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Changing names

Reading *noseweek* serves as a useful reminder that all is not well in sunny SA, although, as The Beatles used to sing: "It's getting better all the time!"

Anyway, in a country where you have a courageous muck-raking press, busily uncovering abuses of power in high places, as well as exposing the occasional con artists of the Von Bullshit variety, things can't be all that bad. With Tim James and Harold Strachan to provide the appropriate after-tastes, your magazine continues to give us – your overseas subscribers – our money's worth!

A subject you haven't yet raised: according to a report in Norway's largest morning newspaper *Aftenposten* on 9 March 2005, the South African capital city – formerly known as Pretoria – has now changed its name to Tshwane.

Indeed? Don't get me wrong: re-naming of cities (and other place names) to reflect political changes has been known to occur even in the most unlikely places, and there should be no reason to expect post-apartheid South Africa to be different.

This particular name-change does, however, make one wonder what happened to the good ol' indigenous name of ePitoli, as the city used to be known among the majority of South Africa's citizens.

How should the new name be pronounced?

And, if other major SA cities are also about to undergo name changes, would those be the traditional (and phonetically easy and pleasing) ones, such as Igoli, iKapa, eTekweni and eBayi for Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth, or are the powers-that-be contemplating new and unfamiliar ones?

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