

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regular Session, 2021

H. B. 22-82

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To adopt the village delimitation and name master map for Saipan as the sole village delimitation and name master map of Saipan and to provide for the Office of the Mayor of Saipan to be the primary custodian for maintaining and preserving the master map and for the Department of Commerce – Central Statistics Division to be the secondary custodian; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 22ND NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 Section 1. SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act shall be cited as the “Saipan Village Delimitation and Name
3 Master Map”.

4 SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

5 The Commonwealth Legislature finds that the islands in the
6 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are easily identified by the
7 names of the various villages in each of the islands. For example, residents and
8 many visitors know that they are in Saipan by the name of the village, like,
9 Chalan Kanoa, or they are in Tinian when an address is said to be in Marpo or in

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7 names of the various villages in each of the islands. For example, residents and
8 many visitors know that they are in Saipan by the name of the village, like,
9 Chalan Kanoa, or they are in Tinian when an address is said to be in Marpo or in

1 Rota when a direction to a business establishment takes one to Songsong. Each
2 island has its own unique village names.

3 The Legislature also finds that identifying a village by name is critical in
4 responding to emergency calls, as arriving at a site specific in minutes is a matter
5 of saving a person's life. The legislature further finds that the U.S. Census
6 Bureau has consistently conducted the decennial census, as required by Article I,
7 § 2 of the U.S. Constitution, for the purpose of collecting data in the
8 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which include data on the
9 number of persons residing in each village in the three main islands of Saipan,
10 Tinian, and Rota, and the islands north of Saipan. For many years, the CNMI
11 Department of Commerce – Central Statistics Division (DOC-CSD) has been
12 tasked for carrying out the decennial census under the supervision of the U.S.
13 Census Bureau, and has used a statistical map to describe boundaries that separate
14 one village from another. Its statistical map also identifies the various areas
15 within the boundaries by name, giving an area its specific village name.

16 The Legislature additionally finds that residents and businesses in the
17 CNMI are using online business transactions for purposes of ordering materials
18 and supplies from outside the CNMI. While the residents and businesses enjoy
19 door delivery of mail orders, couriers use local directions to locate a physical
20 address, which is inefficient for couriers that are concerned with the cost of
21 delivery. The Legislature further finds that another purpose of implementing the

1 street naming and addressing system is to make door delivery of mails by the
2 United States Postal Service a reality in the CNMI, a move that would ultimately
3 reduce or even eliminate for good the congestion at the USPS post office in
4 Chalan Kanoa and other rural postal branches. By clearly identifying the village
5 delimitation and name, timely and accurate delivery of mails and packages to a
6 site specific would be greatly enhanced.

7 The Legislature finds it imperative for a standard village identification and
8 delimitation master map to be developed and adopted to eliminate guesswork in
9 identifying boundaries that separates one village from another. The legislature
10 recognizes the extensive work exerted by the mayors to delimit the boundaries of
11 the villages; to demarcate the boundaries by identifying significant landmarks; to
12 record boundary coordinates using Geographic Information System; and, to name
13 the villages within the boundaries using their historically common known names
14 that are still in use today. The legislature further finds that, in the interest of time,
15 the mayor of each municipality shall be granted the authority and power to adopt
16 the standard village identification and delimitation master map for the
17 municipality served by the mayor within one hundred eighty days after the
18 effective date of this Act. The legislature has received the master map from the
19 Mayor of Saipan and it is the intent of the legislature to adopt the master map by
20 this Act.

21 **SECTION 3. ENACTMENT.**

1 Notwithstanding any laws, rules or regulations to the contrary and subject to proper
2 codification by the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission the following is
3 hereby enacted:

4 **“101. Definitions.**

5 (a) “Department of Commerce – Central Statistics Division or DOC –
6 CSD” means the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
7 Department of Commerce – Central Statistics Division as established by 1
8 CMC §§ 2481 – 2492.

