9) questions after which they were  required  to substantiate their answer.

The last section,Section C, expects respondents to either say Yes or No and then substantiate their answers. This section has fives (5) questions. Respondents were selected from among others, various  political parties, different racial groups, municipal workers, residents in and around Makhado as well as general workers.  Both male and female respondents were involved in this survey. The respondents were forty (40) in number. In order to avoid bias,an equal number of male and female respondents was used in this survey. This was  to ensure the researcher to obtain  reliable data. Among the respondents there were 20 youths and 20 adults.This study took it for granted that the youth include those respondents within the age group of 20-40 years, while adults fell between the age group of 41-50 years. The researcher felt that the youth form an integral part of this town or community and as such could not be left  out. The tables were divided into three per question.The first tables in **(a)** are based on responses according to political affiliations, race status and place of residence. All the tables in **(b)** are based on analysis in terms of gender responses, and the tables in**(c)** address the age category.

## 4.2  QUESTIONS BASED ON PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES FOR NAME CHANGE

### 4.2.1 Does the municipality consult with different stakeholders before major decisions are taken?

The above question is of utmost importance for any municipality to function efficiently. Municipalities that do not consult with affected stakeholders in important matters such as renaming a place, are doomed to fail.In other words, the decision to be taken should come from people concerned. Stakeholders here include among others, members of the public, the community, and the different political parties within the Makhado Municipality. *The Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (2004:1610) defines stakeholders as:

> Someone who has some important connection with something and therefore is affected by its success or failure.

In short, stakeholders are an integral part of a municipality. They should be involved in every major decision to be taken by the municipality as they are in the end directly affected by its failure or success.

The same applies to the process of renaming Louis Trichardt to Makhado. Proper consultation had to be made before deciding on a new name. The municipality is expected to conduct public hearings in all the wards within the Makhado Municipality in order to hear the views of the people concerned: residents of the town and surrounding villages, workers in and around Makhado Municipality, political parties, civil servants and businessmen. It is also one of the principles of the *South African Geographical Names Council* that proper consultation should be made before implementing a name change.

Failure to adhere to these principles, could render the process null and void. The municipality could also be spared an unfortunate and unnecessary embarrassment if there is extensive consultation with the different stakeholders. To add to this a *Handbook* on

*Geographical Names* (2002:6) notes that evidence must be provided that stakeholders have been consulted.

The results of the survey in each category of questions will be represented in three tables, i.e tables a, b and c. In tables (a), political parties will include the African National Congress (ANC) , which will be referred to as the ruling party for the purpose of this study. Those to be referred to as the opposition parties will include the Democratic Alliance (D.A), the United Democratic Movement (UDM),and Freedom Front (FF).

On the same table, different racial groups  Whites, Blacks and Indian residents of the town will be represented. Residents around Makhado, Municipal officials as well as general workers will also be represented .

Table 4.2.1 (a) below summarises the results of the survey in terms of political affiliation, race, status and place of residents of the respondents regarding the question whether proper consultation with the different stakeholders was made before taking major decisions.

**Proper consultation:**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 4 | 80 | 1 | 20 |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| White  Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 24 | 40 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 80 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 80 |
| Municipal Officials | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Business People | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF  :** | **40** | **17** | **42.5** | **23** | **57.5** |

From the survey above, 80% of respondents from the ruling party believe that the municipality does consult with the different stakeholders before major decisions are taken,

whereas 20% from the same party believe otherwise. From the opposition parties, grouped together, 0% believe that the municipality does consult with different stakeholders, whereas 100% does not believe that the municipality does consult with different major stakeholders at all.

In the category of the residents of the town, Black residents who believe that the municipality does consult with relevant stakeholders polled 60% ,whereas those who do not believe that made up 40%.

Results from the Indian residents indicated that those who believe that indeed proper consultation is made scored 60%, whereas those who do not believe scored 40%.White residents who believe that there is proper consultation scored 20%, whereas the majority, 80 %,believe that there is no proper consultation.

Results obtained from the survey conducted among residents from villages around Makhado indicated that 20% of them believe that the municipality does consult widely with different stakeholders. And 80% of those polled believe that proper consultation is not adequately conducted.

A survey conducted among municipality officials indicated that 100% of them believe that there is adequate consultation with the different stakeholders whereas another 0% believe there is not . In the final category of business people, 0% of those surveyed believe that there is indeed proper consultation with different stakeholders whereas about 100% believe that the municipality does not consult adequately with the relevant stakeholders. The survey reveals that 42.5% believe that the municipality does consult properly, whereas 57.5% do not think so.

Table 4.2.1 (b) below summarises the results of the survey in terms of Gender in respect to question one (1) about consultation with the different stakeholders.

**Proper consultation : Choice by Gender**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| F:9 | 45 | F:11 | 55 |
| M: 7 | 35 | M: 13 | 65 |
| Total No of Response 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 40 | | 60 | |

 **KEY**

F: Female (20 respondents)

M: Male (20 respondents)

From the survey indicated in the table above, both male and female respondents believe that the municipality does not consult with the different stakeholders before major decisions are taken. The majority of those who do not believe so were males. Males who were negative about this scored 65% ,whereas females scored 55%.

On a more positive note, the majority of those who think the Makhado Municipality does consult with stakeholders before major decisions are taken were female, with a score of 45%  while male scored (35%) Sixty (60%) of both  male and  female respondents believe the municipality does not consult properly with stakeholders.

Table 4.2.1 (c) below summarises the results of the survey in terms of Age in respect to question one (1) about consultation with the different stakeholders.

**Proper consultation: Choice by Age**

| Total No of Response | % | Total No of Responses | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| A: 5 | 25 | | 75 |
| Y:11 | 55 | | 45 |
| **Total No of Response** | | | |
| **40** | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 40 | | 60 | |

**KEY**

F: Female (20 respondents)

M: Male (20 respondents)

Adults in the positive bracket scored very low. Their score was 25%, whereas the youth scored 55%. In the negative bracket, adults scored 75% while the youth scored 45% in the same bracket. Sixty – percent (60%) of both the youth and adults also believe that the municipality does not consult properly with stakeholders.

## 4.2.2 Is the municipality run in a way that fosters good relationship between people of opposite views?

Throughout the Republic of South African, the lowest order of government is the Local Government. This can be composed of a village, a town, city or a district. Within these areas, there are different people and communities with different views. Municipalities are made up of councils which are then composed of different polities parties.Members of these councils, known as councilors,come from different political formations and their duty is to represent their members in the running of a city, district, or a country. A *South African Packet Oxford Dictionary* (1987:196) defines a "council" as:

An assembly of people meeting regularly to advise
on, discuss, or organize something or a group of
people elected to manage the affairs of a city,
country, or district.

It is therefore in these assemblies that the dominant party should strive to accommodate the smaller parties. Voices from the opposition should be listened to rather than taken for granted. This will ensure good governance and proper running of the municipality. People from the opposition will therefore feel accommodated. It is against this background that the researcher felt it important to hear people's views on this important question regarding the running of the Makhado Municipality.

Table 4.2.2 (a) below summarises the results of the survey in terms of political affiliation, race, status and place of residence of the respondents in respect to a question on whether the municipality is run in a way that fosters good relationship between people of opposite political view.

**Fostering good relationship between people of opposite view**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 4 | 80 | 1 | 20 |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| White  Residents | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 80 |
| Municipal Officials | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Business People | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF  :** | **40** | **17** | **42.5** | **23** | **57.5** |

From the survey above, 80% of the respondents from the ruling party believe that the municipality is run in a way that fosters good relationship between people of the opposite view ,whereas those who do not believe so make up 20% .The same poll conducted among different political parties grouped together reveals that 0% of them believe that the municipality  is run in a way that fosters good relationship among people of the opposite view.

A larger percentage among opposition parties making up to 100% believe that the municipality is not run in a way that fosters good relationship between people of the opposite view. On the same question, the survey reveals that Black people polled believe in large number that the municipality is run in a way that fosters good relationship. About 60% of them believe so whereas those who do not believe so make up to 40%.

Indian  residents who do not believe that the municipality is run in a way that fosters good relationship make up to 40%, whereas those who believe that scored 60%. When it comes to White residents, 60% of them do not believe that the municipality is run in a way that fosters good relationship between people of the opposite view. Only 40% of them do believe that it is run in a way that fosters good relationship between different people with opposite views. Residents in villages around Makhado also participated in this survey and those who responded positively to a question and agreed that the municipality is run in a way that fosters good relationship between people of the opposite view scored 20%, whereas  those who did not think so, scored 80%. The results of the survey conducted among municipal officials indicates that 100% of them believe  that the municipality is run in a way that fosters good relationship between people of the opposite view ,whereas  0% of them think otherwise.

