

BOARD NOTICE 625 OF 2024



**PanSALB**  
PAN SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE BOARD

***RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE SPELLING AND  
ORTHOGRAPHY OF XITSONGA WORD "BANGIKULU"  
PAN SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE BOARD (ACT NO. 59 OF 1995)***



***"One nation many languages"***

[www.pansalb.org](http://www.pansalb.org)

**NO. 05/2024 OF MARCH 2024****PAN SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE BOARD (ACT NO. 59 OF 1995)**

Notice is hereby given in terms of the section 12(1)(a) of the PanSALB Act that the Board made a recommendation to the South African Reserve Bank on the spelling and orthography of the Xitsonga word “bangikulu” on its new banknotes. The word in the banknotes is according to Rule 2.5.1 of the revised Xitsonga Spelling and Orthography Rules of 2019 as variously consulted.



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12 December 2023

Mr. Lesetja Kganyago Governor  
of the Reserve Bank South  
African Reserve Bank P O Box  
427, Pretoria, 0001

Helen Suzman Street  
Pretoria Central, Pretoria,  
0001  
By email:

Dear Sir

## RECOMMENDATION ON THE SPELLING AND ORTHOGRAPHY OF XITSONGA WORD 'BANGIKULU'

1. The Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) is a constitutional body established in terms of Act 59 of 1995 as amended by Act 10 of 1999. PanSALB is mandated for the furtherance, promotion, and creation of conditions for the development and use of all official languages of the Republic of South Africa as well as the Khoe and San languages.
2. The policy recommendation herein is in terms of section 8(1)(a) of the PanSALB Act which stipulates that the Board shall make recommendations with regard to any proposed or existing legislation, policy, and practice dealing directly or indirectly with language matters at any level of government and may monitor the observance of that recommendation or advice (s8(1)(d)).
3. Sections 8(1)(j)(i) – (iii) provide that PanSALB may monitor the observance of the constitutional provisions regarding the use of languages including monitoring the contents of language policy, formulation of the programmes and implementation of the policies fostering the equal use of and respect for the official languages while taking steps to ensure that communities using those languages have the opportunity to use their respective languages in appropriate circumstances.

LEKGOTLA LA DIPOLELO  
KA MOKA TSA AFRIKA BORWA

Setshaba se tee  
sa dipolelo tse dintsi

LEKGOTLA LA DIPUO  
TSHOHLE TSA AFRIKA BORWA

Setshaba se le seng sa  
dipuo tse ngata

LEKGOTLA LA DIPUO  
TSHOHLE TSA AFRIKA BORWA

Setshaba se le sengwe  
se dipuo tse dintsi

LIBHODI LETILWIMI TONKHE  
TASENINGIZIMU AFRIKA

Sive sinye,  
tlwimi letinyenti

BODONYANGAREDZI YA  
TINDZIMI TA AFRIKA-DZONGA

Lushaka luthini,  
nyambo mntzi

HUVO YO ANGERHELA YA  
TINDZIMI TA AFRIKA-DZONGA

Rixaka rin'we  
tindzimi tinyingi

PAN-SUID-AFRIKKANSE TAALRAAD

Een nasie, baie tale

PAN SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE  
BOARD

One nation, many language

IBHODI YAMALIMI WONKE  
WESEWULA AFRIKA

Isithaba sinye,  
amalini amanengi

IBHODI YEELWIMI ZONKE  
ZASEMZANTSI AFRIKA

Isizwe esinye,  
ilwimi ezininzi

IBHODI YEZILIMI ZONKE  
ZASENINGIZIMU AFRIKA

Isizwe sinye  
ilwimi ezininzi

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4. The Xitsonga National Language Body established in terms of section 8(8)(b) advised the Board that the spelling of the word 'BANGIKULU' in the recently printed banknotes is in accordance with Rule 2.5.1 of the revised Xitsonga Spelling and Orthography Rules of 2019.

#### **RECOMMENDATION ON THE SPELLING AND ORTHOGRAPHY OF XITSONGA WORD 'BANGIKULU'**

1. The attached Report, approved by the Board on 26 October 2023, reflects on the steps taken to address the concerns raised by various groups and individuals regarding the spelling of this word.
2. It is envisaged that SARB will consult PanSALB to advise it on language-related matters.
3. It is also expected that SARB will submit its Annual Language Policy Implementation Report in terms of section 9(2) of the Use of Official Languages Act (UOLA), No. 12 of 2012 by 30 June each in accordance with Regulation 5(1) of the UOLA Regulations.

Your consideration of this recommendation is highly appreciated. Sin-

cerely,



**Prof Lolie Makhubu-Badenhorst**  
**Chairperson of PanSALB**

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**SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK**

File ref. no.: 9/1/11

Office of the Governor  
Lesetja Kganyago

Prof Lolie Makhubu-Badenhorst  
Chairperson  
Pan South African Language Board  
Private Bag X08  
Arcadia  
0007

Dear Professor Makhubu-Badenhorst

**Spelling on R100 banknote: SARB accepts the recommendation by PanSALB on the Xitsonga spelling of Bangikulu**

The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) hereby acknowledges the report by the Xitsonga National Language Body and the letter it received on 23 January 2024 that details the Pan South African Language Board's (PanSALB) recommendations on the spelling and orthography of the Xitsonga word 'Bangikulu'.