9 (b) “Mayor” shall mean the elected mayor of the island or islands that the
10 mayor was elected to serve, as provided in Article VI in the NMI
11 Constitution, and currently serving in that capacity

12 (c) “Mayors” shall mean the mayors of the municipalities of Rota, Tinian
13 and Aguiguan, Saipan, and Northern Islands collectively

14 (d) “Delineate or Delineation” shall mean to mark the outline of or to
15 indicate or represent by drawn or painted lines

16 (e) “Delimit or Delimitation” shall mean marking of the boundary on
17 paper or electronic mapping application, either on an area map or in a
18 verbal description of the boundary within the text of a law

19 (f) “Demarcate or Demarcation” shall mean a line, boundary, or
20 conceptual separation between things or villages that are easily
21 identifiable and visible on the ground or terrain

- 1 (g) “Designated area or areas” shall mean an area of land within a village
2 and known by historical common usage or reference. Designated areas are
3 not villages, but are subareas within a village commonly known by
4 reference to a family name, description of a terrain, or commonly known
5 by its agricultural farming usage
- 6 (h) “Landmark” shall mean a relatively permanent feature of the manmade
7 landscape that has recognizable identity within a particular cultural
8 context
- 9 (i) “Standard Master Map” shall mean the map that the respective mayors
10 shall develop that shows the delimitation and demarcation separating one
11 village from another and requires the adoption of the CNMI Legislature
12 which shall become the sole standard map for each respective municipality
- 13 (j) “Statistical Map of Saipan” shall mean the map developed and used by
14 the CNMI Department of Commerce – Central Statistics Division, using
15 the 1984 United States Geography Information area maps, for purposes of
16 conducting the decennial census in collaboration with the U.S. Census
17 Bureau
- 18 (k) “Thoroughfare or Thoroughfares” shall mean a road or part of a road
19 or other access route along which a delivery point can be accessed. A
20 thoroughfare is typically but not always a road. It may be, for example, a
21 walkway

1 (l) “Village or Villages” shall mean cluster of human settlement

2 **102. Adoption, custody, maintenance of the Saipan Village**
3 **Delimitation Name and Master Map.**

4 (a) Adoption of the Saipan delimitation and name master map.

5 (1) The Office of the Mayor of Saipan has submitted to the CNMI
6 Legislature a map, titled, “Saipan Village Delimitation and Name Master
7 Map” in electronic format on September 16, 2021. The CNMI
8 Legislature, by this Act, adopts the Saipan Village Delimitation and Name
9 Master Map. This Act provides the master map shall be the sole village
10 delimitation and name map for Saipan. Other maps developed other than
11 by the Office of the Mayor of Saipan in coordination with the Department
12 of Commerce – Central Statistics Division shall be considered unofficial
13 village delimitation and name master map.

14 (b) Names of villages as shown on the standard village delimitation and
15 name master map.

16 (1) The standard village delimitation and name master map for the
17 island of Saipan identifies 34 village names. This Act adopts those names.
18 The names of the villages are as follows: (1.) Marpi; (2.) As Matus; (3.)
19 San Roque; (4.) Tanapag; (5.) Wireless; (6.) Talofofo; (7.) Lower Base;
20 (8.) As Mahetog; (9.) Sadog Tasi; (10.) Puerto Rico; (11.) Capitol Hill;
21 (12.) As Teo; (13.) Kagman; (14.) Papago; (15.) Tapochao; (16.) Navy

1 Hill; (17.) Garapan; (18.) Gualo Rai; (19.) I Liyan; (20.) Chalan Laulau;
2 (21.) Oleai; (22.) Chalan Kiya; (23.) Kanat Tabla; (24.) San Vicente; (25.)
3 Dandan; (26.) As Lito; (27.) Finasisu; (28.) Chalan Kanoa; (29.) Chalan
4 Piao; (30.) As Perdido; (31.) San Antonio; (32.) Koblerville; (33.) I
5 Naftan; (34.) Susupe.

6 (c) Names of common areas within a village considered subareas.

7 (1) The places or areas in the various villages as listed section (b)
8 of this Act shall retain their common names but are not integrated in the
9 standard village delimitation and name master map. For example, in the
10 village of Marpi in north Saipan, reference to San Juan, Banderu, etc.
11 retain their common reference names, and are considered subareas of
12 Marpi Village. Subareas are not used for purposes of identifying the name
13 of a village or village boundary on the standard village delimitation and
14 name master map.

15 (d) Delimitation lines crossing same property or existing structure.

16 (1) In a situation where a delimitation line crosses an existing
17 structure that results in one portion of the existing structure to be in one
18 village and the other in another village, the existing structure shall be
19 recorded as being located in the village where the existing building's main
20 entrance door that is facing a street is located. For purposes of designating
21 a street address number to an existing structure, the portion of the existing

1 structure where the main entrance door is located and facing a street shall
2 be assigned the street address number for that structure and the structure
3 shall recorded as being located in the village where the main entrance door
4 to the existing building is located.

