

INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

CHAPTER NO. 318.

*Place Names.*

GENERAL ANNOTATION.

ADMINISTRATION.

As at 13 February 1976 (the date of gazettal of the most comprehensive allocation of responsibilities to Ministers and Departments at about the effective date), the administration of this Chapter was vested in the Minister for Natural Resources.

Accordingly, as at that date, except where a different intention is clearly indicated, by note or in the text, references in or in relation to this Chapter to—

“the Minister”—should be read as references to the Minister for Natural Resources;

“the Department Head”—should be read as references to the Secretary for Natural Resources<sup>1</sup>;

“the Department”—should be read as references to the Department of Natural Resources<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Previously the Director of Lands, Surveys and Mines.

<sup>2</sup> Previously the Department of Lands, Surveys and Mines.



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INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

CHAPTER NO. 318.

*Place Names Act.*

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

1. Interpretation—
  - "the Committee"
  - "place"
  - "the regulations"
  - "this Act".
2. Application to the State.
3. Place Names Committee.
4. Deputies.
5. Secretary to the Committee.
6. Procedures, etc., of the Committee.
7. Powers and functions of the Committee.
8. Reference to Committee of certain instruments.
9. Notice of intention to approve, etc., a place name.
10. Objection to proposed name or alteration.
11. If no objection, Committee's decision to be final.
12. Publication of final decision as to name or alteration.
13. Publication of gazetteer, etc.
14. Annual report.
15. Regulations.



INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

CHAPTER NO. 318.

*Place Names Act.*

Being an Act to make better provision for the naming of places in Papua New Guinea, and for other purposes.

**1. Interpretation.**

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears—

“the Committee” means the Place Names Committee established by Section 3;

“place” includes a Local Government Council area, city, town, township, goldfield, mineral field, area of land, locality, mountain, hill, peak, range, pass, glen, valley, forest, river, stream, creek, ford, lake, lagoon, marsh, strait, reef, island, bay, harbour, cape, promontory, port, landing place, aerodrome, permanent mark, school, road, street, lane or other topographical feature;

“the regulations” means any regulations made under this Act;

“this Act” includes the regulations.

**2. Application to the State.**

This Act binds the State.

**3. Place Names Committee.**

(1) A Place Names Committee is hereby established.

(2) The Committee shall consist of—

(a) the Surveyor General, who shall be the Chairman; and

(b) the Principal Anthropologist; and

(c) an officer of the Department of the Prime Minister and Development Administration; and

(d) an officer of the Department of Education; and

(e) an officer of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs; and

(f) two other members.

(3) The members of the Committee referred to in Subsection (2)(c), (d), (e) and (f) shall be appointed by the Minister by notice in the National Gazette.

**4. Deputies.**

(1) The Minister may, by notice in the National Gazette, appoint a person to be the deputy of a member of the Committee.

(2) The deputy of the Surveyor General shall be a registered surveyor.

(3) The deputy of a member referred to in Section 3(2)(c), (d) or (e) shall be an officer of the Department concerned.

(4) The deputy of a member has, in the event of the absence of a member from a meeting of the Committee, all the powers and functions of the member.

**5. Secretary to the Committee.**

The Minister may appoint an officer of the Department to be the Secretary to the Committee.

**6. Procedures, etc., of the Committee.**

(1) The Chairman or, in his absence or inability to act, the deputy of the Chairman shall convene meetings of the Committee from time to time as required.

(2) At a meeting of the Committee—

- (a) five members, of whom one is the Chairman, are a quorum; and
- (b) all matters before the meeting shall be determined in accordance with the majority of votes; and
- (c) the Chairman has a deliberative and, in the event of an equality of votes on a matter, also a casting vote.

(3) Subject to this Act, the procedure at a meeting of the Committee is as determined by the Committee.

**7. Powers and functions of the Committee.**

The powers and functions of the Committee are—

- (a) to adopt rules of orthography and nomenclature, and to standardize pronunciation, in respect of place names in the country; and
- (b) to investigate and determine the priority of the discovery of any geographical feature; and
- (c) subject to this Act, to consider and determine any proposed alteration in a place name; and
- (d) to assign a name to any place in the country; and
- (e) to alter the name of any place in the country by substituting another name, or by correcting the spelling of the name; and
- (f) to omit from official maps and records the name of any place; and
- (g) to prepare and maintain a gazetteer; and
- (h) to make inquiries and recommendations on such matters relating to the naming of places in the country as are referred to it by the Minister; and
- (i) to prepare and publish an index of names and places in the country with a record of their origin and history; and
- (j) to investigate and determine, as far as possible, the locality and the boundaries of any area covered by a place name; and
- (k) to exercise and perform such other powers and duties as are conferred or imposed on it by this Act or any other law.

