

PLACE NAME DEFINITIONS

Chamorro locality names

*being scheduled
f 1/15/92*

*Pete
f91*

TWENTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE
1991 (FIRST) REGULAR SESSION

BILL NO. 656
INTRODUCED BY:

M. E. BORDALLO *MAB*

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"AN ACT RELEVANT TO THE OFFICIAL ADOPTION AND ACCEPTANCE
OF THE ORIGINAL CHAMORRO NAMES FOR THE VARIOUS VILLAGES
THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND."

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM:

2 Section 1. Legislative Intent.

3 In order to preserve and enhance the Chamorro
4 culture and heritage, the government of Guam must continue to
5 encourage the use and adoption of the Chamorro language. It
6 is through the preservation of the Chamorro culture and
7 tradition that future generations may proudly proclaim their
8 heritage and origins. Decades ago, many of the Chamorro
9 village names were slightly changed to accommodate the ease of
10 spelling and pronunciation by visitors. The Guam
11 Legislature believes that it is time the original Chamorro
12 village names which have historical meaning and value to the
13 local people be officially adopted and accepted by the people
14 of Guam.

15 Section 2. Adoption of Chamorro Village Names.

16 The following Chamorro village names are hereby
17 officially adopted by the people of Guam:

1	<u>Existing Village Names</u>	<u>New Names</u>
2	Asan-Maina	ASSAN-MA'INA
3	Barrigada	BARIGÁDA
4	Chalan Pago-Ordot	CHÁLAM PÁGU-OTDOT
5	Dededo	DEDIDU
6	Agat	HÁGAT
7	Agana	HAGÁŦĦA
8	Umatac	HUMÁTAK
9	Inarajan	INALÁHAN
10	Merizo	MALESSO'
11	Mangilao	MANGILÁO
12	Mongmong-Toto-Maite	MONGMONG-TO'TO-MAITE'
13	Piti	PITI
14	Santa Rita	SÁNTA RITA
15	Sinajane	SINAHÁŦĦA
16	Talofofo	TALO'FO'FO'
17	Tamuning-Tumon	TAMUNING-TOMHOM
18	Agana Heights	TUTUHAN
19	Yigo	YIGU
20	Yona	YO'ŦA

21 Section 3. Definitions of Chamorro Village Names.

22 The Chamorro Language Commission is hereby
23 instructed to submit to the Guam Legislature and the Governor
24 of Guam the definition and history of each of the names of the
25 respective villages, no later than 60 days following the
26 enactment of this legislation.

Section 4. Publicity.

Upon the approval of the definitions and histories associated with the Chamorro village names by the Governor of Guam, the Chamorro Language Commission shall then be responsible for publicizing and informing the general public of the history and meanings associated with each of the Chamorro village names. These informations shall be publicized through various media sources on the island. The Chamorro Language Commission shall submit an appropriation request for carrying out the provisions of this section to the Guam Legislature and the Governor of Guam, no later than 90 days following the passage of this legislation.

PLACE NAME (definition)

Locality Name, Guam Excerpts Section, Idehan Bimanan
Chamorro.

Library

TAMUNING - Carolinian name - meaning has not been researched.

MANGILAO - ilao is a hunting method, usually with a torch to hunt for ground crabs or to hunt for eel. Man is prefix to mean they are hunting.

YONA - comes from the word iyo-ña which means something belongs to somebody.

MALAJLOJ - is a very primitive Chamorro word - meaning hasn't been identified yet.

TALOFOFO - TALO' means middle, fofo means valley.

DEDEDO - measuring with two fingers - each equals an inch.

BARRIGADA - side ribs

TOTO - reclining on back

MONGMONG - shaking with sound

MALESSO - i dangkolo na mañahak

SINAJANA - underground barbecue of root food, like taro, sweet potatoes or yam sinahan is the process and ña means the barbecue belongs to someone.

PITI - comes from the root word puti which means pain.

ASAN - comes from the word hassan which means rare.

MAITE - ite means to lightly have body contact ma is the prefix to mean someone makes the contact.