Business people who believe that the municipality is run in a way that fosters good relationship between people of the opposite view scored 0%, whereas those who do not believe so scored 100%. The survey here reveals that 42.5% believe that the municipality is

run in a way that fosters good relationship among people of the opposite view ,whereas 57.5% do not think so.

Table 4.2.2 (b) below summarises the results of the survey conducted within the same categories of people above in relation to whether the municipality is aware of what is expected of them before implementing a name change.

**Fostering good relationship between people of opposite view: Choice by Gender.**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| F: 10 | 50 | F: 10 | 50 |
| M: 7 | 35 | M: 13 | 65 |
| **Total No of Responses** | | | |
| **40** | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 42.5 | | 57.5 | |

**KEY**

A: Adults (20 respondents)

Y: Youth (20 respondents)

In the table above, female responses in the positive category was 50% while their male counterparts scored 35%. In the negative category, female scored 50% while male respondents scored 65% .The total percentage of both male and female respondents who believe that the municipality is not run in a way that fosters good relationship between people of the opposite view is 57,5%.

Table 4.2.2 (c) below summarises the results of the survey in terms of age in respect to a question on whether the Makhado Municipality is run in a way that fosters good relationship between people of the opposite view.

**Fostering good relationship between people of opposite view: Choice by Age.**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| A: 5 | 25 | A: 15 | 75 |
| Y: 10 | 50 | Y: 10 | 50 |
| **Total No of Responses** | | | |
| **40** | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 37.5 | | 62.5 | |

**KEY**

A: Adults (20 respondents)

Y: Youth (20 respondents)

The response in the above table shows that adults scored 25% in the positive view. The Youth scored 50% in the same category. Adults who responded negatively scored 75% whereas the youth scored 50% . Sixty-two percent (62%)of both the adult and the youth respondents combined, do not believe that the municipality is run in a way that fosters good relationship between people of the opposite view.

**4.2.3 Does the municipality seen to be aware of what is expected of them before implementing a name change?**

Name change or renaming is a process that unfolded with the advent of democracy in South Africa. Renaming is a process that is influenced by a variety of factors. According to

Sebashe (2007: 16) names are sometimes changed as result of some flaws in spelling and orthography, political changes, democracy names and peoples commemorating their heroes. This is a process that has its rules. Places are not just renamed for the sake of it. There must be a strong and valid reason, and the necessary procedures have to be followed. It is therefore of utmost importance that municipalities must acquaint themselves with these procedures before they embark on this process.

This, therefore, influenced the researcher to try and find out whether the Makhado Municipality was aware of all the necessary procedures for name change or place renaming.

There was of a lot of public outcry about the renaming of this northern town of Louis Trichardt to Makhado. In some of the arguments brought forward, a lack of proper consultation was one of the widely mentioned reason. Many  people were not happy with the name change of Louis Trichardt to Makhado as they maintain that they were not properly consulted. This therefore casts  a shadow of doubt over the Makhado municipality as to whether they were  aware of what was expected of them before implementing a name change.

Table 4.2.3 (a) below summarises the results of the survey conducted within the same category of people above in relation to whether the municipality was aware of what was expected of them before implementing a name change.

**Whether the municipality is aware or not of what is expected of them before implementing a name change?**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 4 | 80 | 1 | 20 |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| White Residents | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 4 | 80 | 1 | 20 |
| Municipal Officials | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Business People | 05 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 80 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF  :** | **40** | **19** | **47.5** | **21** | **52.5** |

From the above table, the survey indicates  that 80% of the respondents from the ruling party believe that the municipality is aware of what is expected before implementing  a name change. Those who believe otherwise, make up 20%.From the opposition side, those side, those who believe that the municipality is aware, scored 0 % whereas those who do not believe that they are aware of  scored 100% .

As for the residents of the town, Black people who believe that the municipality is aware, scored 60 %, whereas those who do not believe so scored 40%. In the same category, Indian residents who believe that the municipality is aware of what is expected, scored 40% and those who do not think so scored 60%. Among White residents, 0% of them believe that the municipality is aware of what is expected and 100% do not think so.

The survey conducted among residents from the surrounding villages reveals that 80% of them believe that the municipality is fully aware of what is expected of them before embarking on this process. About 20% of them believe that the municipality is not aware.

In the same category, municipality officials who believe that the municipality is aware of what is expected of them before implementing a name change scored 100% and those who do not believe so scored 0%.

In the category of business people 20% of those surveyed believe that indeed the municipality is aware of what they are expected to know before implementing a name change. Those who think that the municipality is not aware scored 80%. In the above table it was revealed that 47.5% believe that the municipality is aware of what is expected as opposed to 52.5% who do not believe so.

Table 4.2.3 (b) below summarises the results of the survey conducted in terms of gender regarding the question whether Makhado Municipality is aware of what is expected before implementing a name change.

**Whether the municipality is aware or not of what is expected before implementing a name change: Choice by Gender**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| F: 9 | 45 | F: 11 | 55 |
| M: 8 | 40 | M: 12 | 60 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 42.5 | | 57.5 | |

KEY

F : Female  (20 respondents)

M: Male    (20 respondents)

In this category, a positive response by females was at 45 % . The same response by male respondents was at 40%. The females who responded negatively scored 55% and males scored 60%. This score of the negative response discloses the fact that many adults do not have confidence in the municipality in as far as knowing the rules and regulations for place renaming is concerned. Fifty-seven point five percent (57.5%) of both male and female respondents do believe that the municipality is aware of what is expected of them before implementing a name change.

Table 4.2.3 (c) serves to summarise the response on the question whether the municipality is aware or not of what is expected before implementing a name change in terms of age.

**Whether the municipality is aware or not of what is expected: Choice by age**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| A: 8 | 40 | A: 12 | 60 |
| Y: 9 | 45 | Y: 11 | 55 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 42.5 | | 57.5 | |

KEY

A : Adults  (20 respondents)

Y: Youth   (20 respondents)

The survey reveals an interesting story. Adults who are on the positive side scored 40%. The youths scored 45% on the negative side regarding the Municipality being knowledgeable about what is expected of them before implementing a name change. Adults scored 60%, whereas the youths scored 55%. Again, this reveals that the way the municipality handled this issue  casts a cloud of doubt as to whether they really know what

procedures to follow. Inability to know this, will always render this process null and void. Most people, the study reveals, are of the opinion that the municipality of Makhado does not know what is expected before embarking on a process of name changing. The study reveals that 57.5% of both the youths and adults believe that the municipality is not aware of what is expected before implementing a name change.

**4.2.4 Is the municipality doing a good thing by changing the name of the town?**

Changing a place name is something that should be done after careful consideration. Place name should not be changed for the sake of it. Place names have a lot of meaning to the people concerned. When government institutions embark on this process people concerned should be consulted first, otherwise the process could be rendered null and void.

Table 4.2.4 (a) below summarises the results of the survey conducted within same categories of people in relation to question whether the municipality is doing a good thing by changing the name of Louis Trichardt to Makhado.

**Is the municipality doing a good thing by changing the name?**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 80 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| White Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Municipal Officials | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Business People | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF :** | **40** | **22** | **55** | **18** | **45** |

The survey in the above table indicates that 100% of the respondents from the ruling party believe that the municipality is doing a good thing by changing the town's name. Those who believe that it is not a good thing scored 0%. In the category opposition parties, many of them, close to 80% believe that the municipality is not doing a good thing by changing the name of the town, whereas 20% believe it is doing a good thing.

Black residents made up a large percent of those in favour of a name change. They scored about 60%, whereas those who believe it was not a good thing scored 40%. Among the Indian residents, those who think that the municipality is doing a good thing by changing the name of the town scored 60%, whereas those who think it was not a good thing scored 40%. From the White community, among those who participated in the survey100% of them did not believe that the municipality was doing anything good by changing the name of the town. Of those who responded, 0% of them believe that the municipality was doing a good thing by changing the name of town.

The survey further indicates that residents around Makhado who believe that the municipality was doing a good thing by changing the name scored 100% ,whereas those who did not believe so scored 0%. Among the municipal officials, 100% of them responded positively and believed that indeed the municipality was right by changing the name to Makhado. Those who believed it was not a good thing scored 0%.

A survey conducted among business people reveals that 0% of the respondents were in favour of a name changing of the town from Louis Trichadrt to Makhado, whereas about 100% were against the name change. The survey above indicates that 55% believe that the Municipality is doing a good thing by changing a name whereas 45% think other wise.

Table 4.2.4 (b) serves to summarise the response in respect to a question on whether the Makhado municipality was doing a good thing by changing the name of town or not in terms of age.

