

Sotho is *nkwe* and a cheetah is *lengau* (plural: *mangau*). Zoologically this is significant since these two species differ quite distinctly from each other; anatomically as well as in habits and the habitat they generally occupy. These differences the Sotho recognized, hence a specific name for each. Why then the ambiguity? Perhaps this arose through placing too much emphasis on the word "leopard" in the other colloquial names of the Cheetah, namely Hunting **leopard** and **Jagluiperd**, so that eventually in some dictionaries Leopard instead of Hunting Leopard is *lengau*.

It is not unlikely that Leopard occurred in Bloemfontein as suitable cover was probably available at the time in the koppies and mountains. Leopard are of course very secretive and primarily nocturnal and in general more a forest species and not so well adapted to an open savanna environment. Cheetah, by contrast, are diurnal and generally a species which frequent

open plains — such as are found in the Orange Free State.

But what's in a name one might ask. Does it matter whether the Sotho name for Bloemfontein, *Mangaung*, denotes Leopard or Cheetah? Zoologically it does, as in many of the old writings ambiguous names such as tiger or panther were often used thereby restricting our knowledge of what was exactly referred to. Symbolically it also matters, consider for example what the implications might have been had the emblem of Bloemfontein City featured a Leopard instead of a Cheetah.

* Tigers, unlike any other southern African felines, have stripes and not "spots" and do not occur in Africa, notwithstanding Tiger is used to refer to a number of African felids which have "spots" e.g. Serval (Tierboskat), Black-footed cat (Miershooptier), Leopard (Afrikaanse tier) and no doubt also the Cheetah (Hunting leopard).



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CORNELIS WESSELS (1851-1924)

C.H. Wessels het die Oranje-Vrystaat in verskeie belangrike openbare posisies gedien, waaronder leier van die Afrikanerbond in die Boshof-distrik (1883-1885), Volksraadslid (1885-1899), lid van die Uitvoerende Raad (1892-1895), vise-voorsitter van die Volksraad (1896), voorsitter van die Volksraad (1897-1899), Deputasielid (1900-1902) na Europa, Rusland en die Verenigde State van Amerika gedurende die Anglo-Boereoorlog, Sentrale Komiteelid van das eerder sy forse persoonlikheid, politieke takt, nugtere denke, hardwerkendheid, sin vir geregtigheid en onbetwisbare liefde vir die Vrystaat wat meegebring het dat hy in hierdie leiersposisies gedien het. Hy was ingetoe van aard, maar sy aangebore waardigheid, tesame met 'n aangename aardse humor, het hom laat uitstaan. Hy was groot van gestalte met growwe gelaatstrekke en 'n kenmerkende snor

Die doktorsale proefskrif van J. Haasbroek, DIE ROL VAN CORNELIS HERMANUS WESSELS IN DIE ORANJE-VRystaat 1885-1924, word eersdaags deur die Nasionale Museum gepubliseer.

