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English

**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names****2019 session**

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Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**National and international standardization of geographical
names: names collection, office treatment, national
authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and
international cooperation****Urgency of drafting the government regulation on guidelines for assigning
and changing geographical names**

Submitted by Indonesia**

Summary:

There has been a change in the national policies of the Government of Indonesia relating to the standardization of geographical names, namely the amendment of Presidential Regulation No. 112 of 2006 concerning the national team for the standardization of geographical names by Presidential Regulation No. 116 of 2016 concerning the dissolution of non-structural institutions. It is stated in section 2 of Presidential Regulation No. 116 that the duties and functions of the national team for the standardization of geographical names are conducted by non-ministerial government institutions that carry out government duties in the geospatial field.

At present there is a dualism of laws and regulations on the standardization of geographical names in Indonesia that are still valid and actively used:

- (a) Regulation No. 39 of 2008 of the Ministry of Home Affairs concerning general guidelines for the standardization of geographical names, which refers to Law No. 32 of 2004 concerning regional government;
- (b) Regulation No. 6 of 2017 of the Geospatial Information Agency of Indonesia concerning the implementation of the standardization of geographical names, which refers to:
 - (i.) Law No. 24 of 2009 concerning flags, languages, national symbols and the national anthem;
 - (ii.) Law No. 4 of 2011 concerning geospatial information;
 - (iii.) Law No. 23 of 2014 concerning regional government.

Law No. 24 of 2009 contains an article prohibiting violations of the use of flags, national symbols and the national anthem, though not of languages.

Therefore, a regulation on the proper and correct use of the Indonesian language is urgently required. The standardization of geographical names and of widely used languages and foreign terms, including geographical names used in public places, is also considered urgent and necessary.

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**Prepared by Geospatial Information Agency of Indonesia.

A. Preface

There has been a change in the national policies of the Government of Indonesia relating to the standardization of geographical names, namely the amendment of Presidential Regulation No. 112 of 2006 concerning the national team for the standardization of geographical names by Presidential Regulation No. 116 of 2016 concerning the dissolution of non-structural institutions. It is stated in section 2 of Presidential Regulation No. 116 that the duties and functions of the national team for the standardization of geographical names are conducted by non-ministerial government institutions that carry out government duties in the geospatial field. All the duties and functions were assigned to Geospatial Information Agency of Indonesia (Badan Informasi Geospasial or BIG). As mandated by the Presidential Regulation No. 116 of 2016, BIG issued by Geospatial Information Agency Regulation No. 6 of 2017 concerning the standardization of geographical names. At present, there is a dualism of laws and regulations on the standardization of geographical names in Indonesia that are still valid and actively used. Indonesian delegates were discussed the issue of the dualism of laws internally during the 11th United Nations Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSGN) in New York. The results of the meeting agreed that higher legislation such as a Presidential Regulation or Government Regulation is needed to standardize geographical names in Indonesia to end legal dualism and confusion over the procedure of standardization at the regional level. Subsequently, BIG began drafting the regulation.

B. The dualism of Law and Regulation

Details of the dualism of laws and regulations can be seen as follows:

- a) Regulation No. 39 of 2008 of the Ministry of Home Affairs concerning general guidelines for the standardization of geographical names, which refers to:
 - i. Law No. 32 of 2004 concerning the regional government;
 - ii. Presidential Regulation No. 112 of 2006 concerning the national team for the standardization of geographical names.
- b) Regulation No. 35 of 2009 of the Ministry of Home Affairs concerning guidelines for the establishment of standardization committee of geographical names, which refers to:
 - i. Law No. 32 of 2004 concerning the regional government;
 - ii. Presidential Regulation No. 112 of 2006 concerning the national team for the standardization of geographical names;
 - iii. Regulation No. 39 of 2008 of the Ministry of Home Affairs concerning general guidelines for the standardization of geographical names.
- c) Regulation No. 6 of 2017 of the Geospatial Information Agency of Indonesia concerning the implementation of the standardization of geographical names, which refers to:
 - i. Law No. 24 of 2009 concerning flags, languages, national symbols and the national anthem;
 - ii. Law No. 4 of 2011 concerning geospatial information;
 - iii. Law No. 23 of 2014 concerning regional government.

The Minister of Home Affairs as mandated by Presidential Regulation No. 112 of 2006 issued two regulations on toponyms (Regulation No. 39 of 2008 and Regulation No. 35 of 2009). These regulations used as the implementation guidelines for the standardization of geographical names in Indonesia. Then, Regulation No. 6 of 2017 published by Geospatial Information Agency as mandated by Presidential Regulation No. 116 of 2016 concerning the dissolution of non-structural institutions. The differences between the three regulations are the procedure and stakeholder in the standardization of geographical names.