**Is the municipality doing a good thing by changing the name: Choice by Gender**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| F: 11 | 55 | F: 9 | 45 |
| M: 13 | 65 | M: 7 | 35 |
| Total No of Responses<br>40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 60 | | 60 | |

KEY respondents

F : Female (20 respondents)

M: Male  (20 respondents)

In the above table, female respondents scored 55% in the positive category, while males scored 65% in the positive category. In the negative category, the percentage was 45% for female and 35% for males.

This category has produced some fascinating results. Both male and female respondents responded positively to this question. They all agreed that the Makhado Municipality was doing a good thing by changing the name of the town from Louis Trichardt to Makhado. Both categories of respondents believe that the municipality is doing a good thing by changing the name of the town.

Table 4.2.4 (c) serves to summarise the response in respect to the question on whether the Makhado Municipality was doing a good thing by changing the name of the town or not- in terms of age.

**Is the municipality doing a good thing by changing the name: Choice by Gender**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| A: 13 | 65 | A:7 | 35 |
| Y: 10 | 50 | Y: 10 | 50 |
| Total No of Responses<br>40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 57.7 | | 42.5 | |

**KEY**

**A:** Adults (20 respondents)

**Y:** Youth (20 respondents)

Here, adult  respondents scored 65% in the positive category, whereas 50% was scored by the youth in the same category. In the negative category, adults scored 35% ,while their young counterparts scored 50%. This reveals that most people both young and old believe that the  Makhado Municipality was doing a good thing by changing the name of town.

Fewer people responded negatively to the question whether it was good for Makhado Municipality to change the name of town. In the above table, 57,5% of both young and adults respondents believe the municipality is doing a good thing by changing the name of the town.

**4.2.5 Are you happy with the name Makhado?**

Different suggestions came forward for the new name of the town of Louis Trichardt. Amongst others were Zoutpansberg, Tshitandani, Hlanganani and Makhado. Makhado, the name of the Venda king, emerged the most favoured. It has been a trend even before the

dawn of the new era in South Africa, particularly in rural areas, to name some public institutions including villages after chiefs.

But the question is whether the people are happy with the new name or not. A new name should be one that appeals to all the people concerned. There are various reasons why a particular place receive a particular name. According to Nuessel, (1992:45) a name may emanate as a result of local tradition, a prominent feature or another obvious feature of the place. In this case, the name Makhado appears to enjoy the support of the majority. This type of a name is commemorative because it commemorate the life and times of someone who was a headman, a chief or a king. They are honored for the good work they have done in their communities.

Table 4.2.5 (a) serves to summarise the response to the survey conducted within the same categories of people in relation to the question on whether they were happy with the name Makhado.

**Are you happy with name Makhado?:**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 4 | 80 | 1 | 20 |
| White Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 80 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Municipal Officials | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Business People | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF :** | **40** | **23** | **60** | **17** | **40** |

From the above table, the survey indicated that about 100% of the  respondents from the ruling  party were happy with the name Makhado. Those who were not happy scored about 0% . On the part of the opposition parties, 60% of  the respondents were not happy about the name Makhado. A small percentage of about 40% said they were happy.

An overwhelming majority of  Black residents scoring 80%, responded in favour of the name. They said they were happy with the name. Those not happy scored  20%. Members of the Indian community who were happy about the name Makhado scored 60%, whereas those who were not happy scored 40%. Again an overwhelming majority of  White residents , 80%, said they were not happy about the name. Those who were happy scored 20%.

Respondents from surrounding villages also voiced their concern. About 60% of the respondents were in favour of the name Makhado. Only 40% did not approve of the name. . From the municipality officials, 100% of those surveyed said they were happy about the name. Only 0% of them were not happy. Business people who voted in favour of the name scored  0%, whereas those who were against or not happy about it scored 100%. The table above reveals that 60%  were in of the name Makhado whereas 40% were against it.

Table 4.2.5 (b) serves to summarise the response regarding the question on whether people are happy with the name Makhado or not. This is the response in terms of gender.

**Are you happy with name Makhado: Choice by Gender**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| F: 13 | 65 | F:7 | 35 |
| M: 10 | 50 | M: 10 | 50 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 57.5 | | 42.5 | |

**KEY**

F: Female (20 respondents)

M: Male (20 respondents)

In the above survey, females scored 65% in the positive category. Male respondents scored 50% in the same category. In the negative category, the score for female respondents was 35%, while male respondents scored 50%.The above table also shows that 57.5% of both male and female respondents are happy with the name Makhado.The results indicate that generally a good number of people were happy with the name. The percentage for those who said they were happy with the name Makhado is higher than those who said they were not happy about the name. Those who are happy about the name scored 57.5%

Table 4.2.5 (c) summarises the results of the survey in terms of age regarding the question whether people were happy about the name Makhado.

**Are you happy with name Makhado: Choice by AGE**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| A: 12 | 60 | A:8 | 40 |
| Y: 12 | 60 | Y: 8 | 40 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 60 | | 40 | |

**KEY**

A: Adult (20 respondents)

Y: Youth (20 respondents)

Both adults and youths scored the same percentage in this question in all respects i.e. in both the positive and negative category. Adults scored 60% in the positive category and the youth also scored 60% of both groups expressing happiness with the name Makhado.

### 4.2.6 Is the problem with the name or process the itself?

This question seeks to give an answer as to whether the process or the name itself is responsible for derailing the process of renaming the town from Louis Trichardt to Makhado. As has been explained previously,the process of renaming a place has its own principles and procedures which must strictly be adhered to. Failure to abide by either of the principles and procedures, could render the whole process ineffective. Proper consultation is one of the cornerstone of place renaming. If not properly handled, the whole process could be seen to be flawed.

In the case of Louis Trichardt, there had been a public outcry by those opposing the name change that they were not properly consulted. Even though a smaller group of people argue

that the name itself is divisive, quite a large number of opposition maintain that the main problem is that of lack of consultation. They argue that in certain areas consultation with the relevant stakeholders was totally ignored. Meetings to discuss this issue were convened at short notice.

The name Makhado, a Venda chief, also came under servere criticism. Some opposition groups like the Hlanganani Concerned Group, comprising mostly of Shangaan, Indians, some White and Pedi people argued that the name is divisive as it appeals to the Venda people only. They recommend that a more neutral name which no one can claim should replace Makhado.

Table 4.2.6 (a) below summarises the response to the survey conducted within the same categories of people mentioned above in respect to the question whether the problem is with the name or the process itself.

**Is the problem with name or process?**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 4 | 80 | 1 | 20 |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 80 |
| White Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Municipal Official | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Business People | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF :** | **40** | **22** | **55** | **18** | **45** |

From the above table, the survey indicates that about 80% of the respondents from the ruling party were happy with either the process of the name. To them, nothing was wrong

between the two. About 20% believe there was something wrong with the process itself. From the opposition parties, 60% of them believe that there was a great problem with both the process and the name. Those who believe the problem was with the process only scored 40%. Black residents who believe that there was absolutely nothing wrong with either the process or the name scored 20%, whereas those who blame the process scored 80%. In the Indian category, those who believe that both the process and the name were problematic, scored 60%, whereas those who thought otherwise scored 40%. Among the White residents, 60% of them believe that there was a problem with both the name and the process, whereas 40% of them believe otherwise.

In the category of residents from villages around Makhado, those who believe that there was no problem with either the name or process scored 60%, whereas those who believe that there was a problem with the process scored 40%. From the category of municipal officials, 100% believe that there was nothing wrong with both the process and the name. Those who believe that there was a problem with the process scored 0%. Business people who believe the process and the name were promatic scored 100% while those who were positive about both the name and the process scored 0%. From the above table, it was revealed that 55% believe that there was nothing wrong with either the name or the process as opposed to 45% believe who that the process and the name were wrong.

Table 4.2.6 (b) below summarises the results of the survey in terms of gender in respect to the question whether the problem was with the name or process.

**Is the problem with name or process: Choice by Gender**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | *%* | Total No of Responses | *%* |
| F: 14 | 70 | F: 6 | 30 |
| M: 13 | 65 | M: 7 | 35 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 67.5 | | 32.5 | |

**KEY**

F: Adult (20 respondents)

M: Youth (20 respondents)

From the survey in the table above, the majority of females responded positively about the name. They scored 70%. Those who responded negatively about the name scored 30%. Male respondents who were negative scored 65%. Those who were negative scored 35%.

Respondents in this category were divided over whether the name or the process was the main problem. Nevertheless, a large number of respondents were in favour of a name at the same time maintaining that the process was somehow flawed.Those who maintained that both the name and the process were problematic made up a very small fraction of the total respondents. About 67.5% of the respondents, both male and female believe there is nothing wrong with either the name or the process.

Table 4.2.6. (c) summarises the results of the survey in terms of age in respect to the question whether the name or the process is the one which is problematic.

