

What does your municipality's name mean?

This is a new section, introduced to inform our readers on the meaning of the municipalities' names used in the new local government

dispensation. If you would like your municipality's name to be featured here, please e-mail the information to cmare@uwc.ac.za.

New name	Formerly known as	Meaning of the name
Mangaung Municipality	Bloemfontein and surrounding areas, Free State	The name is a Sesotho word meaning 'place of leopards'. Legend has it that when the first white settlers arrived at these shores, they were stunned by the vast plains and the plateaux, which were roamed freely by leopards.
Moqhaka Municipality	Kroonstad and surrounding areas, Free State	A look at the amalgamating municipalities will reveal the commonality of the word 'kroon' in at least three affected areas.. 'Kroon' is Afrikaans for 'crown'. The Sesotho word is 'moqhaka'.
eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality	Durban Metropolitan Unicity and surrounding areas, KwaZulu-Natal	'eThekwini' is of Zulu origin and means a curvature filled with presence, activity, movement and living water. Eteku refers to the horns of a bull, to which the shape of the bay is similar. This is the original name for Durban and surrounding areas. Theka (harbour) is the symbol of industrial competence, this being the most important harbour in Africa.
Bela-bela Local Municipality	Warmbaths and surrounding areas, Limpopo	The name is a Sesotho word and means 'boil-boil' in English and 'kook-kook' in Afrikaans. 'Bela-Bela' is therefore a Sesotho translation of the former name of the Municipality.
Lekwa Local Municipality	Standerton and surrounding areas, Mpumalanga	'Lekwa' is the Zulu name for the Vaal River that runs through the jurisdiction of the Municipality.