AGANA - has been interpreted to mean either his/her daughter or his/her blood.

AGAT - comes from the word aga which is a name of a bird.

INARAJAN - originally comes from the word hinalla-ña which means the pulling of the fish net by somebody.

UMATAC - comes from the word inima-ta which means the carrying of a load on the shoulder (s).

ORDOT - (Otdot) - ant

CHALAN PAGO - means a road (chalan) with many pago trees.

YIGO - comes from the root word yugu which means yoke.

NA'AN I LUGAT SIHA YAN Hafa Sustansian-Ñiha

- TAMUNING - Na'an Carolinian - Trabiha ti gogof ma'estudia hafa kumeke'ilek-ña.
- MANGILAO - I ilao un klasen peskan tano' para panglao tano' yan asuli. I man tetchen me'na gi palabra ya kumeke'ilek-ña lameggai siha mamemeska.
- YONA(YO'NA) - Ginen i palabra iyo-ña, otro gai iyo.
- MALAJLOJ - Gof antigu na palabra, trabiha ti ma gogof aidentifika hafa kumeke'ilek-ña.
- TALOFOFO(TALO'FO"FO") - Talo' ya i fo'fo' i kañada na lugat.
- DEDEDO(DEDEDU) - Midision i dos kalulot, un potgadas.
- BARRIGADA(BARIGADA) - I manaña' na banda pat i sensen gi bandan i kostiyas.
- TOTO(TO'TO') - Umasson santatte gi tatalo' na bandan i tataotao.
- MONGMONG - Mongmong, mayengyong
- MERIZO(MALESSO') - I dangkolo na mañahak.
- SINAJANA(SINAHAN-ÑA) - Tininon nengkanno' gi papa' odda', taiguihi i sini, kamuti, pat dagu ya i ña kumeke'ilek-ña guaha otro gai iyo, (chinahan-ña)
- PITI - Ginen i palabra puti ya humuyong piti annai mana'ye ni' i gi sanme'na entre i sinangan.
- ASAN(HASSAN) - Ginen i palabra hassan, ti gof meggai.
- MAITE(MAITE') - Ite pat eti, etenñaihon/pachanñaihon ya i ma tetchen me'na gi palabra sa' guaha otro umeti pat pumacha.
- AGANA(HAGATÑA) - Ginen i palabra haga-ña pat haga'-ña, pumarientes.
- AGAT(HAGAT) - Ginen i palabran i ga'ga' aga.
- INARAJAN(INALAHAN) - Ginen i palabra halla ya annai mana'ye ni' tetchen talo' in humuyong hinalla-ña yan otro lokkue' humalla i chenchulu.
- UMATAC(HUMATAK) - Ginen i palabra uma gi apaga ya annai mana'ye ni' tetchen talo' in humuyong inima-ta yan ginen i otro ni' sumaonao manuma.
- ORDOT(OTDOT) - Otdot na ga'ga'.
- CHALAN PAGO(CHALAN PAGU) - Chalan ni meggai siha na trongkon pagu.
- YIGO(YIGU) - Ginen i hale' palabra yugu annai humahalom i ilon guaka pat i karabao gi kareta. Humuyong yigo annai mana'ye ni' i gi sanme'na gi entre i sinangan.

HISTORY OF THE NINETEEN MUNICIPALITIES OF GUAM

Municipality of Agaña Heights

MAYOR: Paul M. McDonald
POPULATION: 3,940 (2000–Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Bouganvilla or Puti Tai Nobio (Spectobilus)
HISTORY:

Agana Heights is located in the central part of the island. It is part of the *Kattan* (Eastern) District. The village derives its name from two words “Tutuhon luhan”. “Tutuhon lujan” means someone who becomes scared because of impending doom or is terrified about something. Agaña Heights was a ranchland long ago and those who ranched in this area were villagers from Hagåtña. It was said that there were no trails on Agana Heights and the only access was for ranchers to climb the steep cliffs along the perimeter of the village. The only way to get to and from Agaña Heights was through the steep cliffs and often ranchers stood at the top of the cliff and surveyed the long climb down and as they did, they would experience a feeling of fear as they contemplated the precariousness of the situation.

