

The Toponymics of Post Colonial Zambia: Street Naming Patterns in Lusaka.

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CHAPTER SIXTEEN

THE TOPONYMICS OF POSTCOLONIAL ZAMBIA: STREET NAMING PATTERNS IN LUSAKA

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Introduction

This chapter is a survey of the street names and the street-naming process in Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia. The chapter forms part of an ongoing research project on names and naming patterns in Zambia. Street names or toponyms are not just mere signposts. Street names may be given to reflect the social, political and cultural ideologies maintained by the name-givers. For instance, some names have been given to exorcise the colonial legacy from street names so as to reflect the spirit of an independent Zambia. There are some names that commemorate various social and political events that have taken place in the country and names that have been given to honour and archive certain individuals or group achievements that the community would like to remember.

While street naming is considered one of the most important activities of municipalities, the allocation of street names and numbers are also important for the effective provision of municipal services such as engineering, billing for rates, provision of emergency services (fire and ambulance rescue), effective delivery of mail, for the unique identification of the street being named, for easy location of places by outsiders, for ensuring that property owners can be contacted for public participation purposes, and so on. Hence, an absence of street names and numbering can cause an inconvenience with regard to these aspects. Street names also usually form part of the address of businesses, institutions or organisations located on the streets.