**Is the problem with the name or the process: Choice by Age**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| A: 3 | 15 | A:17 | 85 |
| Y: 5 | 25 | Y: 15 | 75 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 20 | | 80 | |

 KEY

A: Adult (20 respondents)

Y: Youth (20 respondents)

This category reveals something interesting. Adults who were positive about either the name or process scored only 15%, whereas those who were negative scored an overwhelming 85%. The same applies to young people. A very small number of young people, about 25%, were positive about the name and process. Those who were negative scored 75%. This survey discloses  the fact that the majority of both the youths and adults were not positive about either the name or the process. They scored  80%.

**4.2.7 Which name between Louis Trichardt and Makhado should stay?**

The  town, Louis Trichardt, like many other towns in South Africa, came into being as a result of a settlement for the *Voortrekker*. It got its name from Louis Trichardt, the leader of the *Voortrekkers.* To the White  people, Louis Trichardt was not an oppressor, but a hero and a peace maker. The Black people did not regard him as a hero. To them, the name Louis Trichardt is synonymous with apartheid and as such, should be replaced.The name, Makhado, is favoured  by the majority, as they argue that it is a reflection of their historical past.Makhado was the name of the Venda Chief  who according to them fought, defeated

and drove the *Voortrekker* out of the Zoutpansberg area.In naming the town after him, the Makhado municipality thought they would be commemorating him. According to http://geonames.usgs.gov/pppdgn.htm. (2008:15 of 45) commemorative naming gives a sense of ownership, assures the continued remembrance of the people and their deeds.

Table 4.2.7 (a) below summarises the response to the survey conducted with the same categories of people in respect to the question as to which name between Louis Trichardt and Makhado should stay.

**Which name between Louis Trichardt and Makhado should stay?**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| White Residents | 05 | 4 | 80 | 1 | 20 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Municipal Officials | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Business people | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF :** | **40** | **24** | **60** | **16** | **40** |

A survey conducted within members of the ruling party reveals that 100% of them were in favour of the name Makhado. None of them voted for the retention of Louis Trichardt. Coming to the opposition parties, 60% of them were in favour of retaining the name Louis Trichardt. Those in favour of Makhado scored 40%.

Black residents of the town who were in favour of the name Makhado scored 60% whereas those in favour of the retention of Louis Trichardt scored 40%. Within the Indian community, those in favour of Makhado scored 80% and those in favour of retaining Louis Trichardt scored 20%. Any high percentage of those in favour of retaining the name Louis Trichardt was recorded among White residents, they scored 100%.

Residents from the surrounding villages in favour of the name Makhado scored 100%, whereas those who favour Louis Trichardt scored 0%. In the category of municipal officials, those favouring the name Makhado recorded a high percentage of 100%. Within the same category, those favouring the retention of the names Louis Trichardt scored 0%. Business people who support the name Makhado scored 0% and those favouring Louis Trichardt scored 100%. The indication from the survey above is that 60% of the respondents were against the retention of the name Louis Trichardt as opposed to 40% who were in favour of it.

Table 4.27 (b) summarises the results of the survey in terms of gender in respect to the question of choosing which name should be retained between Louis Trichardt and Makhado.

**Which name between Louis Trichardt and Makhado should be retained: Choice by Gender**.

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| F: 9 | 45 | F:8 | 40 |
| M: 13 | 65 | M: 7 | 35 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 55 | | 45 | |

From the survey above, female respondents scored 45% in the positive response whereas their male counterparts scored 65%. In the negative category, female respondents scored 40% while the male respondents in the same category scored 35%.The study reveals that 55% of both male and female respondents believe that the name Makhado should be the one to be retained.

Table 4.2.7 (c) summarises the results of the survey in terms of Age in respect to a question on which name should be retained between Louis Trichardt and Makhado.

**Which name between Louis Trichardt and Makhado should stay?: Choice by Age**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| A: 8 | 65 | A:7 | 35 |
| Y: 12 | 60 | Y: 8 | 40 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 62.5 | | 37.5 | |

**KEY**

A: Adult (20 respondents)

Y: Youth (20 respondents)

The above results summarise the survey on which name should be retrained in terms of age. Adults scored 65% in the positive response, whereas in the negative response they scored 35%.The youth scored 60% in the positive response and their score in the negative response was 40%.

This shows that a high number of respondents voted in favour of the name Makhado. The number of those whose response was in favour of the name Makhado is highest in both adult and youth category, scoring 62.5%.

**4.2.8 Is there anything in a name?**

This question seeks to answer the question whether a name means anything or not. The *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (2003: 823) defines the word "name" as "the word or words that a person, thing or place is known by." Names carry a very special meaning in a society.A name identifies a particular geographic feature, place or area. According to http://geonames.usgs.gov./pppgn.htm/ (2008: 14 of 45).

> Geographic names, as do other categories of proper names, perform an important reference or label function in a language.

There is a lot in a name as it helps to create a distinct identity for an individual. Geographical names also help to distinguish one place from another. In South Africa, some names  which were politically motivated are sometimes offensive to other people. In the case of Louis Trichardt, where the place had to be renamed, a new name would mean a lot to the indigenous people as it is seen as reclaiming a lost identity and restoring historical records.

According to Sebashe (2003: 20), in his assertions about a name, all names have meaning, even though people may not be aware of such meanings. In almost all  African traditions, the trend is to give names that have specific meanings. This, therefore, suggests that indeed there is a lot in a name.

Table 4.2.8 (a) below summarises the response to the survey conducted within the same group of people as in the above example, but this time, based on a question whether there is anything in a name.

**Is there anything in a name**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| White Residents | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Municipal Officials | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Business People | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF :** | **40** | **29** | **72.5** | **11** | **27.5** |

The table above indicates that the ruling party scored 100% in the category of those who agreed that there is something in a name, whereas those who diasgreed scored 0%. From the opposition parties, 60% of the respondents agreed that there is indeed something in a name, whereas 40% disagreed.

Responses from Black residents of the town reveal that 40% of them believe that there is nothing in a name, whereas 60% of the same category of people believe that there is in fact something in a name.

From the Indian community, about 60% of them do not believe that there is anything in a name, whereas 40% of them believe that there is. Among the White respondents, almost 60% of them believe that there is a lot in a name, whereas only 40% believe otherwise. Responses from the residents from the surrounding villages reveal that 0% of them believe that there is nothing in a name and 100% them believe that there is a lot in a name. According to the survey conducted among the municipal officials, 0% of them believe there

is nothing in a name and 100% of them believe that there is a lot. In the category of business people, 40% of respondents believe that there is nothing in a name and 60% of them believe that there is lot in a name. It has been indicated in the survey above that 72.5% of respondents believe that there is a lot in a name whereas only 27.5% believe that there is nothing in a name.

Table 4.2.8 (b) below summarises the results of the survey in terms of gender in respect to the question on whether there is anything in a name.

**Is there anything in a name?: Choice by Gender**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| F: 13 | 65 | F:7 | 35 |
| M: 14 | 70 | M: 6 | 30 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 67.5 | | 32.5 | |

**KEY**

F: Adult (20 respondents)

M: Youth (20 respondents)

The above survey summaries the response in terms of gender on whether there is anything in a name. Female respondents who were positive scored 65%, while their male counterparts scored 70%. On the negative response, female scored 35% and male respondents scored 30%. These results reveal that both male and female respondents believe

that there is a lot  in  a name. Fewer respondents, both male and  female believe that there is nothing in a name.Those who believe that there is a lot in a name scored 67.5 % as opposed to 32.5% of those who believe otherwise.

Table 4.2.8 (c) below summarises the results in terms of age in respect to the question whether there is anything in a name.

**Is there anything in a name?: Choice by Gender**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| A: 15 | 75 | A:5 | 25 |
| Y: 14 | 70 | Y: 6 | 30 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 72.5 | | 27.5 | |

 **KEY**

F: Adult (20 respondents)

M: Youth (20 respondents)

The above table summarises the results in terms of age. Adults who were positive about whether there is anything in a name scored 75%, while those who were negative scored 25%. In the same category, the youth who responded positively scored 70%.Those who responded negatively scored 30%. From this survey, a conclusion  can be drawn  that both the youth and adults believe that there is a lot in a name.

**4.2.9 Other institutions, places, towns and cities were successfully renamed after politicians or prominent figures of the post. Why did the name Makhado cause such a commotion?**

After South Africa became politically independent,the new trend was to rename towns, cities and other public institutions. The main aim here was to restore lost identity and pride, to celebrate freedom of the African spirit.When this process of change was unfolding, there was a public outcry from some quarters. Attempts to rename some of those public institutions were met with resistance.

In other places, the process of name changing went smoothly.A good example of these success stories can be seen in the following places:

(a) Port Elizabeth – Nelson Mandela Bay
(b) Portgietersrus – Mokopane
(c) Duiwelskloof – Modjadjiskloof
(d) Johannesburg International – O.R.Thambo

Table 4.2.9 (a) below summarises the response to the survey conducted within the same group of people on the question why unlike other towns and cities and other institutions which were successfully renamed, Louis Trichardt's case caused such a commotion.

