

2 February 2023

Original: English

**United Nations Group of Experts on
Geographical Names
2023 session**

New York, 1–5 May 2023

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

**Social and economic benefits, supporting sustainable
development, measures taken and proposed for the
implementation of resolutions****Civil lawsuit case arising from a lack of citizen participation
in geographical naming and renaming of features****Summary****

In February 2022, several people filed a class-action lawsuit against the Regent of Kebumen, the Governor of Central Java Province and the Head of the Geospatial Information Agency (Badan Informasi Geospasial), on behalf of the residents of Kebumen Regency. The lawsuit is regarding the geographical naming and renaming of 15 features (13 streets, 1 building and 1 bridge) in Kebumen Regency. The Kebumen Regency government was considered to have conducted the geographical naming and renaming without citizen participation and against Government Regulation Number 2 of 2021 on Standardization of Geographical Names

Government Regulation Number 2 of 2021 stipulates that citizen participation is required in the geographical naming and renaming procedure conducted by national and local governments. Furthermore, the Kebumen Regency government should have started the geographical naming process with data collection, and then changed the geographical names. Consequently, the Geospatial Information Agency has also been accused of negligence in coordinating geographical names standardization with the local government. In addition, the Geospatial Information Agency must refrain from verifying and validating data resulting from the geographic naming and renaming process by the Kebumen Regency government.

* [GEGN.2/2023/1](#).

** The full report was prepared by Septian Dewi Cahyani, Andreas Kelvin Pujianto, Aji Putra Perdana, Harry Ferdiansyah, Aldila Pradhana and Virginia Gloria Nirmala Hendarto of the Geospatial Information Agency. It will be available under document symbol GEGN.2/2023/43/CRP.43, in the language of submission only, at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ungegn/sessions/3rd_session_2023/.



The lesson learned from this case is that every stakeholder should work prudently in managing, engaging, conveying information and making decisions regarding geographical name standardization. Therefore, the Kebumen Regency government, the Central Java Provincial government and the Geospatial Information Agency should work closely together and coordinate extensively to prevent misinterpretation of implementing geographical naming and renaming as mandated in Government Regulation Number 2 of 2021.
