



THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**MEDIA SUMMARY – JUDGMENT DELIVERED IN THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL**

FROM: The Registrar, Supreme Court of Appeal

DATE: 29 MARCH 2007

STATUS: Immediate

Please note that the media summary is intended for the benefit of the media and does not form part of the judgment of the Supreme Court of Appeal

The Supreme Court of Appeal today upheld an appeal brought by the Chairpersons' Association of Limpopo Province and reviewed and set aside a decision made by the Minister of Arts and Culture on 15 May 2003 to change the name of the Limpopo town Louis Trichardt to Makhado.

The Supreme Court of Appeal held that a guideline had been set by the South African Geographical Names Council to the effect that there had to be adequate consultation of affected communities and stakeholders before a name change was approved and that such consultation had not taken place in the case of Louis Trichardt. Despite this the Minister of Arts and Culture had been informed by the Director-General for Arts and Culture before he made the decision that there had been adequate consultation. The Minister was entitled, so the Supreme Court of Appeal held, to accept the correctness of this statement. In the circumstances the Minister's decision had to be set aside as the misstatement was clearly material. The Supreme Court of Appeal went on to hold that the fact that the Minister later rejected an objection to the name change did not alter the position because he was not empowered, when considering an objection to a name change, to validate a previously invalid decision.