**Other towns and cities were successfully renamed, why did the name Makhado cause such a commotion?**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | **0** |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| White Residents | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Municipal Officials | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Business People | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF :** | **40** | **18** | **45** | **22** | **55** |

From the ruling party, according to the above table, 100% of the respondents agreed with the statement and gave various reasons. Respondents in this category who did not agree with the statement scored 0%. In the opposition bracket, those who disagreed with the statement scored 100% and those who did agree with it scored 0% . According to a survey conducted among the Black residents about 60% of them were in total agreement with the statement and gave various reasons why it was causing a commotion. Those who did not agree with the statement scored 40%.

Indian residents who agreed with the statement and sympathize with the cause of Makhado scored 60%. Those who did not, scored 40%. White residents who did not agree with the statement and were unsympathetic towards Makhado's cause, scored100%.Those who did scored 0%.

A survey among residents from the surrounding villages, indicate that those who agreed with the statement and were sympathetic to Makhado's cause scored 40% and those who

did not scored 60.% Among the municipal officials, those supporting the statement scored 100% and those who did not agree scored 0%.

From the business community, about 0% of them supported the statement and Makhado's cause and 100% of them did not support the statement. In the table above, it was revealed that only 45% of the respondents believe that indeed other institutions, towns and cities were successfully whereas 55% do not think so.

Table 4.2.9 (b) below summarises the survey conducted in terms of gender on the question why other institutions, places, towns and cities were successfully renamed, and why only this one has caused such a commotion?

**Other institutions, places, towns and cities were successfully renamed after politicians, why only this one has caused such a commotion?: Choice by Gender**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| F: 8 | 40 | F:12 | 60 |
| M: 10 | 50 | M: 10 | 50 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 45 | | 55 | |

**KEY**

F: Female (20 respondents)

M : Male (20 respondents)

The above survey summarises the response in terms of gender to the question why other institutions, towns and cities were successfully renamed and Louis Trichardt caused a commotion. Female respondents who responded positively in this case scored 40%,whereas their male counterparts scored 50%. In the negative response, female respondents scored 60%, while male respondents scored 50%. In this category, both male and female respondents scored the highest percentage in the negative response. This shows that they both agree that not all towns and cities were successfully renamed without hiccups. The response shows that they do not have any faith in the process. But in the end, the study reveals that 55% of both male and female respondents believe that Louis Trichardt, like other towns and cities, should also be renamed.

Table 4.2.9 (c) below summarises the survey conducted in terms of gender on the question why other institutions, towns and cities were successfully renamed, and why Louis Trichardt caused a commotion.

**Other institutions, towns and cities were successfully renamed, why did Louis Trichardt cause such a commotion?: Choice by Gender**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| A : 12 | 60 | A :8 | 40 |
| Y : 10 | 50 | Y : 10 | 50 |
| Total No of Response 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 55 | | 45 | |

**KEY**

A: Female (20 respondents)

Y: Male (20 respondents)

The results of the above survey indicates that adults who were positive scored 60%, whereas young people who were also positive scored 50%.

In the negative response, the adult respondents scored 40% and the youths scored 50%. The percentage of those who are positive is higher than those who are negative. This shows that a large number of respondents, both the youths and adults believe that the renaming of other towns and cities was successfull and that Louis Trichardt's case should not be an exception. Those who were positive about the fact that Louis Trichardt, like other cities and towns should be renamed, in both the youths and adult categories, scored 55%.

**4.2.10 During the second round of the renaming process, proper consultation was done,and therefore the town should be renamed Makhado.**

Lack of proper consultation has been the main bone of contention in the renaming of Louis Trichardt between the municipality, the opposition and members of the public. Different opposition groups claimed that they were not adequately consulted when the idea of renaming Louis Trichardt to Makhado was put forward.The Makhado municipality was adamant that enough consultation was conducted with various stakeholders. They went on and changed the name of the town to Makhado.

It was after the Supreme Court of Appeal ruled in favour of the opposition, that Makhado had to revert to Louis Trichardt. This time, the Makhado municipality realized that they made a mistake and decided to restart the process of consultation all over again. Information retrieved from http:/www.news 24.com (2008:1of 1) reveals that:

> The Louis Trichardt Municipality Council is to start a process to get the town renamed back to Makhado, but with proper consultation this time. This was after the Supreme Court of Appeal reversed the town's name change on the grounds that there had not been adequate consultation with its people. It is further revealed that a special town council meeting resolved to establish a task team to

ensure that proper consultation are done in all of the Municipality's 37 wards.

According to information retrieved from http:/www.news 24.com (2008: 1 of 1) the then mayor of Makhado Municipality, Mayor Gloria Mashaba was quoted as saying:

"We are going to start that process immediately. But we'll make it a point that we don't make mistakes which happened in the part".

It is further indicated that at the meeting, 55 African National Congress (ANC) Azapo, Pan African Congress (PAC) and United Democratic Movement (UDM) councilors voted to start the process to get Louis Trichardt renamed.The Democratic Alliance (D.A) African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) (ID)the Independent Democrat and the local party, Ximoko, did not vote as they were against the idea of renaming the town.

Table 4.2.10(a) below summarises the response to the survey conducted on the question whether proper consultation was made during the second round and if so, the town should be renamed Makhado.

**Proper consultation was made during the second round and therefore the town should be renamed :**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| White  Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Municipal Officials | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Business People | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF  :** | **40** | **19** | **47.5** | **21** | **52.5** |

The above table indicates that about 100% of the  respondents from the ruling party believe that indeed proper consultation was made during the second round and the town should therefore, be renamed Makhado. Those who do not believe so scored 0%. From the opposition side, 100% do not believe so, whereas those who believe so scored 0%.Among the Black residents, those who responded in favour of the statement and believe that the name should be restored made up 60%, whereas those who do not believe made up 40%.

In the Indian community, those who believe that indeed there was proper consultation the second time around, make up  60% as opposed to 40 % of those who do not think so. From the White community a greater percentage of them do not think so. They scored 100% ,whereas those who think so scored 0%. The response from the residents in the surrounding villages  60% of them believe proper consultation was made and it was time Louis Trichardt got  its new identity. Those who did not think so make up 40%.

The responses from the municipal officials surveyed 100% in favour of the statement because they believe proper consultation was conducted during the second round. Those who did not think so make up 0%.

Business people who supported the statement constitute about 0% whereas those who do not make up 100%. In the survey above, only 47.5% of respondents do believe that proper consultation was conducted the second time around while 52.5% do not think so.

Table 4.2.10 (b) Table below summarises the survey conducted in terms of gender in respect to a question on whether proper consultation was made during the second round of the renaming process.

**Proper consultation was made during the second round therefore the town should be renamed:**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| F: 8 | 40 | F:12 | 60 |
| M: 10 | 50 | M: 10 | 50 |
| Total No of Response 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 45 | | 55 | |

**KEY**

F: Female (20 respondents)

M: Male (20 respondents)

The above survey shows that female respondents who were positive scored 40%. Male respondents scored 50%. Female respondents who responded negatively scored 60% and their male counterparts scored 50%. The above response reveals the fact that a high number of people think that consultation was not necessarily properly done even during the second

round. The above survey indicates that 55% of the respondents do not believe that proper consultation was made even during the second round of consultation.

4.2.10 (c) The table below summarises response in terms of age on the same question whether proper consultation was done during the second round.

**Proper consultation was made during the second round, therefore, the town should be renamed :**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| A: 11 | 55 | A: 9 | 45 |
| Y: 10 | 50 | Y: 10 | 50 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 52.5 | | 47.5 | |

 **KEY**

A: Adult (20 respondents)

Y: Youth (20 respondents)

From the above table, the survey indicates that adult respondents who were positive scored 55% while the youths scored 50%. A higher number of respondents in both young and adult respondents believe that proper consultation was done during the second round of the renaming process. They scored 52.5%.

## 4.2.11 Proper consultation or not, Makhado, like any other warrior deserves to be honoured this way

The main cause of this fracas over the proposed name change of Louis Trichardt to Makhado was lack of proper consultation. Different stakeholders within the Makhado Municipality argued that they were not properly consulted when this proposal was made. They were further exasperated by the municipality's decision to finally rename the town Makhado.After successfully appealing against the decision, the municipality was forced to restart the process again. This time, they were determined not to repeat the mistake of the past.

Within the Makhado Municipality, there are those who are for the name. They regard Makhado as the most appropriate name for the town in such a way that they do not care whether procedure has been followed or not. To them, renaming the town is like reclaiming back the lost identity of both the people and the place. They believe that Makhado as a king of the Venda people, fought gallantly against the Boers in the area and as such he needs to be honoured.

In this submission, the Provincial Geographical Name Change Committee Chairperson, Advocate Tommy Ntsewa, according to information retrieved from news 24.com (2002) about the name Makhado comments that:

> He really deserves to be honoured because he's in
> the same class as other African leaders such as
> King Sekhukhune who fiercely resisted
> colonization.

Table 4.2.11 (a) below summarises the responses to the survey conducted in respect to the question whether proper consultation or not, Makhado, like any other warrior deserves to be honoured.

**Proper consultation or not,Makhado deserves to be honoured:**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 4 | 80 | 1 | 20 |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| White  Residents | 05 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 80 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 80 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Municipal Officials | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Business People | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF  :** | **40** | **14** | **35** | **26** | **65** |

The survey indicates in the above table that  80% of the respondents from the ruling party agree with the statement. Those who do not, from the same category constitute 20%. The survey further indicates that responses from the opposition parties reveal that 0% of them responded positively or in favour of the statement, whereas 100% were against it.

Black residents who responded positively or in support of the statement accumulated about 60% . Those against it made up 40%. In the Indian community, 80% of those surveyed were against the statement whereas  20% of  them supported it.

White residents who were against what the statement says constitute 80% and those in agreement scored 20%. Residents from surrounding villages who were also in favour of the statement scored 40% and those against it scored 60%. According to the survey conducted among the municipal officials, those in favour of the statement scored 60%, whereas those against it scored 40%. In the category of business people, those who believe that the statement is correct scored about 0%,  while those against it scored 100%.

In the above survey,the indication is that 35% of the respondents believe that Makhado deserves to be honoured this way irrespective of  whether proper processes were followed or not. Sixty-five percent (65% )of people  believe that it is improper to proceed that way.

Table 4.2.11 (b) below summarises the results of the survey in terms of gender in respect to the  question whether Makhado deserves to be honoured by having the name of the town renamed after him irrespective of whether proper consultation had been made or not.

**Proper consultation or not, Makhado deserves to be honoured: Choice by Age.**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| F: 9 | 45 | F: 11 | 55 |
| M:10 | 50 | M: 10 | 50 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 47.5 | | 52 .5 | |

**KEY**

A: Adult (20 respondents)

Y: Youth (20 respondents)

From the survey above, female respondents  scored 54% in the positive response, while male respondents scored 50%. In the negative category, Female respondents scored 55% whereas their male counterparts scored 50%. It becomes evidently clear therefore that most of the people believe that proper consultation should be conducted first for any change to be successful. The survey reveals  that 52.5% of respondents, both male and female do not agree that the town should be renamed Makhado even if proper consultation was not done.

Table 4.2.11 (c) below summarises the results of the survey in terms of Age in respect to a question whether Makhado should be honoured by having the town renamed after him with or without proper consultation.

**Proper consultation or not, Makhado deserves to be honoured: Choice by Age.**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | *%* | Total No of Responses | *%* |
| A : 7 | 35 | A: 13 | 65 |
| Y : 8 | 40 | Y: 12 | 60 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 37.5 | | 62.5 | |

 **KEY**

A: Adult (20 respondents)

Y: Youth (20 respondents)

From the survey above, adults responded positively to the question above, scoring 35% and the youth also responded positively by scoring 40%. In the negative response,adult respondents scored 65%The youth scored 60%.

From the survey above, it is evident that the number and percentage of those who believe that proper consultation should be conducted first is by far greater than of those who believe otherwise. Generally, people are not necessarily against the name, but the procedure. Those who believe so scored 62.5%.

## 4.2.12 The name is divisive as it only appeals to Venda speaking people

Makhado, being the name of a Venda king, was seen as not being neutral. Some argued that the renaming of this town to Makhado was influenced by tribalism. A group calling itself the *Concerned Group* representing the local Shangaan, Pedi and Indian residents called for a politically and ethnically neutral name.

According to information retrieved from htt://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis Trichardt (2002) the spokesperson of the *Hlanganani Concerned Group* Jeffrey Gohell, maintain that:

> Other tribal groups, namely, Pedis, Tsongas, Indians and Whites were being deliberately excluded from the renaming process by the predominantly Venda council.

In support of this, Loyiso Sidimba, *City press* (2008:26) points out that an alliance of 51 organizations argued that name Makhado divided people and undermined other ethnic groups.

From the above assertion, one can conclude that the name did not enjoy the support of most of the inhabitants of the area from its very inception. Most of the people argued that the name appeals only to Venda people, and as a result has the potential to divide rather than bring and preserve unity.This argument was refuted by those who did not sympathise with this view. In his assertion,Advocate Tommy Ntsewa, News 24.com (2006) comments that:

> We are aware of the ethic dispute but the majority of people wanted Makhado. He really deserved to be honoured because he's in the same -class as other African leaders such as King Sekhukhune who fiercely resisted colonization.

The majority of the people were in favour of the name Makhado. They saw nothing wrong with it. To them, the idea that the name was tribalistic was tribalism in itself. The role played by Makhado in fighting against colonialism and oppression was irrefutably evident. Makhado was seen as the warrior who gallantly fought and defeated the Boers, preventing them from invading his land.

Table 4.2.12 (a) below summarises the responses to the survey conducted in respect to the question whether the name is divisive as it only appeals to the Venda people.

**The name is divisive**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| White Residents | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Municipal Officials | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Business People | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF :** | **40** | **21** | **52.5** | **19** | **47.5** |

The survey reveals in the above table that 100% of the respondents from the ruling party do not believe that the name is divisive, while 0% do believe so. From the opposition parties, 60% believe it is divisive whereas only 40% do not believe so. A survey conducted among Black residents reveals that 60% do not believe that the name is divisive.Those who believe so constitute 40%. In the Indian community, those who believe that the name is divisive scored 40% ,whereas those who do not scored 60%.

Among the White residents, 40% of them believe the name is divisive and those who do not scored about 60%. Residents in villages around the Makhado Municipality who believe that the name is indeed divisive scored 40% while those who think otherwise scored 60%.

From the municipal officials, those who believe that the name is divisive scored 0% and those who do not scored 100%. In the category of business people within the Makhado Municipality, those who believe that the name is divisive scored 100% and those who do not believe so scored 0%.In the above survey, 52.5% do not believe that the name Makhado is divisive whereas those who believe so, made up 47.5%.

Table 4.2.12 (b) summarises the results of the survey in terms of gender in respect to the question whether the name is divisive or not.

**The name is divisive: Choice by Gender**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | *%* | Total No of Responses | *%* |
| F : 14 | 70 | F: 6 | 30 |
| M : 9 | 45 | M: 11 | 55 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 57.5 | | 42 .5 | |

**KEY**

F: Female (20 respondents)

M: Male   (20 respondents)

Female respondents who responded positively in this question scored 70% and their male counterparts scored 45 %. Those females whose response was negative scored 30%, whereas males responded negatively and scored 55%. A greater percentage of both male and female responded positively in the gender category. They believe the name is divisive and they scored 57.5%.

Table 4.2.12 (c) summarises results based on age in respect to the question whether the name is divisive or not.

**The name is divisive: Choice by AGE**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| A :9 | 45 | A:11 | 55 |
| Y: 8 | 40 | Y: 12 | 60 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 42.5 | | 57.5 | |

**KEY**

F: Female: 20 (respondents)

M: Male:  20 (respondents)

In this survey, adult respondents who responded positively scored 45%, whereas young respondents in the same category scored 40%. In the negative category, adults scored 55%, whereas young people scored 60%. About 57.5% of respondents, both young and adults do not believe the name is divisive.

### 4.2.13 The name Louis Trichardt should be retained

There were those among the residents of Makhado Municipality who believe that the name Louis Trichardt did not displace any other settlement in the area and therefore need not be changed. According to information retrieved from htt://en wikepedia.Org/wilki/ Louis Trichardt (2005) in their application to the Supreme Court of Appeal, the applicants pointed out that Louis Trichardt was an indigenous, pre-colonial name that was the first name for the town and never displaced any other name.Still, on the same subject,there were those who proposed that the name Louis Trichardt should be removed and the town be renamed Makhado.

Table 4.2.13 (a) below summarises the responses to the study conducted in respect to a question on whether the name Louis Trichardt should simply be retained or not

**The name Louis Trichardt should be retained.**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 3 | 60 | 2 | 40 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| White Residents | 05 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 80 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 5 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Municipal Officials | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Business People | 05 | 4 | 80 | 1 | 20 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF :** | **40** | **17** | **42.5** | **23** | **57.5** |

From the table above, the responses reveal that the ruling party does not believe that the name Louis Trichardt should be retained. Those against the retention of the name Louis Trichardt in this category scored 100%, whereas those in favour of it in the same category scored 0%. In the opposition an overwhelming majority were in favour of the name Louis Trichardt and they scored 60%. Those against it scored 40%. Black residents of the town in favour of the name Louis Trichardt scored 40% and those against its retention scored 60%. Indian residents who favoured the retention of the name scored 20% in favour of the name and those against it scored 80%. Their White counterparts scored 100% in favour of the name Louis Trichardt and those against it scored 0%. Residents from the surrounding villages who supported the retention of the name Louis Trichardt scored 40% and those against scored 60%.