Municipality of Agat (Hågat)

MAYOR: Carol S. Tayama
VICE MAYOR: Jesus B. Chaco
POPULATION: 5,656 (2000–Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Asosena or Amiga-De-Noche-Tuberose (Polianthes Tuberosa)
HISTORY:

Agat (*Hagat*) village is located on the south western side of the island. This area is part of the *Haya* (Southern) District. Old Agat was built between 1680 and 1684 and was designed by the ruthless Spanish Governor Don Jose Quiroga as a settlement for rebellious islanders whose homes had been destroyed. Many of its first citizens were brought from the interior village of Fena, which had also been wiped out. In July of 1944, the village of Old Agat was totally destroyed by the American invasion. After the war, new Agat sprang up in a location further south and is one of the villages in the south that is now experiencing development and commerce.

Municipality of ASAN/MAINA (Assan/Ma’ina)

MAYOR: Vicente “Benny” L. San Nicolas
POPULATION: 2,090 (2000–Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Plumeria or Frangipani, Red (Acuminata)
HISTORY:

Asan (*Hassan*) and Maina are located in the southern-central side of the island. This area is part of the *Luchan* (Western) District. This village derives its name from the word “hassan”. “Hassan” means scarce or rare. The word “ma’ina” refers to the other village

that makes up this district together with Asan. Hunters hunted by the light of a torch and also saw what they caught by the light of the same torch. Another meaning of the word "ma'ina" deals with an infant who between the time of his birth to his baptism, is taken by his mother to a church mass before sunrise; this ritual considered the presentation of the child to the temple or church.

Municipality of Barrigada

MAYOR: Jessie B. Palican
VICE MAYOR: June U. Blas
POPULATION: 8,652 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Gardenia, White or Sno-Ball (Jasminoides)
HISTORY:

The village of Barrigada is located in the north-eastern part of the island. It is part of the *Kattan* (Eastern) District. Barrigada owes its name to a Chamorro legend. When the god Puntan was about to die, he instructed his sister Funa how to dispose of his body. He said that his eyes were to become the sun and the moon; his eyebrows, the rainbow; his breast, the sky and his back, the earth. Barrigada means "flank." Looking down from atop Mt. Santa Rosa, the island resembles a man lying on his back with his flank being the most noticeable.

Municipality of CHALAN PAGO/ORDOT (Chalan Pagu/Otdot)

MAYOR: Pedro "Pete" I. Borja
POPULATION: 5,923 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Chichirica (Lochnera Rosea)
HISTORY:

Chalan Pago-Ordot village is located in the eastern-central part of the island. It is part of the *Kattan* (Eastern) District. The word "chalan" makes up the first part of this village name. "Chalan" means road or street and in olden days, paths or trails. The word "pago" makes up the second part of this village name. "Pago" is the wild hibiscus tree that grows in abundance in this area. "Ordot" means ants. Both ants and hibiscus trees can be found in abundance throughout this beautiful village.

Municipality of DEDEDO (Dededu)

MAYOR: Melissa B. Savares
VICE MAYOR: Andrew "Peter Daigo" A. Benavente
POPULATION: 42,980 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Gardenia, White or Sno-Ball (Jasminoides)
HISTORY:

Dededo is located at the north central part of the island where most of the population on Guam presently centers. It encompasses an area of about 30 square miles of Guam's 212 miles. The word Dededo comes from a system of measurement using the fingers in which each finger signifying an inch. So as one measures "one inch, two inches, three inches" the name Dededo was derived the measurement of two fingers indicating two inches. There is another word that could possibly give this village its name. The word "dedeggo" means a person who walks on tiptoes so as not to wake up those who are

sleeping. It is not clear whether Dededo got its name because someone long ago measured the place with his/her fingers or the people habitually walked on tiptoes.

