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**National and international standardization of geographical names: names collection, office treatment, national authorities, features beyond a single sovereignty and international cooperation**

**Changing the name of Maluku Tenggara Barat Regency to Kepulauan  
Tanimbar Regency, Maluku Province, Indonesia**

Submitted by Indonesia\*\*

Summary:

The procedures for renaming administrative regions in Indonesia are defined in Minister of Home Affairs Decree No. 30/2012 concerning guidelines for naming administrative regions, naming capital city, renaming administrative regions, renaming capital city, and moving capital city. The three main issues to consider when renaming administrative regions are:

- (a) Whether the name conforms to local history, customs and culture;
- (b) Similarity to the name of other administrative regions;
- (c) Geographical conditions.

The objective of changing the names of administrative regions is to establish conformity between the designated name for an administrative region and local history and customs, as well as culture. The full report contains an example of the renaming of an administrative region proposed by the local government and people of Maluku Tenggara Barat Regency.

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\* GEGN.2/2019/1.

\*\* Prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Indonesia.

## **RENAMING FROM MALUKU TENGGARA BARAT TO KEPULAUAN TANIMBAR**

Administrative region renaming activities in Indonesia stipulated in Minister of Home Affairs Decree No. 30/2012 concerning Guideline for Naming Administrative Regions, Naming Capital City, Renaming Administrative Regions, Renaming Capital City, And Moving Capital City. Three main aspects of the renaming of administrative regions are:

- (1) the name does not conform to local history, customs, and culture.
- (2) the name is almost similar to other administrative regions.
- (3) geographical conditions.

Maluku Tenggara Barat Regency was formed by Law Number 46 of 1999 on the Establishment of Maluku Utara Province, Buru Regency, and Maluku Tenggara Barat Regency. During administration period of Maluku Tenggara Barat Regency, there were growing numbers of local aspirations to change the name from Maluku Tenggara Barat Regency to the Kepulauan Tanimbar Regency. The changing name from Maluku Tenggara Barat Regency to Kepulauan Tanimbar Regency was motivated by geographical, historical, cultural and social determinants in the Maluku Tenggara Barat Regency

Local Government and People of Maluku Tenggara Barat Regency is of the view that the name of Maluku Tenggara Barat Regency closely resembles Kabupaten Maluku Tenggara regency or Kabupaten Maluku Barat Daya regency, therefore can result in miss interpretation and miss designation in formal correspondence. For instance, when people designate a letter or other official documents to Maluku Tenggara Barat Regency, apparently received by Maluku Tenggara Regency or Maluku Barat Regency, or vice versa. Such a miss destination could occur due to the close resemblance.

In toponym viewpoint, the word "Tanimbar" derives from "Tanempar" in Yamdena Timur (Nustimur) language or "Trebbar" in Fordarta language means "stranded." The word "stranded" tells the origin of Tanimbars from the other region. Tanibar stranded when they were sailing to find a new region. Furthermore, the word "Tanimbar" refers to men, tribes, or a southeast community region of Mollucas.

In the light of historical and cultural views, Tanimbars is very much affected by "Duan Lolat" customary law which is considered as the supreme law for Tanimbars. In this regard, by the Governor approval, Local Government and people of Maluku Tenggara Barat officially propose to Minister of Home Affairs to change the name from Maluku Tenggara Barat Regency to Tanimbar Island Regency. Under the Article 48 paragraph (3) of Law Number 23 the Year 2014 on Local Governments that the renaming of the administrative region shall be enacted by a Government Regulation.

## **CONCLUSION**

The objective of place name changing of administrative regions is to establish conformity between the designated name for an administrative region and local history, customs, as well as culture. Through the changing name of the administrative region would enable local government to carry out good governance and inspire local society to develop their neighborhood on local wisdom basis.