**8. Reference to Committee of certain instruments.**

No instrument shall be made under any law assigning a name to, or altering the name of, a city, town or Local Government Council unless the question of the name has been referred to the Committee and the Committee has approved the name.

**9. Notice of intention to approve, etc., place name.**

Where the Committee proposes to approve, assign or alter a name under this Act—

- (a) it shall cause to be published in the National Gazette, and in a newspaper circulating in the neighbourhood of the place, a notice of its intention to do so, specifying in the notice the proposed name or alteration or where details of it may be obtained; and
- (b) it shall cause a copy of the notice to be—
  - (i) displayed as soon as practicable after its publication, at the Subdistrict Office situate at or nearest to the place; and
  - (ii) kept so displayed until the expiration of a period of one month from the date of its publication in the National Gazette or in the newspaper, whichever is the earlier.

**10. Objection to proposed name or alteration.**

(1) A person objecting to a proposed name or alteration may at any time within the period of one month referred to in Section 9 give to the Secretary to the Committee written notice of his objection setting out the grounds of the objection.

(2) As soon as practicable after the expiration of the period of one month referred to in Section 9, the Committee shall inquire into and dispose of all objections made under this section, and shall report in writing to the Minister, setting out the grounds of the objections and its decision.

(3) After such inquiry as he thinks proper, the Minister may confirm, modify or reverse the decision of the Committee, and his decision is final.

**11. If no objection, Committee's decision to be final.**

If no objection is received by the Committee within the period of one month referred to in Section 9, the decision of the Committee as to the proposed name or alteration is final.

**12. Publication of final decision as to name or alteration.**

(1) The Committee shall cause notice of the decision of the Minister, or if there has been no objection the decision of the Committee, in respect of a proposed name or alteration to be published in the National Gazette.

(2) A copy of the notice published under Subsection (1) shall be—

- (a) displayed as soon as practicable after its publication, at the Subdistrict Office situate at or nearest to the place concerned; and
- (b) kept so displayed until the expiration of a period of one month from the date of its publication.

(3) The decision of the Minister or of the Committee, as the case may be, takes effect on the date specified in the notice under Subsection (1), being a date not earlier than three months after the date of publication in the National Gazette, under Section 9, of the notice of intention to assign or alter the name.

**13. Publication of gazetteer, etc.**

(1) The Committee may cause to be published a gazetteer or index of names of places prepared by it under this Act.

(2) A copy of any such gazetteer or index purporting to have been published by or on behalf of the Committee is, until the contrary is proved, sufficient evidence that the names in the gazetteer or index, as the case may be, are approved for the purposes of this Act.

**14. Annual report.**

The Chairman of the Committee shall, as soon as practicable after 30 June in each year, prepare and furnish to the Minister, for presentation to the Parliament, a report on the proceedings of the Committee during the year ended on that date.

**15. Regulations.**

The Head of State, acting on advice, may make regulations, not inconsistent with this Act, prescribing all matters that by this Act are required or permitted to be prescribed, or that are necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act, and in particular for—

- (a) prescribing any forms or other documents required for the purposes of this Act; and
- (b) prescribing the form of and the method of keeping any records to be kept by the Committee for the purposes of this Act; and
- (c) regulating the procedure of the Committee; and
- (d) providing such other matters as are necessary for the efficient discharge by the Committee of its duties and functions under this Act.



INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

CHAPTER NO. 318.

*Place Names Regulation.*

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

1. Reference of proposed name or change of name to Committee.
2. Notice of intention to approve, etc., place name.
3. Notice of objection to proposed name or alteration.
4. Record of approved place names.

SCHEDULE.—

FORM 1.—Reference of Proposed Name or Change of Name.

FORM 2.—Notice of Intention to Approve, etc., Place Name.

FORM 3.—Notice of Objection.



INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

CHAPTER NO. 318.

*Place Names Regulation.*

MADE under the *Place Names Act.*

1. Reference of proposed name or change of name to Committee.

For the purposes of Section 8 of the Act, a reference to the Committee of a place name or change of place name shall be in Form 1.

2. Notice of intention to approve, etc., place name.

A notice under Section 9(a) of the Act shall be in Form 2.

3. Notice of objection to proposed name or alteration.

A notice under Section 10(1) of the Act shall be in Form 3.

