



TECHNICAL BULLETIN
NO. 2018 - 07

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SUBJECT : GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE NAMING OF CAVES

Pursuant to Section 12 of DENR Administrative Order No. 2003-29 (Implementing Rules and Regulations of the National Cave and Cave Resource Management and Protection Act), in line with the National Cave Committee Resolution No. 2017-01 Annex A, and in order to ensure proper naming of caves, this Technical Bulletin is hereby issued for the information and guidance of all concerned.

Section 1. Naming Considerations.

1. In naming caves, the following shall be considered:
 - a. The name of the cave known to the local/indigenous community shall be the first option
 - b. Uniqueness or outstanding attribute or prominent feature of the cave
 - c. Names associated with historical events or deceased prominent persons as may be supported by the concerned local community

2. In naming caves, the following shall be avoided:
 - a. Use of the possessive form (i.e. 's) for names
 - b. Names of living persons
 - c. Names of owners of a property where the cave is situated
 - d. Names that are associated with commercial or industrial enterprise/brands
 - e. The use of scientific names of plants and animals
 - f. The same name for two or more caves within the same province or region
 - g. Excessive number of words (limit names to 3 words)
 - h. Offensive language e.g. sexually offensive, culturally bias, etc.

3. Other considerations:

- a. For unnamed cave, it is preferable to give a new name instead of adopting an existing name of a nearby cave by addition of numbers and cardinal direction.
- b. Names of caves should be permanent.
- c. In case of two or more caves which were initially described to be separate but later exploration revealed that they are connected, the earliest name should be retained.

Section 2. Naming Process.

The Regional/Provincial Cave Committee (RCC/PCC) or the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB), as the case may be, shall review all identified caves within their jurisdiction based on the abovementioned considerations. The final list of cave names shall be certified through a RCC/PCC/PAMB resolution.

In case of non-conforming cave names, the following process shall be followed:

1. Conduct of local community consultation to gather inputs/comments on the proposed cave name
2. Affirmation by the RCC/PCC/PAMB, as the case may be, through a resolution, and
3. Submission of a copy of the resolution to the BMB.

The BMB shall compile submitted resolutions and populate/update the national inventory of the caves.


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