From the municipal officials about 100% of respondents were against the retention of the name Louis Trichardt, whereas about 0% of them were for the name Louis Trichardt. Business people who supported retaining the name Louis Trichardt constituted 80%, whereas those against it were 20%. The above survey, indicates that 42.5% were for the retention of the name Louis Trichardt and 57.5% were against it.

Table 4.2.13 (b) summarises results based on gender in respect to the question whether the name Louis Trichardt should be retained or not.

**The name Louis Trichardt should be retained: Choice by Gender**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| F : 8 | 40 | F:12 | 60 |
| M :11 | 55 | M: 9 | 45 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 47.5 | | 52 .5 | |

F: Female: 20 (respondents)

M: Male: 20 (respondents)

The survey above indicates that females whose response was positive about the retention of the name Louis Trichardt scored 40% while their male counterparts scored 55%. Female respondents who were negative about the name scored 60%, and their male counterparts scored 45%.

Table 4.2.13 (c) summarises results based on Age in respect to the question whether the name is divisive or not.

**The name Louis Trichardt should be retained : Choice by AGE**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| A:10 | 50 | A: 10 | 50 |
| Y: 8 | 40 | Y: 12 | 60 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 45 | | 55 | |

**KEY**

A: Adult (20 respondents)

Y: Youth (20 respondents)

The above table indicates that the number of adult respondents is the same in both categories i.e those who are both negative about the name Louis Trichardt. In the youth category, those who responded negatively scored 60% and those who responded positively scored 40%. This reveals the fact that in both gender and age groups, respondents were of

the opinion that the name Louis Trichardt should be replaced. Fifty-five percent (55%) of the respondents according to age believe that the name Louis Trichardt should be replaced.

**4.2.14 It would have been better if the suggested name was of a geographical entity**

Some people would like to argue that it would have been better if the town's name was that of a geographical entity. The *Handbook of Geographical Names* also suggests this alternative as one of the options.The above statement is also supported by the Jeffrey Gohell, htt://en.wikipedia.Org/wiki/Loius Trichardt (2000) spokesperson of the *Hlanganani Concerned Group* when he alluded that:

> "The council could have followed the example of
> the provincial government and named the town
> after a mountain or river, and not a chief".

The above assertion was made by those who were against the name change. They regard the name as divisive in nature. The example of the provincial government mentioned above is the naming of the province after a river, Limpopo. They argue that no one can claim ownership of such a  name as it is neutral. To them, choosing the name of a chief is tribalism and  has a potential to divide than unite people.

There were also those who believed that using the names of a person, especially those who have passed on is like bestowing the honour that they so much deserve. It is also part of reconnecting with the past.

In support of the name Makhado, the *South African Geographical Names Council* and then minister of Arts and Culture Dr Ben Ngubane,according to information retrieved from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis Tichardt (2002) insist that:
:

The erstwhile Louis Trichardt was the main centre of territory which was commonly known as Vendaland and dominated by the Venda people to whom Makhado was a very important historical figure.

The above assertion supports the fact that naming the town after Makhado will reconnect the people with their historical past.

Table 4.2.14. (a) below is a summary of results in respect to the question whether it would have been better to rename the town after a geographical entity.

**It would have been better if the suggested name was of a geographical entity**

| RESPONDENTS | No. of RESPONDENTS | POSITIVE (YES) | % | NEGATIVE (NO) | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruling Party | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Opposition Parties | 05 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 80 |
| Black Residents | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| White Residents | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Indian Residents | 05 | 1 | 20 | 4 | 80 |
| Residents from around Makhado | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| Municipal Officials | 05 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 100 |
| Business people | 05 | 2 | 40 | 3 | 60 |
| **TOTAL NO. OF :** | **40** | **10** | **25** | **30** | **75** |

From the table above, the responses,from the ruling party reveals that 0% of respondents were in favour of renaming Louis Trichardt after a geographical entity. Those against the idea scored 100%. In the opposition parties, those arguing for the renaming of Louis Trichadrt after a geographical entity scored 20%, whereas those against the idea scored 80%.

Among the Black residents who responded to the survey, those in favour of using a geographical name for Louis Trichardt scored 40%, whereas those against it scored 60%. The Indian residents who participated in the survey scored 40% for those who support the idea of renaming Louis Trichardt after a geographical entity, and around 60% for those who do not.

White residents who supported the idea scored 20% and those who did not scored 80%. Residents from the surrounding villages in support of the idea scored 40%, whereas those against it scored 60%.

Municipal officials who participated in the survey scored 0% for those supporting the idea of renaming Louis Trichardt after a geographic entity and 100% for those against the idea. From the business people those who supported the scored 40% against 60% of those who were against it. The survey reveals that 25% of respondents were in favour of renaming the town after a geographical entity while an overwhelming majority, about 75% were against the idea.

Table 4.2.14 (b) summarises the results based on gender on the question whether to use the name of a geographical entity or not.

**It is better to use the name of a geographical entity: Choice by Gender**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | % | Total No of Responses | % |
| F : 4 | 20 | F: 16 | 80 |
| M: 3 | 15 | M: 17 | 85 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 17.5 | | 82.5 | |

The above survey reveals the fact that a small number of respondents, both male and female responded positively to this question. Female respondents scored 20%, while male respondents scored 15% in the positive category. In the negative category, females scored 80% and the male respondents scored 82.5%. Both young and adult respondents do not agree with the fact that name should be of  a geographical entity.

Table 4.2.14 (c) summarises the results of the survey based on Age in the same question about naming the town after a geographical entity.

**It is better to use the name of a geographical entity: Choice by Age**

| POSITIVE (YES) | | NEGATIVE (NO) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total No of Responses | *%* | Total No of Responses | *%* |
| A : 3 | 15 | A: 17 | 85 |
| Y : 4 | 20 | Y: 16 | 80 |
| Total No of Responses 40 | | | |
| Total % Yes | | Total % No | |
| 17.5 | | 82.5 | |

**KEY**

A: Adult (20 respondents)

Y: Youth (20 respondents)

From the above survey, adults who were on the positive side scored 15% and the youths who were also positive scored 20%. At the same time, adults who were negative scored 85% whereas youths who were also negative scored 80%.

Although both the youths and the adult respondents suggest in their responses that they were against the idea of renaming Louis Trichardt after a geographic entity, the indication is that they want a proper name.

The name Makhado appears to be familiar with both. Those who supported the idea of a geographical name were very small in number.They scored 17.5%. This serves to suggest that beside the process being flawed, the name itself is common to the people in the Makhado Municipality areas. Those in favour of the name Makhado, scored 82.5%.

# CHAPTER FIVE

# SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The main aim of this study was to establish problems surrounding the renaming of Louis Trichardt to Makhado and to analyse the impact some of the principles and procedures have in the society if these are not properly followed.

The views of several scholars and researchers such as Sebashe (2007) Templelhoff (1999), Raper (2004) Bulpin (1993) as well as those contained in the *Handbook on Geographical Names* have been applied in the analysis of the renaming of  this small town of Louis Trichardt to Makhado. The present study appears to be the first comprehensively broad and detailed research on this subject in connection with the renaming of Louis Trichardt to Makhado.

**Chapter one** served as the introduction. This chapter, looked at the background to the problem, the aims of the study, the rationale for the study, as well as its significance. This chapter also focused on the methodology of enquiry and the examination of literature on the research project. The study also had its delimitation.

The study employed  both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Informal conversations were conducted with the elderly members of the society in collecting data. A questionnaire was used to conduct structured interviews. The study also gathered information from both electronic and the print media, as well as  books and journals.

**Chapter two** dealt with the historical background of the town of Louis Trichardt. The history of the Soutpansberg area was also bought under scrutiny. It was revealed that the Venda people under the leadership of Makhado, were the first inhabitants of the Soutpansberg area.

The study further revealed that among the communities who resided in the area a long time ago were the Vha Ngoma in the central parts of the mountains, the Vha Lembetu in the north  eastern region and Vha Mbedzi of the central eastern parts. It was also stated in this chapter that Settlers from Europe settled in this region as early as the 19th century. Among those who settled in the Soutpansberg were:

- Louis Trichardt – May 1836
- J.H. Van Rensburg – June 1836
- Andries Potgieter – May 1848
- Joao Albasini – 1848

All of them settled in the area for a period of time  and moved on in different directions. The town of Louis Trichardt was founded in February 1899 and it was named after a voortrekker of the same name. After his death, another group of Settlers were no longer prepared to accept the presence of White people in the white settlement in the Soutpansberg which was known as Schoemansdal. The chapter went on to highlight some of Makhado's wars of resistance against the invaders.

