

Current Status of Geographical Naming Activity in Indonesia

Prepared by
The Indonesian Group of Experts on Topographical Names

Legal and Administrative Backgrounds

By Presidential Regulation No. 112/2006 dated 29 December 2006, a National Team for the Standardization of Topographical Names was established, henceforth, the authority pertaining to UNCSGN Resolution I/4, in this report is referred to “the National Team”. The word “Topographical Names” or “Nama Rupabumi” is selected, which is also referred to one of the UNGEGN nomenclatures in the Manual for the Standardization of Geographical Names.

There are two Secretariats that support the work of the National Team: (1) the National Coordination Agency for Surveys and Mapping (BAKOSURTANAL) for technical/mapping matters and manpower development; and, (2) the Directorate General for Public Administration of the Ministry of Home Affairs, for policy matters/issues of national concerns, coordinating the work of Provincial and Kabupaten/Kota Committees¹ for the national standardization of topographical names in the respective administrative areas, and Public Information through the establishment of a National

¹ Under the Law No. 22 / 1999 revised by Law No. 32/2004 Indonesia adopts decentralized regional governments, comprising provinces, the first level of regional government, headed by elected Governors and Vice Governors by popular votes. Under the Provinces, there are two second levels of Governments, i.e. the “Kabupaten”, and the “Kota” resp., equivalent to Counties (in the States) and municipalities, . The head of this sub-government is called “Bupati” and “Walikota”, resp. Both are elected by popular votes. The decentralization devolves all government functions, except Foreign Affairs, National Defense and Security, Home Affairs, Financial and Tax Affairs, and Religious Affairs. In this paper the regional government will be addressed to **Provinsi and Kabupaten/Kota**. The lowest government administrative division is **Kecamatan** headed by “Camat”, a civil servant career official. Kecamatan is the closest Government services organization to the people.

Spatial Data Infrastructure (network) toponymic node at the Department of Home Affairs.²

For advising and supporting technical and scientific works of the National Team, the following group of experts are nominated in the fields of toponymy, languages, cartography and mapping, geographical history, IT specialist, respectively

Working Groups.

The following working groups have been set up since the enactment of the Presidential Regulation in 2006:

- a. WG 1: Principles, Policies and Procedures
- b. WG 2: Maritime and Islands' Names
- c. WG 3: Undersea Features' Names
- d. WG 4 : Natural Landscape Features' Names
- e. WG 5 : Civil/Political Division's Names
- f. WG 6 : Data and Gazetteers
- g. WG 7 : Training and Manpower Development

Accomplishment:

1. WG 1 on Principles, Policies and Procedures, the Indonesian document entitled "Prinsip. Kebijakan dan Prosedur Pembakuan Nama Rupabumi" was published. The English version of this document was ever distributed at the UNGEGN Session in New York
2. WG 2 on Naming Maritime and Islands has completed the work of naming of islands pertinent to the Recommendation B of the Resolution I/4 on the Collection of Geographical Names. The naming of islands is given the highest priority since conflicting figures of number of islands existed. With the adoption of the definition of islands as provided in the UNCLOS 1982 Article 121 on Regime of Islands, finally the National Team adopts the figure of 13,466 names of islands as the current national figures. The present work is to prepare a

² Peraturan Presiden Republik Indonesia Nomor 85 Tahun 2007 tentang Jaringan Data Spasial Nasional (Presidential Regulation No. 85, 2008 on National Spatial Data Networking)

national gazetteer, and a government gazette to enforce the use of standardized names as published in the gazetteer for the use by all governments institutions and public at large.

3. WG 3 on Naming Undersea Features is an in-house activity of the Marine Geological Institute.
4. WG 4 on Naming Natural Landscape Features is still continuing,
5. WG 5 on Naming Civil/Administrative Divisions. For the standardization of names of Civil/administrative divisions, verification and validation of names are being conducted. Out of 33 provinces, 19 provinces have been verified and validated, out of 399 kabupaten/kota, 217 kabupatens and 98 kota/municipalities, 54 have been verified and validated.
6. The rest of the Working Groups are routine activities conducted by the National Mapping (BAKOSURTANAL)

The Concept of Standardization of Topographic Names through stepwise Verification, Validation and Adoption of Names by the National Team.

The are four organizations related to the Standardization of Topographical Names:

- a. The National Team
- b. The Provincial Committee
- c. The Kabupaten/Kota Committee
- d. The KeCamatan

Data Collection

- a. Most data collections are carried out by the mandated central government agencies, or through a special established “inter-agency joint field survey”, such as in the case of islands’ names. The collection of names of administrative division and populated places, particularly “desa” (villages), is under the mandate of the Minister of Home Affairs, the Provincial governments and Kabupaten/Kota governments which functionally with the advice of the local language experts propose the standardization of writing, spelling, meaning or historical background of the names of the administrative divisions and of the desa.
- b. Names of natural features are collected during the national topographic base mapping as part of the systematic national base mapping program. But adoption of the names as official/standardized names should follow the procedures of verification and validation by the National Team.

- c. Any agency which collects names in their respective routine works should report on names' collection to the National Team for further process of verification and validation, before being adopted as standardized names
- d. The National Team will organize meetings in the respective provinces attended by the respective regional Committees and the regional experts in local languages. The important person who should attend the meeting is the "Camat", the spearhead of government administration in the Kecamatan, the lowest part in the government administration. This step is called the verification and validation step on all aspects of naming procedure, among others, the correct spelling, pronunciations, the meaning or the history of the names, the local generic names, the GPS geodetic coordinates on national datum, and should answer all questions or should provide information related to the respective name, as required.
- e. At the end, a document, which is called an "official report" or a "verbal process document" of the meeting, should be signed by all participants, and the Camat, in particular as being a legal document.
- f. The document will be processed by the respective National Team secretariat in into the national toponymic databases and the related National Gazetteer prepared.

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