Municipality of HAGATNA (Hagåtña)

MAYOR: John A. Cruz
POPULATION: 1,100 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Kopa Di Oru
HISTORY:

Hagåtña is the capital of Guam. It is located in the center of the island and part of the *Kattan* (Eastern) District. The village derives its name from the word "haga". "Haga" means blood and that this village came about due to the bloodlines of families and relatives that helped establish this village. Hagåtña became a village when the Spaniards decided that the area be the capital of the island. Hagåtña is where you find places named after the saints as the city is also the seat of the island's religion – Catholicism. The three branches of government: Judicial, Legislative, and Executive are located here. Also, it is the center of all commercial activities with legal offices, banks, department/variety stores, insurance, technical and professional services and recreation facilities.

Municipality of INARAJAN (Inalåhan)

MAYOR: Franklin M. Taitague
POPULATION: 3,052 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Plumeria (Frangipani)
HISTORY:

The village of Inarajan is located on the south eastern side of the island and is part of the *Haya* (Southern) District. This village derives its name from the word "Halla". "Halla" means to pull something or move something with a rope tied to it. Another word that may give meaning to the village name is the word "ala". This word refers to a kind of large woven coconut basket used for storage of fish or vegetables.

Municipality of MANGILAO

MAYOR: Nonito "Nito" C. Blas
POPULATION: 13,313 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Red Rose or Rock Rose (Jatroha Hostata)
HISTORY:

The village of Mangilao is located in the eastern part of the island and is part of the *Kattan* (Eastern) District. This village derives its name from the word "ilao". "Ilao" means to look for something or to search for something. Hunters or fishermen went to this area to fish or to search for crabs, deer or wild pigs. Mangilao is the center of higher education on Guam with both the University of Guam and the Guam Community College. Rapid development in this village has made it quite populated, as it is now the home of many Micronesian islanders who have chosen to migrate to Guam. The island prison facilities for juvenile offenders and convicted criminals are located here as well as the Government of Guam's Agricultural station and the experimental station for seafood harvesting under the Government's Commerce Department.

Municipality of MERIZO (Malesso')

MAYOR: Rita A. Tainatongo
POPULATION: 2,163 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Hibiscus or Gumamela (Sinensis)
HISTORY:

The village of Merizo is located on the southern tip of the island and is part of the *Haya* (Southern) District. The village derives its name from the word "lesso". "Lesso" is the next growth size of the juvenile rabbit fish locally known as "manahak" and these were caught at the mouth of the bay of that village. Merizo is the southernmost village where one can ride a boat to a smaller island known today for its recreational and resort facilities – Cocos Island. This small historic village was home of the ancient Chamorros who lived along the shores of the bay and fished for a living in the abundant sea, especially full of "lesso", which gave the village its name.

Municipality of MONGMONG-TOTO-MAITE

MAYOR: Andrew "Andy" C. Villagomez
POPULATION: 5,845 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Plumeria (Frangipani)
HISTORY:

The first of three villages combined into one derives its name from the word "momongmong". "Momongmong" comes from the sound of a heartbeat but through word evolution came out to "mongmong". The second village derives its name from the word "to to". "To to" means to lie or recline on one's back. The third village derives its name from the word "ma ette". "Ma ette" means to nudge or touch another person usually accidentally with your hands or with some part of your body.

Municipality of PITI

MAYOR: Vicente "Ben" D. Gumataotao
POPULATION: 1,666 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Plumeria (Frangipani), White (Acuminata/Obtusa)
HISTORY:

The village of Piti is also known as "The Port City". This village derives its name from the word "puti". "Puti" means pain either through a sore, disease, illness or through physical or emotional pain. Piti is approximately two miles in length and width. A number of historical sites are situated within the village.

Municipality of SANTA RITA

MAYOR: Joseph "Joe" C. Wesley
POPULATION: 7,500 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Gardenia, White or Sno-Ball (Jasminoides)
HISTORY:

Santa Rita is located on the south western side of Guam and is part of the *Haya* (Southern) District. This village does not have an original name because it was established in 1945 when residents were moved from the destroyed Sumay village. "Santa Rita" is the patron saint of abused wives. It is not clear how the name was decided upon, nor for what reason the name was chosen when the village was established.