The study further revealed that the new town which was formally proclaimed on 1899, was to be known as LouisTrichardt. This name took a long time for  Black residents of the Soutpansberg to be used to it. They mostly use the names, Doroboni, meaning a town, Tshitandani and LTT, (short  for  Louis Trichardt). Furthermore, the chapter highlighted the establishment of the Translational Local Council after the dawn of democracy in South Africa in 1994. This council was composed of members from both racial groups in the area. The inauguration of the first Black mayor of the town and the importance of that occurance were pointed out.

It was again in this chapter that mention was made of all the villages, and townships around the area. The  chapter also mentioned  something about the declaration of Louis Trichardt as a multiracial municipality and subsequently changing its name to Makhado Municipality.

**Chapter three** was mostly about principles and procedures for place renaming. This chapter tried to point out some of the relevant and important procedures that should not be overlooked when proposals for place renaming are made. Several principles and procedures contained in the *Handbook on Geographical Names* were highlighted.Generally, the chapter tried to point out  what should be done and what should  be avoided  when embarking in the process of place renaming.

**Chapter Four** dealt with  the analysis of collected data. It also examined the impact of not abiding by the rules and regulations when renaming a place. The study revealed that most of the respondents regard this process as not just a waste of money, but time and resources also.Responses   from various respondents were also scrutinized. Relevant principles and procedures appeared to be at the centre stage of this process.

With regard to the municipality being aware of the principles and procedures of naming, it was revealed that most people believe that the municipality does not know what is expected of them before embarking on the process of name change.

It was also revealed in this chapter that the municipality is not run in a way that fosters good relationship between people of the opposite view.The study also revealed that the problem is not with the name as such, but with the process itself. The way the municipality went about changing the name of Louis Trichardt to Makhado was flawed in a number of ways.

A questionnaire was used in this thesis and responses were represented in tables. The aim of the survey was to find out as to whether  respondents would be able to identify problematic areas in the renaming of Louis Trichardt to Makhado.

**Chapter five** is about the findings of the study and the provision of some recommendations and guidelines for further research.

## 5.2 Findings

The study has made the following deductions:

- ➢ The Makhado Municipality does not consult adequately with different stakeholders before taking major decisions. People believe that they usually take unilateral decisions.
- ➢ The study has again concluded that the way in which the municipality is run, does not necessarily foster good relationship between those who hold opposing views.This study found out that people of the opposite view are always sidelined. The dominant political party is accused of polarizing people along party politics. It was further revealed in this study that cordial working relationship does not exist in the municipality.
- ➢ Concerning the process of renaming the town, the study discovered that it was flawed. People were not adequately consulted when the proposal was made. A unilateral decision to rename Louis Trichardt to Makhado was taken . The main problem here was not necessarily with the name Makhado, but with the process itself. Most of the people were unhappy with the way it was done.
- ➢ The study revealed that most people are of the opinion that the name is divisive as it appeals to the Venda people only. This is a very sensitive issue and should be taken very seriously. Others dismiss this argument as merely pure tribalism.
- ➢ It was further revealed that names are not just given for the sake of naming. Name-givers do so with a specific reason. People attach a lot of meaning to names. Name givers should be very sensitive when giving a name as it should reflect on the people concerned.

## 5.3. Recommendations

The following recommendations are made in relation to this study:

➢ There is a need for proper consultation when renaming places. Different stakeholders must be adequately consulted as failure to do so will always result in unnecessary embarrassment. Different stakeholders here will include among others, political parties, civil organizations, the church, business people, residents as well as members of the public.

➢ The municipality should be run in a way that fosters good relationship between people of the opposing views. In other words, municipalities should always try to be as a inclusive as possible. People should not be polarized simply because they belong to the opposition. The views from the opposition are as equally important.

➢ It is also recommend that municipalities should acquaint themselves with the technicalities that are involved when embarking on this process of place renaming so as to avoid future embarrassment.

➢ The study also recommends that naming places after individuals should be done with maximum caution. Neutral names should be used in order to avoid misunderstanding in future.

➢ Place names that are highly recommended are those named after natural features such as mountains, rivers and trees as in the case Limpopo Province, named after a river.

➢ Names that have a meaning which most people identify with should be used. An example of that is Tshiawelo (a place of rest),which is a township originally meant for Vendas and Shangaans in Soweto, This name was and is still popular between these. This will always ensure lasting peace and harmony.

➢ It is also recommended that a name should not be rejected  simply because people are ignorant of other people's history.Tribalism  should not be involved in the process.People should show tolerance and respect to other people's history.

➢ Deserving heroes like Makhado should be honoured this way irrespective of whether of whether he comes from a Zulu, Xhosa, Shangaan or Venda tribe. If people become ignorant of this,the whole process of place renaming in the new South Africa could simply become a futile exercise.

## 5.4. Future Research

This study could not come up with any conclusive agreement on the issue of the renaming of Louis Trichardt to Makhado as the process has been put on hold. Future research in this field is necessary in order to bring to light which name finally gets the support  of the majority and the Department of Arts and Culture.

The research could also help in bringing to light what should be avoided in future. It will also help greatly in making people aware of how they should go about the  process of naming places, and this will avoid unnecessary confrontations and expenditure.

## 5.5. Conclusion

They study has examine the problem surrounding the renaming of Louis Trichardt. It also indicated that the name Makhado enjoy the wider support of the local inhabitants of the towns.

In this study, it was revealed that the process of renaming this town is the  one that was sproblematic. In order to have a sustainable name, all the parties concerned should sit down, discuss and come up with an agreement.

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**ANNEXURE A**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

*Instructions for completing the questionnaire*

This questionnaire is strictly intended for research purpose only. Please do not fill in your name or put any official stamp on this questionnaire. Your honest response will therefore be of great value to be researcher and will be treated confidentially.

The questionnaire is designed in the form of three sections. Namely, Sections A, B & C. This will be used to gather information from residents, municipall officials, workers and politicians from different political parties.

**SECTION A GENERAL INFORMATION**

Put a cross [X] in the appropriate block

1.Gender

| | |
|---|---|
| Male | |
| Female | |

2. Age in years

| | |
|---|---|
| 20-30 | |
| 31-40 | |
| 41-50 | |
| 50+ | |

3. Which of the following best describes your present occupation?

| | |
|---|---|
| Resident | |
| Municipal official | |

| General worker | |
| --- | --- |
| Politician | |
| Civil servant | |

4. How many years in your present occupation?

| 1-5 | |
| --- | --- |
| 6-10 | |
| 11-15 | |
| 16-20 | |
| 25+ | |

5. Are you a member of a political Part?

| Yes | |
| --- | --- |
| No | |

6. Do you live in town ( Louis Trichardt)?

| Yes | |
| --- | --- |
| No | |

7. Any involvement in politics?

| Yes | |
| --- | --- |
| No | |

The respondents should first complete Section A before answering question in

SECTION B

This section of question that have to do with principles and procedure that have to be followed  when renaming a place. Please answer the following question:

1. Does the municipality consult with different stakeholders before major decisions are taken? Substantiate your answer.

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2. Is the municipality run a way that fosters good relationship between people of opposite view? Substantiate your answer:

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   …………………………………………………………………………………….
   …………………………………………………………………………………….
   ………………………………………………………………………………….....

3. Does the municipality seen to be aware of what is expected before implementing a name change? Substantiate. your answer      .

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   …………………………………………………………………………………….
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   …………………………………………………………………………………...

4. Is the municipality doing a good thing by changing the name of the town from Louis Trichardt to Makhado? Substantiate your answer.

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5.      Are you happy or unhappy with the name Makhado? Substantiate your answer..

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6.      Is the problem with the name or the process itself? Substantiate  your answer

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7.      Which name between Louis Trichardt and Makhado should stay and which one should not? Substantiate your answer.

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8.      Is the anything in a name? Substantiate your answer.

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9.      Other towns and cities were successfully named after politicians or other prominent figures of the past. Why did this one cause such a commotion?

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**SECTION C**

The following questions have only two possibilities. First indicate either Yes or No , and then substantiate your answer.

1. During the second round renaming process, proper consultation was made and therefore the town should be renamed Makhado

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2. Proper consultation or not, Makhado, like any other warrior , deserves to be honoured this way.

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3. The name is divisive as it only appeals to the Venda-speaking people ..

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4. The Louis Trichardt should be retained

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5.   It would have been better if the subjected name was of a Geographical entity

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