

**Adopting the Guidelines Governing the Naming of Caves and Other Similar Features**

**WHEREAS**, The Philippines exhibits thousands of caves;

**WHEREAS**, Some of the Philippine caves were named in the absence of any guidelines, such as naming caves honoring living people, and some other seemingly inappropriate names, among others;

**WHEREAS**, The National Cave Committee (NCC) seeks to set guidelines to properly name caves;

**WHEREAS**, The National Museum (NM) provided the Guidelines Governing the Naming of Caves and other Similar Features used by the said agency;

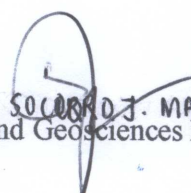
**WHEREAS**, The NCC opted to adopt the guidelines with revisions;

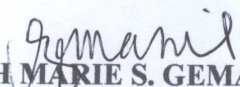
**WHEREAS**, Existing names of caves that are not in accordance with this guidelines shall be reviewed and renamed, as necessary;


**WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, The guidelines, attached as Annex A, is hereby adopted and recommended for dissemination to the public.

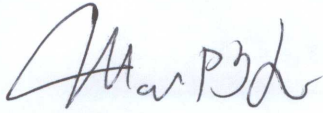
ADOPTED this 20 day of February 2018, at Quezon City, Philippines.

  
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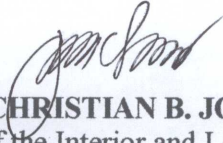
  
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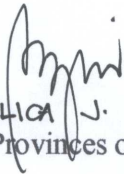
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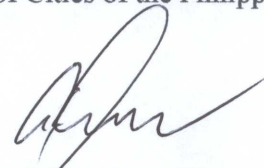
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## ANNEX A

### GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE NAMING OF CAVES AND OTHER SIMILAR FEATURES

Some of the Philippine caves were named in the absence of any guidelines. Hence, the National Cave Committee (NCC) has set the following guidelines to properly name caves:

1. A locally known name of the cave, feature or cave system should be the first option in assigning names.
2. Description of the cave or feature in a local language should be used. Names using uniqueness or outstanding attribute of the cave and feature as a basis in giving names are encouraged.
3. Names associated with historical events or attributed to a deceased prominent persons in the fields of Archaeology, Anthropology, History, Geology, Biology and Speleology can be used.
4. The surname of the deceased of prominent persons shall be used. In using surnames, the possessive, 's, is not included.
5. Names of living persons shall not be used.
6. The same name should not be assigned to more than one cave, particularly in the same limestone formation, province or region.
7. It is preferable to give a new name for an un-named cave or feature rather than to adapt an existing name of a nearby cave by addition of numbers and points of the compass.
8. A name should be short and not offensive.
9. Names of owners of a property where caves or features are situated shall not be used.
10. Use of hyphens should not be practiced.
11. The use of scientific names of plants and animals should be avoided.
12. Names with large number of words should not be used.
13. Names that are associated with commercial or industrial enterprise are not acceptable.
14. Names of caves and features should not be changed.
15. The use of different names for parts of one cave should be avoided.
16. Where two or more caves or features, initially described to be separate but later exploration revealed that they are connected, the latest names should be disregarded.
17. Names should be properly recorded properly with adequate descriptive and locational details.
18. Names of caves and features, the location and other information shall be submitted to the Cave Committees.

#### References

- Goede, A. 1968. ASF Guidelines for Cave Names and Naming Features. Tasmania. Department of Geography, University of Tasmania.  
Peralta, J.T. 1981. Field Manual in Archaeology. Manila. National Museum.