The SARB would like to thank PanSALB for acceding to our request to extend its consultation process following the concerns raised by some of the Vatsonga leaders with the changes on the recently upgraded R100 banknote.

We note that PanSALB has determined that the use of 'Bangikulu' on the banknote aligns with rule 2.5.1 of the revised Xitsonga Spelling and Orthography Rules of 2019.

Since the receipt of your letter on 23 January 2024, the SARB's Governors' Executive Committee discussed and resolved to accept the PanSALB recommendation to retain 'Bangikulu' on the banknotes.

As the SARB, we remain committed to using our currency to reflect and celebrate the rich cultural, linguistic and environmental heritage of our country. The SARB will continue to consult PanSALB when we upgrade our banknotes to ensure that it reflects the correct language usage. This has been part of our internal protocols since the introduction in 2005 of the use of all official languages on our banknotes.

Thank you for your direction and patience on this matter.

Yours sincerely

*Lesetja Kganyago*

Lesetja Kganyago  
**Governor**

Date: 16 February 2024

# XIVIKO XA

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**NHLENGELETANO YA KU TIHLANGANISA  
NA VANHU NA NDZETELAVUTIVI WA  
MILAWU YA 2019 YA MATSALELO NA  
MAPELETELO  
YAXITSONGA**

# REPORT ON

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**CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON THE  
2019 XITSONGA ORTHOGRAPHY  
AND SPELLING RULES**

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XIVIKO XA NHLENGETANO YA KU TIHLANGANISA NA VANHU NA NDZETELAVUTIVI



## 1. VUNDZHAKU

Endzhaku ko hangalasiwa ka mali leyintshwa ya dzana ra tirhandi (R100.00) hi Bangikulu ya Afrika-Dzonga (Bgk Afk-Dzg), ku vile na hoyihoyi exikarhi ka van'wana va rixaka ra Vatsonga mayelana na ku mapeletelo lama nga wona hi wahi exikarhi ka banginkulu na bangikulu (rito leri nga ndzhundzuluxo wa Xitsonga wa "Reserve Bank") hilaha marito lawa ya kandziyisiweke hakona eka mali leya khale na leyi ya ha ku kandziyisiwaka sweswi. Xivumbeko lexa vumbirhi (xo pfumala mpfumawulo wa xinhompfu wa "n" lowa vumbirhi), xi tumbuluke hikwalaho ka ku pfuxetiwa ka Milawu ya Matsalelo na Mapeletelo ya Xitsonga ya 2008 hi 2019 hi Huvo ya Rixaka ya Ririmi ra Xitsonga (HURIRIXI) huvo ya xinawu ya Huvo yo Angarhela ya Tindzimi ta Afrika-Dzonga (HATAD).

Ntlawa wo vilela wa Vatsonga va kombisile ku vilela ka vona eka swihangalasamahungu swo hambanahambana, va vula leswaku Bangikulu ya Afrika-Dzonga (Bgk Afk-Dzg) a yi hoxile mapeletelo ya banginkulu hi ku tsala bangikulu. I swa nkoka ku lemuka leswaku ntlawa lowu a wu kalangi wu yisa ku karhateka ka vona kumbe xivilelo eka HATAD hi mhaka leyi. Loko va vutisile Bgk Afk-Dzg hi mapeletelo lamantshwa lawa, Bgk Afk-Dzg yi va byerile leswaku hi ku landza nawu va vutisile HATAD kutani va tsundzuxiwa leswaku banginkulu a yi ri mapeletelo yo hoxeka kutani kusukela sweswi yi fanele ku va bangikulu. Bgk Afk-Dzg yi vuyele yi kombela nhlengeletano na ntlawa lowu, laha HATAD na yona a yi rhambiwele. HATAD yi hlamusele nhlengeletano leswaku "n" u susiwe hikwalaho ka ku va swi nga hlamuseleki leswaku u huma kwihi loko ku hlanganisiwa marito ya "bangi" na "kulu" ku vumba rivitinkatsano. Vavileri va tsandzekile ku hlamusela vukona bya "n" handle ka ku vula leswaku rito leri ana a ri peletiwa hi ndlela yoleyo naswona a ku vangi na ku vulavurisana na vanhu ko ringana ku nga si va na ku cinca loku.

Nhlengeletano leyi yi twananile leswaku HATAD a vulavurisana na ntlawa lowu na mitlawa yin'wana ya Vatsonga. Mayelana na leswi, nhlengeletano ya mani na mani yi vuyele yi lulamisiwa hi HURIRIXI hilaha swi tsariweke laha henhla, ku ta:

- i) hlamusela xivangelo xa ku susiwa ka mpfumawulo wa xinhompfu wa /n/ eka maviti ya ntlawa wa 4, lama katsaka rito ra banginkulu/bangikulu, na ku kuma xitshunxo eka mhaka leyi;
- iii) letela vanghenelanhlengeletano mayelana na Milawu ya Matsalelo na Mapeletelo hi ku landza xibukwana xa 2019.

Nhlayo ya vanhu lava nga nghenela nhlengeletano hi nyama i makumemunekombo (47), kasi khumenharhu (13) va, nghenerile hi zumu, thwita na tin'wana tindlela. Ntsengo wa lava ngheneleke nhlengeletano i makumetsevu (60).

Handle ka vanhuntsena, mihlangano leyi landzelaka yi vile na vuyimeri eka nhlengeletano:

- i) Huvo ya Vatsonga
- ii) Yindlu ya Vuhosi
- iii) Vayimeri va Dyondzo
- iv) Vatsari

Nhlangano wun'we, wu nga wa Rixaka Forum a wu vangi kona hambileswi a wu rhambiwele. Leswi swa hlamarisa hikuva hi vona a va rhangele hoyihoyi leyi nga va kona exikarhi ka Vatsonga mayelana na ku susiwa ka mpfumawulo wa xinhompfu eka banginkulu leswaku yi va bangikulu.

Huvo ya Rixaka ya Ririmi ra Xitsonga yi rhandza ku khensa mihlangano hinkwayo na vanhuntsena ku va va nghenerile nhlengeletano na ku hoya vandla eka mihlangano ku va nhlengeletano leyi yi vuyirwa leyi humalake.



## 2. VUXOKOXOKO BYANHLENGETANO

2.1 Vuandlalo bya switsariwa swo tlhontha mivulavurisano no letela nhlengetano mayelana na Milawu ya Matsalelo na Mapeletelo ya Xitsonga.

Huvo ya Rixaka ya Ririmi ra Xitsonga hi yona yi nga rhanga ku pfula xitikisi. A yi hlawurile swirho swimbirhi swa yona na khale ka Mutshamaxitulu wa yona, Phrf XE Mabaso leswaku ku va vona va nga ta endla miandlalo. Miandlalo leyi a yi ri yo:

- i) sungula nkanerisano;
- ii) hlamuselo endlelo ra xifonoloji leri endlaka leswaku mpfumawulo wa xinhompfu wa "n" eka yo tala ya maviti ya ntlawa wa 4, na le ka misinya ya rihlawuri ya {-kulu}, {-tsongo} na {-tsanana}, na leswaku hikwalahokayini wu hlayisiwa ntsena eka maviti ya mitlawu ya 1 na 1a;
- iii) tivisa na ku dyondzisa vanghen- elanhlengetano milawu ya mapeletelo na matsalelo hilaha yi nga hakona eka xibukwana xa 2019.

Ntlawa wa vaandlari wu vumbisiwe xileswi:

- 2.1.1 Dkd HT Mashele;
- 2.1.2 Dkd A Mushwana; na
- 2.1.3 Phrf XE Mabaso.

Vuandlalo bya Dkd Mashele u hlamuserile hilaha Huvo yo Angarhela ya Tindzimi ta Afrika-Dzonga yi tumbuluxiweke hakona hi Nawu wa Huvo yo Angarhela ya Tindzimi ta Afrika-Dzonga wa 59 wa 1995 (Pan South African Language Board Act 59 of 1995)), lowu antswisiweke na hilaha switirakichara swo tirhana na nhluvukiso wa tindzimi ku katsa na Huvo ya Ririmi ra Xitsonga. Handle ko letela vanghenelanhlengetano lava nga teka xiave eka Milawu ya Matsalelo na Mapeletelo ya Xitsonga, andlalo wa Dkd Mashele, exikarhi ka swin'wana, a wu ri wa ku tirhana na swihelo swa papila ra Phurofesa T Maluleke leri nga rhumeriwa eka HURIRIXI masikunyana nhlengetano yi nga si va kona swa leswaku:

- (i) HURIRIXI a yi kalangi yi vulavurisana na vaakandhawu va Vatsonga;
- (ii) HURIRIXI yi vumbiwa hi swidyondzeki swa kwalomu ka 13 lava tekelaka vanhu vo tlula timiliyoni timbirhi swiboho; na ku swirho swo tihlawula.
- (iii)



Ku angula eka swihehlo leswi, andlalo wa Dkd Mashele wu katse:

- ku va HATAD na switirakichara swa yona swi tumbuluxiwa hi vumbiwa;
- kombisa mhaka ya leswaku hambi Huvo ya Rixaka ya Xizulu yi na ntsengo wo ringana wa swirho leswi tekelaka vanhu va timiliyoni ta 11 swiboho;
- phurosese yo tlakusa mavito nayo hlawula swirho swa HURIRIXI I yo pfuleka na ku va ya mani na mani;
- mitirho ya Tihuvo ta Rixaka yi katsa ndzinganeriso;
- mingingiriko ya HURIRIXI exikarhi ka malembe ya 2004 na 2023.

Swihehlo leswin'wana swi hlamuriwile hi vuxokoxoko hi andlalo wa Dkd Mushwana. Exikarhi ka swin'wana

