

BOARD NOTICES
RAADSKENNISGEWINGS

BOARD NOTICE 76 OF 2001

**PUBLICATION OF A BOARD NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 8(11) OF THE
PAN SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE BOARD ACT, 1995 (ACT No. 59 of 1995)**

1. WHEREAS THE BOARD HAS NOTED that section 6(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996) refers to the official languages of the Republic in the following manner –

Afrikaans	English	Zulu	South Sotho
Sepedi	Sepedi	IsiPedi	Sesotho sa Leboa
Sesotho	Sesotho	IsiSuthu	Sesotho
Setswana	Setswana	IsiTswana	Setswana
SiSwati	SiSwati	IsiSwazi	Seswati
Tshivenda	Tshivenda	IsiVenda	Sivenda
Xitsonga	Xitsonga	IsiTsonga	Setsonga
Afrikaans	Afrikaans	IsiBhunu	Seburu
English	English	IsiNgisi	Senyese mane
IsiNdebele	isiNdebele	IsiNdebele	Sendebele
IsiXhosa	IsiXhosa	IsiXhosa	Sexhosa
IsiZulu	IsiZulu	IsiZulu	Sezolo

Sesotho sa Leboa	Tswana	Venda	Tsonga
Sesotho sa Leboa	Sesotho sa Leboa	Tshisuthu tsha Devhula	Xisuthu xa N'walunga
Sesotho	Sesotho	Tshisuthu	Xisuthu
Setswana	Setswana	Tshitswana	Xitswana
SeSwati	Seswati	Tshiswazi	Xiswati
SeVenda	SeVenda	Tshivenda	Xivenda
SeTsonga	SeTsonga	Tshitsonga	Xitsonga
Seafrikanse	Seburu	Afurikaans	xi-Afrikaans
Seisimane	Seesimane	English	xi-Nghezi
Setebele	Setebele	Tshindevehele	Xindevele;
Sethosa	Sethosa	Tshithoza	Xiqhoza
SeZulu	SeZulu	Tshizulu	Xizulu

Swati	Ndebele	Xhosa
SiSutfu saseNyakatfo	IsiSotho se Leboa	IsiSuthu saseNhla
Sisutfu	IsiSotho	IsiSuthu
siTswana	Setswana	IsiTswana
siSwati	SiSwati	IsiSwati
siVenda	Tshivenda	IsiVenda
siTsonga	Xitsonga	IsiAfrikaans
siBhunu	I-Afrikaans	IsiNgesi
siNgisi	I-English	IsiNdebele
siChosa	IsiXhosa	IsiXhosa
nesiZulu	IsiZulu	IsiZulu

2. AND WHEREAS THE BOARD IS CONCERNED that –

- (a) “Ngikhuluma isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu” are in line with the orthography and sound systems of the Nguni languages, whereas “Ngikhuluma Sesotho, Setswana, Siswati” do not fit into the grammatical and sound systems of these languages;
- (b) this format could lead to bizarre pronunciation. In any of the Nguni languages, the prefix of “Xitsonga” might be pronounced with a click sound. The Sotho languages do not use the prefix “isi”, but “Se”. It is ungrammatical to impose the prefix used in Nguni languages in this case. The Sotho languages also do not use the X click sound for isiXhosa; and
- (c) this format may have unfortunate side-effects which include the following –
 - (i) ungrammatical formats and sounds are imposed on the users of other official languages;
 - (ii) rules associated with certain languages are imposed on other languages; and
 - (iii) artificial, ungrammatical and, in some instances, unpronounceable formats and sounds result in some instances.

3. NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD HEREBY DECIDES that, since it is considered unnatural and ungrammatical to adopt or impose sound systems and prefixes of one language into another, the orthographic rules of each one of these languages must be respected. Since bizarre and awkward results can be avoided if the characteristic orthography of each of the official languages is respected, the Board decides that each of the languages be allowed to use the name of the languages according to its own orthography and sound systems.

4. THE BOARD HEREBY INVITES the existing National Language Bodies to provide the Board with input on the matter as explained above under 1., 2. and 3. Depending on the outcome of the advice received, the Board may publish a finding in the matter.
5. The implications of the Board's decision for correct usage are illustrated in the tables below.