The procedure for standardization of geographical names based on Regulation No. 39 of 2008 consist of inventory, analyze, verify, and determination. While, according to Regulation No. 6 of 2017; It is stated that the procedure consists of inventory, review, and standardization. The key stakeholder involved in provincial and district/city levels lead by the Head of the Government Bureau according to Regulation No. 39 of 2008. In the other hands, Regulation No. 6 of 2017 published by Geospatial Information Agency changed the key stakeholder to the upper level. In this regulation, the regional working team or previously known as the committee of standardization of geographical names at province and district/city lead by Regional Secretary.

Some differences mystify the implementation of standardization of geographical names in the regional levels. So it is deemed necessary bridging this matter and seek appropriate and effective procedures for accelerating standardization of geographical names in Indonesia. At present, the three regulations can still be used. The new regional working team to be formed following the Geospatial Information Agency Regulation No. 6 of 2017. While regional work teams were formed before Presidential Regulation No. 116 of 2016 was published, still using the arrangement according to the Ministry of Home Affairs Regulation No. 39 of 2008. It is enclosed in the transitional provisions of Geospatial Information Agency Regulation No. 6 of 2017.

C. Drafting the Government Regulation

The dualism and confusion among stakeholder trigger the urgency of government regulation as a new guideline for standardization of geographical names in Indonesia. Another reason is Law No. 24 of 2009 contains an article prohibiting violations of the use of flags, national symbols, and the national anthem, though not of languages. Therefore, a regulation on the proper and correct use of the Indonesian language is urgently required. The standardization of geographical names and of widely used languages and foreign terms, including geographical names used in public places, is also considered urgent and necessary.

The draft Government Regulation was prepared by considering the effectiveness of the process of implementing standardization of geographical names in Indonesia. The procedure used consists of data collection, standardization and determination. This draft includes rules and procedures for giving and changing geographical names that are not included in the previous rules. The role of participatory mapping and crowdsourcing as the methods of toponym data collection besides being acquired from regular toponymic field surveys.

The workflow in this draft no longer adopts workflows as outlined in previous regulations. The previous workflow recognized that the review carried out in stages by the district/city committees and then continued with the provincial committee was then verified by the working team at the central level. In this draft, the working team at city/district level will only conduct a review according to the authority of their working area, after which it is followed by a review by the central working team to be standardized and determined whereas the provincial level will only conduct a study of geographical names whose elements pass through several districts /cities or according to the authority of their working area, after which it is followed by a review by the central working team. The central working team can also conduct a review other than the results of a review carried out by the district/city and provincial working teams as long as the elements pass through several provinces or according to their authority. It is expected that the standardization of geographical names in Indonesia has a significant development.

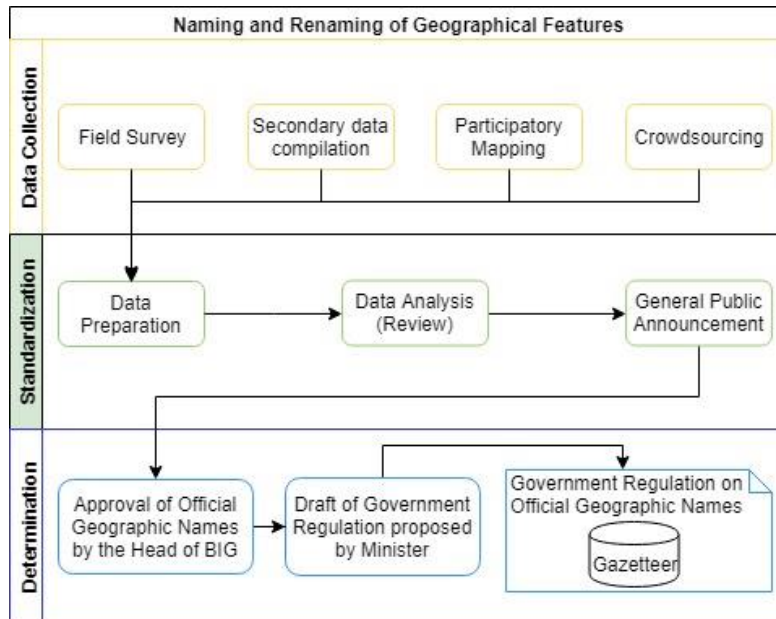


Figure 1 Standardization of Geographical Names Workflow