- u kombisile vumbhoni bya switsariwa na swifaniso swa tinhlengeletano ta mbulavurisano wa vakhumbeki va HURIRIXI vo hambanahambana eka masiku na tindhawu to hambana;
- u kanetile xihehlo xa leswaku HURIRIXI yi lo titekela njhe xiboho xo susa "n" eka maviti ya ntlawa wa 4 hi ku kombisa leswaku "n" a nga kona eka marito ya ntlawa wa 4 yo fana na "mikarhalo", "mikateko", "mitirho", "mitsonga" hi ku kongomisa eka Bibeke ya Xitsonga ya 1929 na switsariwa swin'wana swa vukhongeri;
- u humesile vumbhoni byo tsariwa bya leswaku khale ka murhangeri wa tikoxikaya ra Gazankulu, Prof HWE Ntsan'wisi, a a ri un'wana wa swirho swa vuyimeri eka khomferense ya siku rin'we ya 1959, loyi tanihi van'wana lava nga va rhangela, va nga teka xiboho xo tiya xa leswaku "n" u fanele ku susiwa eka maviti ya ntlawa wa 4 na leswaku vuningi bya "ntirho" i "mitirho" kungari "mintirho";
- u vule leswaku hikwalaho ka ku ya emahlweni ku pfumala ndzinganeriso eka matsalelo ya marito yo fana na "mitirho" na "mintirho", HURIRIXI na yona yi endlile ndzavisiso wa yona kutani yi tiyisisa xiboho xo susa "n" handle ko cincacina eka maviti ya ntlawa wa 4 yo huma eka misinya ya maendli.

Phrf Mabaso u andlarile swa xibukwana xa 2019 xa Matsalelo na Mapeletelo ya Xitsonga, ku katsa na ku susiwa ka mpfumawulo wa xinompfu wa "n" eka theme ra bangikulu na matheme yo fana na rona ya ntlawa wa 4. Andlalo lowu

- wu hlamuserile nawu lowu tirhaka eka misinya ya rihlawuri ya {-kulu}, {-tsongo} na yin'wana leyi nga sunguriki hi "n";
- wu hlamuserile leswaku "n" u humelela tanihi xiyimeri xa xirhangi xa ntlawa xa {mu-} maviti ya ntlawa wa 1 ku katsa na maviti ya ntlawa wa 1a, tanihi nkulu and ntsongo, na man'wana;
- wu basisile leswaku bangi+kulu = bangikulu tanihi sugar+cane = sugarcane;
- wu basisile leswaku eka ntlawa wa 1a mhani+(mu)kulu > \*mhani(m)kulu > mhaninkulu hikwalaho ka ndzundzuluko wa mipfumawulo ya mbulavulo;
- wu amukeriwile hi hinkwavo;
- kombisile ku nga vi ntiyiso ka swihehlo swo lava ku huhulukisa vanhu ku kholwa leswaku HURIRIXI yi lava ku susa mpfumawulo wa /n/ eka ku tsala ririmi ra Xitsonga, xk ku tsariwa "xikwa" ematshan'wini ya "xinkwa".

Switsariwa swa swivulavuri leswinharhu swa kumeka eka hofisi ya Xifundza ya HATAD eLimpopo.







Huvo ya Vatsonga leyi a yimeriwile hi Ttn MM Phakula na van'wana, va boxile ntsako wa vona mayelana na matirhelo ya Huvo ya Rixaka ya Ririmi ra Xitsonga, na ku angula hi xihatla eka ntsalelano wa vona wo sungula. Va hoyozerile goza leri tanihi swin'wana swa swikombiso swa Huvo leyi nga tiyimisela ku korhokela rixaka.

Mhakakulu ya ntlawa lowu a ku nga ri ku susiwa ka xitatisi xa xinhompfu xa /n/ eka theme ra banginkulu ku va ri va bangikulu. Xa vona a ku ri ku vona onge vito ra Bangikulu, leri ku ya hi vona a ri fanele ku va swin'wana swo fana na "dulu" (granary). Ku angula eka mbhumabumelo lowu wa vito, HURIRIXI yi basisile mhaka hi ndlela leyi:

- ntirho wa HURIRIXI eka theme ra bangikulu a hi mhaka ya leswaku ri hundzuluxeriwe njhani, kambe ku tiyisisa leswaku ri tsariwa hi ku landza milawu leyintshwa ya matsalelo na mapeletelo ya 2019;
- HURIRIXI yi twile mhaka leyi ya xibumabumelo xa vito ku va yi kaneriwa nkarhi lowu taka eka ndhawu yin'wana;
- ku dlayelela mhaka ya vona, ntlawa lowu wu kombisile nseketelo wa vona wa HURIRIXI eka nhluvukiso wa ririmi wu tihela wu tiboha ku tirhisana na HURIRIXI eka swona.

### 3.2 Yindlu ya Vuhosi (YV)

Yindlu ya Vuhosi a yi yimeriwe hi Ttn MB Shipalana. U kombisile ku vilela ka tihosi eka mhaka yo nyumisa ya ku va Vatsonga va rhukanana erivaleni eka swihangalasamahungu. Xa vona a ku ri ku kombela ntirhisano exikarhi ka vona na HURIRIXI. Va vurile leswaku va tshemba leswaku xikombelo xa vona xi ta tekeriwa enhlokweni tanihileswi va hisekelaka ku tirha na HURIRIXI eka timhaka leti khumbaka vanhu va vona. Ku angula eka xikombelo xa Yundlu ya Vuhosi, HURIRIXI yi vule leswi landzelaka:

- ku tiyisa vuxaka bya matlhelo himambirhi;
- ku tirha na tihosi eka timhaka leti khumbaka vanhu va tona.