ISIZULU

FORMAT IN CONSTITUTION	RECOMMENDED FORMAT
Ngikhuluma <i>Sesotho</i>	Ngikhuluma isiSuthu
Ngikhuluma <i>Sepedi/ Sesotho</i> <i>saseNyakatho</i>	Ngikhuluma isiPedi/isiSuthu <i>saseNyakatho</i> ¹
Ngikhuluma <i>Setswana</i>	Ngikhuluma isiTswana
Ngikhuluma <i>Siswati</i>	Ngikhuluma isiSwazi
Ngikhuluma <i>IsiNdebele</i>	Ngikhuluma isiNdebele
Ngikhuluma <i>IsiXhosa</i>	Ngikhuluma isiXhosa
Ngikhuluma <i>IsiZulu</i>	Ngikhuluma isiZulu
Ngikhuluma <i>Afrikaans</i>	Ngikhuluma isiBhunu/i-Afrikaans
Ngikhuluma <i>English</i>	Ngikhuluma isiNgisi/i-English
Ngikhuluma <i>Tshivenda</i>	Ngikhuluma isiVenda
Ngikhuluma <i>Xitsonga</i>	Ngikhuluma isiTsonga

ISINDEBELE

FORMAT IN CONSTITUTION	RECOMMENDED FORMAT
Ngikhuluma <i>Sesotho</i>	Ngikhuluma isiSuthu
Ngikhuluma <i>Sepedi/Sesotho</i> <i>seNyakatho</i>	Ngikhuluma isiPedi/isiSuthu <i>saseNyakatho</i> ²
Ngikhuluma <i>Setswana</i>	Ngikhuluma isiTswana
Ngikhuluma <i>Siswati</i>	Ngikhuluma isiSwazi
Ngikhuluma <i>isiNdebele</i>	Ngikhuluma isiNdebele
Ngikhuluma <i>isiXhosa</i>	Ngikhuluma isiQhoza
Ngikhuluma <i>isiZulu</i>	Ngikhuluma isiZulu
Ngikhuluma <i>Afrikaans</i>	Ngikhuluma isiBhuru/i-Afrikaans
Ngikhuluma <i>English</i>	Ngikhuluma isiNgisi/i-English
Ngikhuluma <i>Tshivenda</i>	Ngikhuluma isiVenda
Ngikhuluma <i>Xitsonga</i>	Ngikhuluma isiTsonga

¹ The correct way in which to refer to the Sotho language spoken in the Northern Province is *seSotho sa Leboa/Northern Sotho*. *Sepedi* denotes one of the varieties of that language and would be incorrect.

² See footnote 1 above.

SISWATI

FORMAT IN CONSTITUTION	RECOMMENDED FORMAT
Ngikhuluma <i>Sesotho</i>	Ngikhuluma siSutfu
Ngikhuluma <i>Sepedi/Sesotho</i> saseNyakatho	Ngikhuluma siPedi/siSutfu saseNyakatfo ³
Ngikhuluma <i>Setswana</i>	Ngikhuluma siTswana
Ngikhuluma <i>Siswati</i>	Ngikhuluma siSwati
Ngikhuluma <i>IsiNdebele</i>	Ngikhuluma siNdebele
Ngikhuluma <i>IsiXhosa</i>	Ngikhuluma siChosa
Ngikhuluma <i>IsiZulu</i>	Ngikhuluma siZulu
Ngikhuluma <i>Afrikaans</i>	Ngikhuluma siBhunu/i-Afrikaans
Ngikhuluma <i>English</i>	Ngikhuluma siNgisi/i-Egllish
Ngikhuluma <i>Tshivenda</i>	Ngikhuluma siVenda
Ngikhuluma <i>Xitsonga</i>	Ngikhuluma siTsonga

ISIXHOSA

FORMAT IN CONSTITUTION	RECOMMENDED FORMAT
Ndithetha <i>Sesotho</i>	Ndithetha isiSuthu
Ndithetha <i>Sepedi/Sesotho saseMntla</i>	Ndithetha isiPedi/isiSuthu saseMntla ⁴
Ndithetha <i>Setswana</i>	Ndithetha isiTswana
Ndithetha <i>Siswati</i>	Ndithetha isiSwazi
Ndithetha <i>IsiNdebele</i>	Ndithetha isiNdebele
Ndithetha <i>IsiXhosa</i>	Ndithetha isiXhosa
Ndithetha <i>IsiZulu</i>	Ndithetha isiZulu
Ndithetha <i>Afrikaans</i>	Ndithetha isiBhulu/i-Afrikaans
Ndithetha <i>English</i>	Ndithetha isiNgesi/i-English
Ndithetha <i>Tshivenda</i>	Ndithetha isiVenda
Ndithetha <i>Xitsonga</i>	Ndithetha isiTsonga

SESOITHO

FORMAT IN CONSTITUTION	RECOMMENDED FORMAT
Ke bua <i>Sesotho</i>	Ke bua Sesotho
Ke bua <i>Sepedi/Sesotho sa Leboa</i>	Ke bua Sepedi/Sesotho saLeboa ⁵
Ke bua <i>Setswana</i>	Ke bua Setswana
Ke bua <i>Siswati</i>	Ke bua Seswati
Ke bua <i>IsiNdebele</i>	Ke bua Setebele
Ke bua <i>IsiXhosa</i>	Ke bua Sexhosa
Ke bua <i>IsiZulu</i>	Ke bua Sezulu
Ke bua <i>Afrikaans</i>	Ke bua Seburu/seAfrikaans

³ See footnote 1 above.⁴ See footnote 1 above.⁵ See footnote 1 above.

Ke bua <i>English</i>	Ke bua Seisimane/seEnglish
Ke bua <i>Tshivenda</i>	Ke bua Sevenda
Ke bua Xitsonga	Ke bua Setsonga

SETSWANA

FORMAT IN CONSTITUTION	RECOMMENDED FORMAT
Ke bua <i>Sesotho</i>	Ke bua Sesotho
Ke bua <i>Sepedi/Sesotho sa Leboa</i>	Ke bua Sepedi/Sesotho saLeboa ⁶
Ke bua <i>Setswana</i>	Ke bua Setswana
Ke bua <i>Siswati</i>	Ke bua Seswati
Ke bua <i>IsiNdebele</i>	Ke bua Setebele
Ke bua <i>IsiXhosa</i>	Ke bua Sexhosa
Ke bua <i>IsiZulu</i>	Ke bua Sezulu
Ke bua <i>Afrikaans</i>	Ke bua Seburu/seAfrikaans
Ke bua <i>English</i>	Ke bua seisimane/seEnglish
Ke bua <i>Tshivenda</i>	Ke bua Sevenda
Ke bua <i>Xitsonga</i>	Ke bua Setsonga

SEPEDI/NORTHERN SOTHO⁷

FORMAT IN CONSTITUTION	RECOMMENDED FORMAT
Ke bolela <i>Sesotho</i>	Ke bolela Sesotho saBorwa
Ke bolela <i>Sepedi/ Sesotho sa Lebowa</i>	Ke bolela Sepedi/Sesotho sa Lebowa ⁸
Ke bolela <i>Setswana</i>	Ke bolela Setswana
Ke bolela <i>Siswati</i>	Ke bolela Seswati
Ke bolela <i>IsiNdebele</i>	Ke bolela Setebele
Ke bolela <i>IsiXhosa</i>	Ke bolela Seqhosa
Ke bolela <i>IsiZulu</i>	Ke bolela Sezulu
Ke bolela <i>Afrikaans</i>	Ke bolela Seburu/Seafrikaans
Ke bolela <i>English</i>	Ke bolela Seisimane/seEnglish
Ke bolela <i>Tshivenda</i>	Ke bolela Sevenda

TSHIVENDA

FORMAT IN CONSTITUTION	RECOMMENDED FORMAT
Ndi khou amba <i>Sesotho</i>	Ndi khou amba Tshisuthu
Ndi khou amba <i>Sepedi/ Sesotho sa Devhula</i>	Ndi khou amba Tshibeli/Tshisuthu tsha Devhula ⁹
Ndi khou amba <i>Setswana</i>	Ndi khou amba Tshitswana
Ndi khou amba <i>Siswati</i>	Ndi khou amba Tshiswati

⁶ See footnote 1 above.⁷ See footnote 1 above.⁸ See footnote 1 above.⁹ See footnote 1 above.

