

## ZENADTH KES

My father, the late Adhi Ephraim Bani came up with the more recent term/acronym: ZENADTH KES.

This name came about as a result of the discussions from 1989 Cultural workshop which he facilitated at the VMI Hall. I was part of that Western Island workshop group.

At the workshop, it was initially spelt as ZENADH: ZE for Zey (south), NA for Naygay / Naiger (North), and DH for Dhawdhay (mainland). At this point, KES was not included. However it did not fully describe the region as it was.

Mr. Bani took it further with his work, in the revitalization, preservation and maintenance of culture, which included consultations with traditional elders throughout the region.

Dad included the KES, so that it would bring out the fact that we live on the passage way between the two continents.

D and TH was included to clearly define - D for Dagam (place), and Th for Thawathaw (coastline), so it would be more specific and clearly defines, that we are located on the waters between and connected to the coastline of the northern and southern continent. Today the spelling is: ZENADTH KES.

ZE – Zey (South)

NA – Naygay (North)

D – Dagam (Place/Side)

TH – Thawathaw (Coastline)

KES – Passage/Channel/ Waterway

Our language alphabet system does not have 'DTH'. It only has 'TH' and 'DH'. That is why ZENADTH is not a language word, It is an acronym descriptive of the geographical location of our beautiful islands and region.

( E. Bani) ... "In oceanography, this underwater ledge is call shaul shelf which only has been discovered recently but known to us from time immemorial as lumudhal; Badu Hoki to the west, the western margin which touches the Timor Sea; the stretches of dark blue waters to the east, which reaches to the inner edges of the Great Barrier Reef, the underwater cliff connecting the Pacific. This space is called the coral sea, Koev

Maganiw Maalu, the liquid element, which accommodates our tropical islands. From the coast of Papua New Guinea to the northern shores of the great continent of Australia. We are in command of this geographical area. This region is the home of Meriam, Kulkalgal, Maluylgal, Guda Maluylgal, and Kaiwalagalgal. This is Zenadth, our Torres Strait, our home, our islands, our seas, our treasure from the past into the distant future, and into the cosmos." (E.Bani)