### 3.3 Vuyimeri bya Xiyenge xa Dyondzo (VXD)

Lava a va ri kona hi ku yimela xiyenge xa dyondzo hambiloko swi nga humelangi erivaleni rhijini leyi a va yimerile yona, va kanetile ku susiwa ka xinhompfu xa /n/ eka maviti ya ntlawa wa 4. Va vule leswaku:

- i) ku cinca loku ku ta vanga mpfilupfilu exikarhi ka vadyondzi hikuva pholisi ya kharikhulamu na switatimende swa ha ri na “n”;
  - ii) marito yo fana na “mindzilo” ya hambuka hikuva a ya susi “n”;
  - iii) xibukwana lexintshwa xa milawu xa 2019 xi fanele ku kokeriwa endzhaku;
  - iv) va teka swileriso ntsena eka muthori wa vona kutani ku fikela sweswi a va si byeriwa ku susa “n”.
- HURIRIXI yi hlamurile leswaku yi vile na ku vulavurisana na vona kusukela hi 2004 na leswaku a va si tshama va kombisa hi ndlela leyi khorwisaka ku va “n” a hlayisiwa. Ku kombisiwile leswaku ku ala ka vona ku susa “n” laha swi faneleke swi khomelela nhluvuko wa ririmi ra Xitsonga;
  - HURIRIXI yi hlamuserile leswaku rito ra “mindzilo” a ri pfeleri eka riendli tanihi “mitirho” na man’wana.

### 3.4 Vatsari va Tibuku (VT)

Vuyimeri bya xiyenge lexi byi bakanyerile etlhelo miehleketo yo ala ku cinca, va boxa leswaku hi ku vona ka vona xibukwana xa milawu xi tshamisekile naswona va vona ku pfuna ka xona eka migingiriko ya vutsari bya vona. Va vutisile loko ku ri na munhu exikarhi ka vanghenelanhlengetano, loyi a tivaka swin’wana swi nga hoxeka eka xibukwana handle ka lava a va vilerisiwa hi timhaka ta le ka ntlawa wa 4.

Va gimetile mbulavulo wa vona hi ku bumabumela leswaku:

- i) xibukwana xa milawu xi hangalasiwa ku ya emahlweni;
- ii) HURIRIXI a yi yise emahlweni migingiriko yo letela mayelana na xibukwana ku pfuna vatirhisi eka swiphiko leswi va nga vaka na swona.

### 3.5 Vanhuntsena (V)

Ntlawa lowu wu vurile handle ko tipfinyinga leswaku xibukwana lexi xi fanele ku hangalasiwa eka vatirhisi va ririmi. Va khutazile HURIRIXI ku fikelela vanhu vo tala hilaha swi kotekaka hakona.

Munhu un’we loyi a nga tivula ku va a tiyimela yexe i Ttn Mbhazima Shilowa. U bumabumerile leswaku theme leri ku vulavuriwaka hi rona (banginkulu) ri tekiwa ri ri ro ka ri nga weli eka nawu lowu (exception), naswona mapeletelo lawa ya khale yo va na xinhompfu ya hlayisiwa, tanihileswi ana swo ka swi nga weli enawini swi nga kona hi ku angarhela. Handle ko kombisa xivangelo xa xifonoloji, u yile emahlweni a kombisa leswaku rito ra bangikulu ri nga ha va ri tsariwe na xinhompfu hikwalaho ka ku va ri munhuhatiwile.

Ku angula eka leswi nga vuriwa hi Ttn Shilowa, HURIRIXI yi vule leswi landzelaka:

- kunene mhaka ya swo ka swi nga angarheriwi hi nawu wo karhi i mhaka ya ntolovel, kambe swi amukeleka ntsena loko swi seketeriwa hi nhlamuselo yo twala;
- leswaku vanhu hi ku angarhela va tivisiwa leswaku ku susiwa ka mpfumawulo wa xinhompfu wa /n/ a swi khumbi banginkulu ntsena, kambe na marito man’wana yo tala lama nga na misinya ya rihlawuri ya -kulu, -tsongo, swsw, na marito man’wana eka mitlawa yo ka yi nga ri ya 1 na 1a. Tanihi swikombiso ku nyikiwile marito yo fana na swo fana na “xifundzakulu” na “dyondzotsongo”.



#### 4. MIPFUMELELANO YO HUMAEKASWIANDLARIWA NA MIKANERISANO

- 4.1 Vatsari va pfumerile leswaku milawu i ya nkoka naswona yi ta swi kota ku pfuna vatsari va matsalwa ku hunguta ku tsana hi matsalelo na mapeletelo ya Xitsonga;
- 4.2 Nhlengeletano yi komberile leswaku miletelavutivi ya milawu yi hatlisisiwa leswaku vatirhi va swa ririmi na vanhu hi ku angarhela va va na vutivi lebyi faneleke.
- 4.3 Vayimeri va Yindlu ya Vuhosi va tshikilerile ku navela ka vona ku va na ntirhisano na HURIRIXI, na ku katsiwa eka migingiriko leyi nga va khumbaka tanihi vasirheleri na vahlayisi va mfuwo exikarhi ka vanhu.
- 4.4 Mutiyimelayexe, Ttn Mbhazima Shilowa u vurile leswi landzelaka:
- HURIRIXI yi fanele ku tekela enhlokweni mhaka ya vumunhuhati leyi a yi ta pfuneta eka mhaka ya ku hlayisa xinhompfu eka maviti ya ntlawa wa 4.
  - leswaku theme ra banginkulu (ro va na xinhompfu), ri tekiwa tanihi ro ka ri nga weli eka nawu eka ririmi leri.
  - a pfumela leswaku vuswikoti byo endla vulavisisi no nyika vumbhoni byo hlamusela vukona bya xinhompfu xa "n" eka rito ra "banginkulu" a nga na byona. A vula leswaku a nga tivi na lomu "n" a pfelelaka kona eka rito leri kambe wa tiva leswaku "n" a tirhisiwa eka motho wa khale ka tikoxikaya ra Gazankulu "mintirho ya vulavula".
  - u xungetile ku yisa mhaka leyi ekhoto loko HATAD yo ka yi nga tsundzuxi Bgk Afk-Dzg ku tlherisela "n" eka banginkulu.



## 5. KU DLAYELELA

- 5.1 Eka nhlengeletano leyi, HURIRIXI a yi languterile leswaku lava va kanetanaka na phurosese ya xifonoloji leyi susaka mpfumawulo wa xinhompfu wa /n/ eka bangikulu a va ta na nhlamuselo yo kombisa ku nga vi swona ka leswi nga andlariwa. A ku vangi na wo vula nchumu.
- 5.2 Xibukwana xa Milawu ya Matsalelo na Mapeletelo ya Xitsonga xa 2019 xi ta hangalaseriwa vanhu hi ku angarhela hilaha nhlengeletano yi nga bumabumela hakona.
- 5.3 HURIRIXI yi ta tsundzuxa HATAD hi ku tshikilela ku tihlanganisa na Holobywa wa Dyondzo ya Masungulo hi xihatla, ku va a tivisa xiyenge lexi faneleke hi milawu leyintshwa na ku endla leswaku xibukwana xi fikelela vadyondzisi na hinkwavo lava faneleke.
- 5.4 HURIRIXI yi ta tshikilelela HATAD leswaku yi nyika mali yo ringana eka HURIRIXI leswaku yi ya emahlweni na mileteladyondzo ya milawu leyintshwa eka vaakandhawu vo hambana.
- 5.5 Xohetelela, HURIRIXI yi bohile leswaku leswi ku nga hava nhlamuselo yo seketela ku hlayisiwa ka mpfumawulo wa xinhompfu wa "n" eka banginkulu, yi tiyisisa mapeletelo lamantshwa ya "Bangikulu" hi ku landza nawu wa 2.5.1. Xiboho lexi xi katsa maviti yo huma eka maendli hinkwawo ya ntlawa wa 4, na maviti hinkwawo lama khumbekaka hi ku landza nawu wa 2.3 .1 (f).

*Xiviko lexi xi lulamisiwile hi HURIRIXI na Yuniti ya Rixaka ya Tidikixinari ta Xitsonga, leswi haswimbirhi swi nga switirakichara swa xinawu swa HATAD, insichuxini yo ya hi Vumbiwa leyi nga tumbuluxiwa hi ku landza xiyenge xa 6.5 xa Vumbiwa na Nawu wa HATAD lowu nga antswisiwa.*



## 1. BACKGROUND

After the printing and publicizing of the new one hundred Rand (R100.00) note by the Reserve Bank of South Africa (SARB), there was a great outcry among some Vatsonga speakers, the issue being which of the two spelling forms, *banginkulu* and *bangikulu* (a Xitsonga translation of “Reserve Bank”) printed on the old and newly printed bank notes respectively, was the correct one. The latter form (without the 2nd nasal speech sound “n”), arose as a result of the revision of the 2008 Xitsonga Orthography and Spelling Rules in 2019 by the Xitsonga National Language Body (XNLB), the statutory structure of the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB).

The concerned Vatsonga group raised their concern on various social media platforms alleging that the SARB had misspelled the word *banginkulu* by spelling it as *bangikulu*. It shall be noted that this group never submitted any concern or complaint to PanSALB about this issue. When they questioned SARB about the new spelling, SARB informed them that they had duly consulted with PanSALB and had been advised that *banginkulu* was incorrectly spelled and should henceforth be written as *bangikulu*. SARB subsequently requested a meeting with them to which PanSALB was also invited. PanSALB explained to the meeting that the “n” was removed because it cannot be accounted for when the words “bangi” and “kulu” combined to form the compound noun. The concerned group also failed to justify the presence of the “n” safe to say that it had always been spelled like that and that there had not been sufficient consultation before the change was made.

The meeting agreed that PanSALB should consult with the group and other concerned Vatsonga groups. In this regard, a public meeting was convened by the XNLB as above, to:

- i) explain the reason for the dropping of the nasal /n/ in mainly deverbative nouns of class 4, which includes the class 9 term *banginkulu/bangikulu*, and
- ii) workshop participants on the spelling and orthography rules as contained in the revised 2019 booklet.

Forty-seven (47) people attended the meeting, while 13 were able to participate via Zoom, Twitter and other electronic social media. The total number of participants was, therefore, sixty (60).

Apart from the members of the public, the following formations were represented:

- i) Huvo ya Vatsonga (Vatsonga Board)
- ii) Yindlu ya Vuhosi (House of Traditional Leaders)
- iii) Vayimeri va Dyondzo (Representatives of the Education sector)
- iv) Vatsari (Vatsonga writers)

One formation, Rixaka Forum, who were part of the delegation to the SARB, did not attend, in spite of the fact that they had been invited. This is surprising as they had been in the forefront of the stir that had afflicted the Xitsonga community on the dropping of the nasal sound in *banginkulu*, to become *bangikulu*.

The Xitsonga National Language Body wishes to thank all the formations and members of the public for attending the meeting and for their contribution to the success of the gathering.





## 2. DETAILS OF THE MEETING

### 2.1 Presentation of documents to initiate discussion and to workshop the meeting on the Xitsonga Orthography and Spelling Rules.

The Xitsonga National Language Body was first to present. It had chosen two of its members and the former chairperson of the XNLB, Prof XE Mabaso to make presentations. The presentations were meant to

- i) initiate discussion;
- ii) explain the phonological process that leads to the omission of the nasal sound "n" in most nouns of class 4, as well as from adjective stems {-kulu}, {-tsongo} and {-tsanana} and why it was retained only in class 1 and 1a nouns;
- iii) introduce and workshop participants on the spelling and orthography rules as contained in the 2019 booklet.

The presentation team was constituted as follows:

- 2.1.1 Dr HT Mashele
- 2.1.2 Dr A Mushwana and
- 2.1.3 Prof XE Mabaso.

Dr. Mashele's presentation outlined how the Pan South African Language Board was established by the Pan South African Language Board Act 59 of 1995 as amended and how PanSALB in turn established structures for language development, that include the Xitsonga National Language Body. Besides workshopping the public who participated in the new Xitsonga Orthography and Spelling Rules, Dr Mashele's presentation, among other things, was to deal with the allegations levelled against the Xitsonga NLB in Professor T Maluleke's letter submitted to the provincial office a few days before the actual meeting that:

- (i) the XNLB never consulted the Vatsonga communities;
- (ii) the XNLB comprised a very small number of about 13 academics who took decisions for over 2 million people; and
- (iii) the members were self-appointed.



Responding to the allegations, Dr Mashele's presentation included:

- the constitutional nature of PanSALB and its structures;
- highlighting the fact that even the IsiZulu NLB was allocated the same number of members to take decisions for over 11 million people;
- the nomination and appointment process for NLB members, which is an open, public process;
- the duties of the NLBs including standardisation;
- activities of the Xitsonga NLB between 2004 and 2023.

The other allegations were dealt with fully in Dr Mushwana's presentation. He, among others,

- presented documentary and pictorial evidence of the XNLB's consultation with various stakeholders on different dates and venues;
- refuted the allegation that the XNLB took the decision to drop the "n" from class 4 nouns by highlighting that the "n" was not there in class 4 nouns such as "mikarhalo", "mikateko", "mitirho", "mitsonga" by referring to the 1929 Xitsonga Bible and other religious texts;
- produced documentary proof that the former Gazankulu homeland leader, Prof HWE Ntsan'wisi was one of the delegates to a one-day conference in 1959 who, like others before them, took a firm decision that the "n" should be dropped from class 4 nouns and that the plural form of "ntirho" is "mitirho" and not "mintirho";
- asserted that due to the continuation of inconsistencies in the writing of words such as "mitirho" and "mintirho", the XNLB also conducted its own research and ratified the decision to drop the "n" invariably in class 4 deverbative nouns.

Prof Mabaso made presentations on the 2019 booklet on the Orthography and Spelling Rules for Xitsonga, including the issue of the dropping of the nasal "n" from the term *bangikulu* and other related terms of class 4. The presentation

- explained the rule that deals with the adjective stems {-kulu}, {-tsongo} etc, which do not start with the "n";
- explained that the "n" appears as a variant of the class prefix {mu-} of class 1 and 1a nouns like nkulu and ntsongo, etc.;
- clarified that bangi+kulu = bangikulu just as sugar+cane = sugarcane;
- clarified that in class 1a mhani+(mu)kulu > \*mhani(m)kulu > mhaninkulu due to speech sound changes;
- was accepted unanimously;
- falsified the allegation that seeks to mislead the public to believe that the Xitsonga NLB had sought to remove all nasal /n/ sound in the writing of the Xitsonga language, e.g. that we should write "xikwa" instead of "xinkwa".

The presentations of three speakers are available at the Limpopo Provincial Office of PanSALB.







### 3. SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS BY DIFFERENT FORMATIONS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

#### 3.1 Huvo ya Vatsonga

This formation was represented by Mr MM Phakula and others. They expressed their joy at how the XNLB had interacted with them, and the prompt response by the XNLB to their initial correspondence. They expressed appreciation for the steps the Xitsonga NLB had taken to arrange the meeting as a step in the right direction in service delivery to the people.

The principal concern of the formation was not the removal of the nasal consonant /n/ in the term *banginkulu* to become *bangikulu*. Theirs was the perceived inappropriate translation equivalent of the name *Bangikulu*, which according to them the translation could have been “dulu” (granary). In response to the name suggestion, the Xitsonga NLB clarified as following:

- that the Xitsonga NLB’s task in the term *bangikulu* was not how it was translated, but to make sure that the way it is written is in accordance with the new Xitsonga Orthography and Spelling Rules of 2019;
- that the Xitsonga NLB has noted their name suggestion for future discussion at a different platform;
- concluding their submission, the formation ended by expressing their support for the XNLB in language development, and committed to cooperate with the Xitsonga NLB in the same. In his closing remarks, Mr Phakula from Huvo ya Vatsonga reiterated what he said in his presentation as recorded above.