4. Record of approved place names.

The Committee shall keep an index of all place names approved or assigned, and shall keep the index up to date at all times.

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SCHEDULE.

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

*Place Names Act.*

Act, Sec. 8.

Form 1.

Reg., Sec. 1.

REFERENCE OF PROPOSED NAME OR CHANGE OF NAME.

I, *(insert name of proposer)* of *(insert address of proposer)* propose that the name of *(insert new name proposed)* be adopted for *(insert the city, town or Local Government Council to be named giving its situation and any distinguishing features)* formerly known as *(insert the former name by which it was known, or omit if inapplicable)*

Reasons *(state grounds for assignment of proposed name)*

Dated 19

*(Signature of Proposer.)*

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*Place Names*

PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

*Place Names Act.*

Act, Sec. 9.  
Reg., Sec. 2.

Form 2.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPROVE, ETC., PLACE NAME.

The Place Names Committee gives notice that it intends to approve/assign/alter\* the name of  
(*insert the name assigned*) to the (*insert the place to be named and its situation*)  
formerly known as (*insert the former name by which it was known or omit if inapplicable*).

The decision of the Committee will automatically be final unless objection to the assignment of the name is given to the Secretary to the Committee within one month from the date of this notice.

Dated 19 .

Secretary to the Committee.

\*Strike out whichever is inapplicable.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

*Place Names Act.*

Act, Sec. 10.  
Reg., Sec. 3.

Form 3.

NOTICE OF OBJECTION.

I, (*insert name of objector*) of (*insert address of objector*) give notice  
to the Secretary to the Place Names Committee that I object to the approval/assignment/alteration\* of  
the name of (*insert the name assigned*) to (*insert the place to be named giving its situation,*  
*etc.*) published in National Gazette No. of 19 , for the  
following reasons (*insert grounds of objection*).

Dated 19 .

(*Signature of Objector.*)

\*Strike out whichever is inapplicable.

INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

CHAPTER NO. 318.

*Place Names.*

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

1. Act, Sections 3 and 4—Ex officio appointments of members and deputies of members of Place Names Committee.

Member.	Deputy.
Senior Postal Inspector, Post Offices Branch, Port Moresby (office as at 24 January 1975)	Postal Inspector, Post Offices Branch, Port Moresby (office as at 24 January 1975).
Senior Projects Officer, Department of the Chief Minister and Development Administration (office as at 31 October 1974)	Associate Principal Lands Officer, Department of the Chief Minister and Development Administration (office as at 31 October 1974).
Staff Officer Grade 3 Survey, Headquarters, Papua New Guinea Defence Force (office as at 31 October 1974) (Aligoru Laeka)	Sergeant (Surveyor Topographical), Headquarters, Papua New Guinea Defence Force (office as at 31 October 1974). Port Moresby Representative of Summer Institute of Linguistics (position as at 3 December 1974).

2. Act, Section 4 (*see* under 1, above).

3. Act, Section 9(a)—Notice of intention to approve, etc., place name.

In view of the transitional nature of these notices, no point is seen in including them in the Revised Edition.

4. Act, Section 12(1)—Decisions as to names or alterations.

In view of the very large number of these decisions and of the fact that a gazetteer is provided for by Section 13 of the Act, no point is seen in including these notices in the Revised Edition.



INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

CHAPTER NO. 318.

*Place Names.*

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APPENDIXES.

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APPENDIX 1.

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SOURCE OF THE PLACE NAMES ACT.

Part A.—Previous Legislation.

*Papua and New Guinea Place Names Act 1965 (No. 31 of 1965).*

Part B.—Cross References.

Section, etc., in Revised Edition.	Previous Reference <sup>1</sup> .	Section, etc., in Revised Edition.	Previous Reference <sup>1</sup> .
1	4	9	11
2	3	10	12
3	5	11	13
4	6	12	14
5	8	13	15
6	7	14	16
7	9	15	17
8	10		

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, references are to the Act set out in Part A.

APPENDIX 2.

SOURCE OF THE PLACE NAMES REGULATION.

Part A.—Previous Legislation.

*Papua and New Guinea Place Names Regulations 1966* (Statutory Instrument No. 14 of 1966).

Part B.—Cross References.

Section, etc., in Revised Edition.	Previous Reference <sup>1</sup> .	Section, etc., in Revised Edition.	Previous Reference <sup>1</sup> .
1	3	Schedule—	Schedule—
2	4	Form 1	Form 1
3	5	Form 2	Form 2
4	6	Form 3	Form 3

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, references are to the regulations set out in Part A.