Municipality of SINAJANA (Sinahãña)

MAYOR: Roke B. Blas
VICE MAYOR: Robert R.C. Hofmann
POPULATION: 2,853 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Chichirica (Lochnera Rose)
HISTORY:

The village of Sinajana is located in the central part of the island and is part of the *Kattan* (Eastern) District. Sinajana overlooks the central parks of Guam and sits atop the capital of Hagåtña. The village derives its name from the word "chinahan". "Chinahan" means the method of baking wild yams in the dirt. The "na" at the end of the village name "Sinajana" refers to the people who helped in the baking process.

Municipality of TALOFOFO (Talo'fo'fo)

MAYOR: Pedro "Pete" D. Paulino
POPULATION: 3,215 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Bouganvilla or Puti Tai Nobio (Spectobilus)
HISTORY:

The village of Talofofo is located in the south eastern side of the island and is part of the *Haya* (Southern) District. This village derives its name from the saying "entalo' I fe'fo". "Entalo' I fe'fo" means between the cliffs where this place is situated and surrounded by cliffs. It is possible that another word gave this village its ending name. The word "fo'fo" means a bubbling spring. Because the Talo'fo'fo River and the Talo'fo'fo Falls are located in this village, the name could possibly mean between the bubbling springs.

Municipality of TAMUNING-TUMON

MAYOR: Francisco "Frank" C. Blas
VICE MAYOR: Louise C. Rivera
POPULATION: 18,012 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Hibiscus or Guamela (Sinensis)
HISTORY:

There are two Carolinian stories that relate to how this village derives its name. First, there was a Carolinian Chief named Tamuning who was brought over from Ulul Atoll in the Caroline Islands. The second came from a Carolinian word "Tamuning" which is the movement of people from Apotuan on to the area where a cotton plantation was run by an individual named George Johnston. Mr. Johnston was an American businessman who married a Spaniard woman and was permitted to grow cotton in what is now Tamuning. The second village derives its name from the saying "ti apmam homhom" which means it is getting dark and refers to hunters and fishermen who walk from

southern Guahan to fish or hunt in this place and by the time they get there it is nearing darkness.

Municipality of UMATAC (Humátak)

MAYOR: Daniel Q. Sanchez
POPULATION: 887 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Poinsetta (Pulcherrima)
HISTORY:

The village of Umatac is located in the south western side of the island and is part of the *Haya* (Southern) District. This village derives its name from the word "uma". "Uma" means to carry something on the back or a heavy load on the shoulders. Umatac is the smallest and second oldest of Guam's villages after Inarajan. This is the village that Ferdinand Magellan is alleged to have visited and it was through his escapades with the villagers that led him to rename Guam, the "Island of Thieves."

Municipality of YIGO (Yigu)

MAYOR: Robert "Bob" S. Lizama
POPULATION: 19,474 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Plumeria (Frangipani), Red/White (Acuminata/Obtusa)
HISTORY:

This village derives its name from the word "yugu". "Yugu" means the frame placed over the neck of a carabao and harnessed to a cart. Yigo is the island's northernmost village. The soil is rich for coffee, cocoa, pineapples, oranges and tangerines which grew in abundance before the war. This village also produced chocolates which were then transported to Hagåtña where they were served to visitors in the Chocolate House of the Governor's palace. Yigo also has many ifil wood trees, the hard wood used to make the yoke of the carabao and oftentimes the construction of the carabao cart.

Municipality of YONA (Yo'ña)

MAYOR: Jose "Pedro" T. Terlaje
POPULATION: 6,484 (2000-Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Commerce)
VILLAGE FLOWER: Hibiscus or Gumamela (Sinensis)
HISTORY:

The village derives its name from the word "iyo-ña". "Iyo-ña" means the possession of something be it material things, personal items, or spiritual ownership. Yona is located on the south eastern side of the island and is situated on a plateau overlooking the Pacific Ocean and is part of the *Haya* (Southern) District. Yona is well known to islanders because of Menenggon, the infamous concentration camp where the Japanese imprisoned the Chamorros before the American invasion. This village follows the village of Sinajana where development in the form of "Urban Renewal" created what is Yona today.