#### 3.2 Yindlu ya Vuhosi

Yindlu ya Vuhosi was represented by Mr MB Shipalana. He raised the concern of traditional leaders at the shameful manner in which the Vatsonga were hurling insults at one another in public media platforms. Theirs was a plea for cooperation between themselves and the XNLB. They hoped their plea would be considered because they are very eager to work with the XNLB in matters affecting their communities. Responding to the call from the Yundlu ya Vuhosi, the Xitsonga NLB made the following commitment:

- to have both parties' relationship strengthened;
- to work with the chiefs on issues affecting their subjects.

### 3.3 Vuyimeri bya Xiyenge xa Dyondzo

Those present, while not identifying the region they represented, objected to the omission of the nasal /n/ in nouns of class 4. They said that:

- i) the change will cause confusion among learners because the curriculum policy and statements still retained the "n";
- ii) words like "mindzilo" are inconsistent because they do not drop the "n";
- iii) the new 2019 rules booklet should be withdrawn;
- iv) they take instructions only from their employer who has thus far not informed them to remove the "n";
  - The XNLB retorted that they have had consultations with them since 2004 and that they have never argued convincingly for retaining the "n". It was indicated that their unsubstantiated refusal to drop the "n" in appropriate areas is holding back the development of the Xitsonga language; and
  - The XNLB clarified that the word "mindzilo" is not a deverbative like "mitirho" and the like.

### 3.4 Writers

Representatives of this group opposed the views expressed by those who were against the change. They indicated that the booklet would be a good guide for their writing. They asked if there was anyone who could advance anything wrong with the booklet, apart from those who objected to the class 4 matter.

They ended their input by stating the following:

- i) The booklet must be distributed going forward;
- ii) The XNLB must continue with the task of conducting workshops to help potential users with any problem they might have.

### 3.5 The general public

This group stated categorically that the booklet must be distributed to the language users. They encouraged the XNLB to reach out to as many people as possible.

One member of the public who identified himself as an independent, is Mr Mbhazima Shilowa. He suggested that the term in question (*banginkulu*) be made an exception to the rule, and the old spelling with the nasal be retained, as exceptions do exist generally. Without advancing any phonological reason, he further pointed out that the word *bangikulu* could have been written with the nasal sound because it has been personalised.

In responding to Mr Shilowa's submission, the Xitsonga NLB said the following:

- that exception to the rule is indeed a practice, however it can only be accepted when accompanied by a sound motivation;
- that members of the public be informed that the nasal /n/'s removal affected not *banginkulu* alone, but many other words that incorporate the adjective stems -kulu, -tsongo, etc. and other words in classes other than class 1 and 1a. Examples such as "xifundzakulu" (province) and "dyondzotsongo" (subject lesson) were given.

## PROPOSITIONS FROM PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

- 4.1 Writers agreed that rules are important as these will eliminate the problem of poor spelling and writing in Xitsonga.
- 4.2 The meeting requested that the workshops on the rules be hastened so that language practitioners and the public in general, may be properly equipped.
- 4.3 The representatives of the house of traditional leaders stressed their desire to have a working relationship with the XNLB, and to be involved in activities that might affect them as guardians and preservers of culture among the people.
- 4.4 The independent participant, Mr Mbhazima Shilowa stated the following:
  - i) the XNLB should take into account the matter of personification, which would assist in the matter of retaining the nasal in nouns of class 4.
  - ii) that the term banginkulu (with the nasal), be treated as an “exception” in the language
  - iii) he conceded that he did not have the capacity to conduct research and provide evidence to account for the presence of “n” in the word “banginkulu”. He did not know where the “n” came from but he knew that it was used in the Gazankulu motto “mintirho ya vulavula”.
  - iv) he threatened to take the matter to court if PanSALB did not advise SARB to restore the “n” to banginkulu.





## 5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

- 5.1 At this meeting, the XNLB had expected that those who objected to the phonological process that brought about the omission of the nasal /n/ in “*bangikulu*” would present a counterprocess to disprove what had been presented by the XNLB. Nothing was forthcoming.
- 5.2 The Xitsonga Orthography and Spelling Rules of 2019 booklet is to be distributed to reach the general public as recommended by the meeting.
- 5.3 The XNLB will advise PanSALB to contact the Minister of Basic Education as a matter of urgency, to inform the relevant sector of the new rules and to make the booklet available to teachers and other relevant people.
- 5.4 The XNLB will emphasize to PanSALB that sufficient funds be made available for the XNLB to be able to continue with workshops on the new rules in different communities.
- 5.5 In conclusion, the Xitsonga NLB resolved that in the absence of a justification for the retaining of the nasal “n” in banginkulu, it upholds the new spelling: “*Bangikulu*” as in accordance with rule 2.5.1 This resolution applies to all class 4 deverbative nouns and all other related nouns as per rule 2.3.1 (f).

*This Report is compiled by the Xitsonga National Language Body and Xitsonga National Language Unit, both are statutory structures of the PanSALB, a constitutional institution established in terms of section 6.5 of the Constitution and PanSALB Act as amended.*



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