5 (e) Custody and maintenance of the Master Map.

6 (1) The Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall be the sole primary
7 custodian of the Saipan Village Delimitation and Name Master Map. As
8 primary custodian, the Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall be responsible
9 for ensuring no alterations, modifications, or changes are made to the
10 adopted master map by any other agency in the public and private sectors.
11 The office shall be the sole custodian of the master map and any
12 alterations, modifications, or changes to the master map proposed by the
13 office shall first be jointly reviewed, considered, and concurred with by
14 the DOC – CSD.

15 (2) The DOC – CSD concurrence shall be required before
16 implementing any alterations, modifications, or changes to the master map
17 after the Office of the Mayor of Saipan and DOC – CSD have determined
18 and agreed that such alterations, modifications, changes would not
19 substantially alter, modify, or change DOC – CSD’s statistical map that it
20 developed for purposes of its responsibilities of undertaking the decennial
21 census and other censuses it is required to undertake.

1 (3) The Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall, at times but subject to
2 availability of funds, maintain the master map in electronic mapping
3 system. As primary custodian, it shall maintain mapping system in
4 ArcGIS and the online QGIS and must be maintained by using the
5 applications that are current, as updated by their respective developers. It
6 may, in addition and subject to availability of funding, maintain the village
7 delimitation and name master map on Google Earth, which site must be
8 secured from unauthorized editing and must be available to the public.

9 **103. Authority to share data.**

10 (1) The Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall share data generated
11 and collected from its field work at the request of the DOC – CSD. In
12 developing its comprehensive statistical map and database for purposes of
13 enhancing its statutorily described responsibilities and increasing its
14 mapping capabilities, the Office of the Mayor of Saipan and DOC – CSD
15 shall agree on a defined schedule of sharing updates to the master map.
16 For purposes of safekeeping and preserving data, the DOC – CSD, as
17 second custodian, shall be responsible for keeping and updating backup
18 electronic mapping and database generated from the regular maintenance
19 of the master map.

20 (2) The master map adopted by this Act shall contain, among other
21 critical data, attributes that identify the name of a village, provide the

1 village boundary limits, coordinates, description of landmarks, immovable
2 physical features, description of terrain, names of streets where village
3 limits are defined using the centerlines, and so forth.

4 **104. Demarcation of village limits.**

5 (1) The Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall solely be responsible
6 for demarcating the village limits by identifying immovable physical
7 features on the ground, for example, monuments, permanent public or
8 private structures or improvements on leased public lands, street
9 centerlines, street intersection centerlines, natural contours, e.g., top or
10 foot of precipice, and other easily identifiable physical features in the
11 terrain. The Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall record the location of the
12 immovable, identifiable physical features by using a geographic
13 information system device capable of pinpointing the exact coordinate
14 location. In inaccessible terrains, the Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall
15 use existing data based on polygon calculations to identify the point-to-
16 point boundary limits. The Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall, to the
17 extent practicable, not use improvements or structures on private land as
18 landmarks, unless it determines that do so in necessary.

19 (2) Removal of permanent improvement or structure from privately
20 owned land shall not be a basis to alter the locational coordinate
21 previously recorded. It shall remain the coordinate point for the village

1 demarcation regardless whether a new improvement or structure is later
2 erected.

3 (3) No person may move or remove a permanent public or private
4 structure or monument on public land without first verifying whether the
5 structure or monument is a recorded landmark for purposes of village
6 delimitation and demarcation. Such verification shall be submitted to the
7 Office of the Mayor of Saipan, from which a response must be issued not
8 later than fifteen days after receipt for the verification.

9 **105. Election precinct maps.**

10 (1) The Saipan delimitation and name master map does not in any
11 way, shape, or form alter, modify, or change the election precincts map, as
12 developed and maintained by the Commonwealth Election Commission.
13 Until the Commonwealth Election Commission re-draws the election
14 precincts delineation, the village delimitation shown on the master map
15 shall not affect the election precinct boundaries based on the last
16 apportionment.”

17 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
18 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
19 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
20 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
21 shall not be affected thereby.

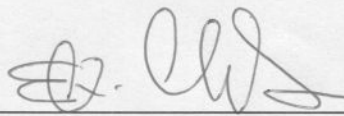
1 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
2 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
3 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
4 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
5 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
6 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
7 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

8 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
9 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

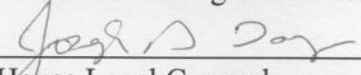
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Introduced by:


Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel