

Free State Names to change

May 2 2012 9:49AM



MEC of sports, arts and culture and recreation Dan Kgothule is ready to sign the new names for the province's places and infrastructure. Picture: Getrude Makhafole

Getrude Makhafole

The name change debate has come to the Free State and the province is about to roll out new names for its major towns, roads, buildings and other infrastructure.

Proposed name changes of the province's major towns was nearing completion with sports, arts and culture MEC Dan Kgothule ready to sign off the proposals submitted to him.

Towns such as Petrusteyn, Bloemfontein, Odendaalsrus and strife- riddled Ficksburg are on the list of areas earmarked for name changes.

The sports, arts and culture department's statutory bodies official, Jeff Mphumela, said the provincial geographical names council was waiting for approval from Kgothule.

"The new proposed names will be submitted to the South African Geographical Names Council as soon as the MEC signs them off," said Mphumela.

We had hoped to have the process done by end of January, but we could not achieve that."

Mphumela said all objections to the name change proposals had been dealt with.

"There were hiccups but we managed to come out satisfied that everything has been attended to and that no one remains disgruntled and left behind.

"The priority was to make sure that everyone's input is heard. The last hiccup was Kroonstad where we encountered resistance for the proposed name, Maokeng. We are now done with Kroonstad," Mphumela said.

Odendaalrus, will be renamed Mahobe and Petrussteyn will become Mamafube.

Bloemfontein Airport will be re-named Bram Fischer International Airport after the ANC struggle hero. Lebohang Building, which houses the provincial government, will be re-named Caleb Motshabi Building.

The N8 corridor, which stretches from Bloemfontein to Kimberley in the Northern Cape, will be renamed the King Moshoeshoe Development Corridor – after the founder and king of the Basotho people.

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