Ndi khou amba <i>IsiNdebele</i>	Ndi khou amba Tshindevehele
Ndi khou amba <i>IsiXhosa</i>	Ndi khou amba Tshithosa
Ndi khou amba <i>IsiZulu</i>	Ndi khou amba Tshizulu
Ndi khou amba <i>Afrikaans</i>	Ndi khou amba Tshivhuru/Afrikaans
Ndi khou amba <i>English</i>	Ndi khou amba Tshiisimani/English
Ndi khou amba <i>Tshivenda</i>	Ndi khou amba Tshivenda
Ndi khou amba <i>Xitsonga</i>	Ndi khou amba Tshitsonga

XITSONGA

FORMAT IN CONSTITUTION	RECOMMENDED FORMAT
Ndzi vulavula <i>Sesotho</i>	Ndzi vulavula Xisuthu
Ndzi vulavula <i>Seped/ Sesotho xa N'walungu</i>	Ndzi vulavula Xipedi/Xisuthu xa N'walungu ¹⁰
Ndzi vulavula <i>Setswana</i>	Ndzi vulavula Xitswana
Ndzi vulavula <i>Siswati</i>	Ndzi vulavula Xiswati
Ndzi vulavula <i>IsiNdebele</i>	Ndzi vulavula Xindevele
Ndzi vulavula <i>IsiXhosa</i>	Ndzi vulavula Xiqhosa
Ndzi vulavula <i>IsiZulu</i>	Ndzi vulavula Xizulu
Ndzi vulavula <i>Afrikaans</i>	Ndzi vulavula Xibunu/Afrikaans
Ndzi vulavula <i>English</i>	Ndzi vulavula Xingezi/English
Ndzi vulavula <i>Tshivenda</i>	Ndzi vulavula Xivenda
Ndzi vulavula <i>Xitsonga</i>	Ndzi vulavula Xitsonga

AFRIKAANS

FORMAT IN CONSTITUTION	RECOMMENDED FORMAT
Ek praat <i>Sesotho</i>	Ek praat Suid-Sotho
Ek praat <i>Sepedi/Noord Sesotho</i>	Ek praat Pedi/Noord-Sotho ¹¹
Ek praat <i>Setswana</i>	Ek praat Tswana
Ek praat <i>Siswati</i>	Ek praat Swati
Ek praat <i>IsiNdebele</i>	Ek praat Ndebele
Ek praat <i>IsiXhosa</i>	Ek praat Xhosa
Ek praat <i>IsiZulu</i>	Ek praat Zoeloe/Zulu
Ek praat <i>Afrikaans</i>	Ek praat Afrikaans
Ek praat <i>English</i>	Ek praat Engels
Ek praat <i>Tshivenda</i>	Ek praat Venda
Ek praat <i>Xitsonga</i>	Ek praat Tsonga

¹⁰ See footnote 1 above.¹¹ See footnote 1 above.

ENGLISH

FORMAT IN CONSTITUTION	RECOMMENDED FORMAT
I speak <i>Sesotho</i>	I speak Southern Sotho
I speak <i>Sepedi/Northern Sesotho</i>	I speak Pedi/Northern Sotho ¹²
I speak <i>Setswana</i>	I speak Tswana
I speak <i>Siswati</i>	I speak Swati
I speak <i>IsiNdebele</i>	I speak Ndebele
I speak <i>IsiXhosa</i>	I speak Xhosa
I speak <i>IsiZulu</i>	I speak Zulu
I speak <i>Afrikaans</i>	I speak Afrikaans
I speak <i>English</i>	I speak English
I speak <i>Tshivenda</i>	I speak Venda
I speak <i>Xitsonga</i>	I speak Tsonga

Comments must reach the Pan South African Language Board on or before 21 May 2001. You may write to:

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¹² See footnote 1 above.