United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
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Social and economic benefits, supporting sustainable development, measures taken and proposed for the implementation of resolutions

Treatment of different geographical names proposed for port naming

Summary**

The Government of Indonesia has recently invested heavily in ports, airports and toll roads. The investment was designated as the national strategic project intended to support the country’s economic and social growth as a result of Presidential Regulation No. 109 of 2020 to amend Presidential Regulation No. 3 of 2016 concerning the acceleration of national strategic project implementation. One of these projects is a newly built port named Kijing Terminal, located on the western coast of Borneo towards Karimata Strait in Mempawah Regency, West Kalimantan Province.

Government Regulation No. 2 of 2021 on the standardization of geographical names stipulates that all geographical features, including newly built ones, must be named by following its provisions. With the official launch of the port by the President of Indonesia approaching, several names were proposed by the Ministry of Transportation, port operators, local government at the regency and provincial levels, and the community. This case has brought naming disputes to the national level.

The Geospatial Information Agency (Badan Informasi Geospasial), as the national names authority of Indonesia, explores the geographical naming process through public participation, collaboration with stakeholders and preservation of local wisdom to determine the resolution of the different port names proposed. The report describes the steps taken and challenges and opportunities encountered during the port naming process.

* GEGN.2/2023/1.