The challenge of co-operative governance of addresses and address data in Mankweng and surroundings in Limpopo, South Africa

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Abstract:

In South Africa's former homelands, the quest for services and infrastructure provision has caused dramatic urbanization. Mankweng, formerly inside the homeland of Lebowa, was developed as a residential university town in the early 1960s for Sotho, Tsonga and Venda students at the University of the North, now known as the University of Limpopo. Since then, large, mainly residential expansion with low-income housing but only little other urban development took place - the built-up area almost doubled between 1983 and 1997 (Botha and Donaldson, 2000). In 1994, Mankweng and the surrounding tribal authorities became part of the bigger Polokwane Municipality, with the tribal authorities still in charge of their territories.

According to the Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Amendment Act of 2003, the role of the traditional authority leadership is to support municipalities in identifying community needs, facilitating community participation in the integrated development plan, promoting ideals of co-operative governance, integrated development planning, sustainable development and service delivery, sharing information with information and co-operating with other traditional councils as well as partnerships with local municipalities based on principles of co-operative governance.

Today, Mankweng and surroundings are characterised by new settlements emerging as a result of land claims because of the Land Restitution Act, a continuing increase in the number of business activities along the R71 (a major road through the area) and the establishment of residential sites in the former open tribal lands (e.g., an area between Nobody and Mankweng has filled up with residential sites that have been sold to individual buyers by the chiefs who contest ownership of the area). In some areas, this has led to haphazard street layouts without street names and addresses. In older more traditional settlements, footpaths that lead to dwellings and house numbers are absent. The people who live in these areas are without an address and are invisible to society and government, as they cannot apply for services, receive guests or be active members of society (Mask, 2020).

In the WoPedyP (Women's perceptions and place dynamics) project, we aim to better understand how women's livelihoods in peri-urban settlements such as Mankweng and surroundings could become more sustainable. In this abstract, the focus is on addresses. An address, simply put, is structured information that helps one find a location or object in the physical world. It is an association between people and their spatial surroundings (Javidaneh, Karimipour and Alinaghi, 2020). These days, addresses are often represented as geospatial data, so that they can be included in analytics and maps. The importance of address data for the realisation of economic, social and environmental benefits is acknowledged by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN GGIM) by including addresses in the set of fundamental geospatial data themes (UN GGIM, 2019).

In this presentation, we show the challenges of governing, assigning and maintaining addresses and address data through a collaboration of the Polokwane Local Municipality and traditional authorities in the study area of the WoPedyP project. The study was guided by ISO/DIS 19160-2, A*ddressing -- Part 2: Assigning and maintaining addresses for objects in the physical world,* which is currently under development. ISO 19160-2 specifies conformance for a good practice and a governance framework for the assignment and maintenance of addresses and address data. We studied legislation and policies, and engaged with local stakeholders, such as the municipality and traditional authorities. Based on this, we show if and how the good practices and governance framework in the study area conform to ISO/DIS 19160-2, and make recommendations for the future.

Acknowledgements

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