

Note: All items appearing in this service have been abbreviated. Items from the Kupang Post and Kompas are synopses translated by the editor (Denis Fisher)..Any comments or suggestions welcome – please send to d-dfisher@homemail.com.au

1. RI has thousands of hectares of land ideal for wheat cultivation
2. Malnutrition in Indonesia linked to decline in breast-feeding
3. Women Still Being Put Second
4. UNICEF Assists Mawar villagers with Running Water
5. Minister of State Meutia Hatta visits Village of Pasir Putih
6. Increasing Drug Use in Kupang
7. Villages on Solor Face Water Crisis
8. Tsunami Detection Device Installed in NTT
9. Corruption: People Still Distrustful
10. Yoseph Ahriyanto Ludoni: Building up the poor's fading hopes
11. Classroom Capacity in Kupang's Schools
12. Lemon Producers Complain about Crop Mortgaging
13. 10 Health Facilities in Alor without Staff
14. New governor of NTT told to focus on poverty
15. Remember the Election Promises
16. NTT governor starts term with focus on poverty
17. 103 Babies Die in Last 6 Months
18. NTT To Learn from Gorontalo
19. El Tari Airport Set to Receive Garuda Flights
20. NTT Government Insensitive to Agricultural Development
21. Indonesia Faces a Critical Shortage of Beef

1 RI has thousands of hectares of land ideal for wheat cultivation

Jakarta Post (Antara) 10/6/08

Jakarta: Contrary to previous agricultural reports, certain regions in Indonesia may be ideal for wheat production. Indonesia has at least 1.5 million hectares of land located in a cool and dry region that may allow wheat cultivation.

"The high altitude lands in Nusa Tenggara Timur, with its seasonal dry winds from Australia, are the most ideal for wheat production," said Risda Yulita, a expert from the Agricultural Ministry, on Tuesday. She said that potato cultivation, previously thought as unfeasible in Indonesia, was proven possible in the end after thorough research. She said, however, that the country would need to embark on a large-scale wheat cultivation program if it sought to meet local consumption demands. The Agriculture Ministry has been experimenting with four wheat variants -- the Dewata, Timor, Selayar and Nias -- in the high lands of 16 provinces since 2000, said Risda.

"Wheat needs to be cultivated on dry lands with no water, so the most ideal climate for planting would be at the end of the monsoon season or in the early dry season, namely between April and September, particularly between June and August," she said....*(more)*.

2 Malnutrition in Indonesia linked to decline in breast-feeding

Jakarta Post, 7/7/08

A decline in the breast-feeding rate in Indonesia is one of the primary causes of the rise in childhood malnutrition in the country, a UN official says. Head of the health and nutrition section at Unicef Indonesia, Anne H. Vincent, said that in 2007 only 7.2 percent of children in the country were breast-fed exclusively until the age of six months, from 7.8 percent in 2002. On average, Indonesian children are breast-fed exclusively for less than two months.

The UN body has found one in every four children in the country suffers from malnutrition. Regions in Indonesia have reported deaths of children due to malnutrition. From January to June this year, some 31 malnutrition-related deaths of children under the age of five were reported in East Nusa Tenggara, 20 in West Nusa Tenggara, 10 in Lebak, Banten, and five in Bone, South Sulawesi. Vincent said the primary cause of malnutrition was poor infant feeding practices (i.e. inadequate breast-feeding and complementary feeding).....(*more*).

3 Women Still Being Put Second

Kupang Post 8/7/08

On 20/6/08, at a seminar put on by the kabupaten of Manggarai Barat (Mabar) NTT on “Participation of Women in Tourism in support of the Economy of the Family”, the Indonesian Minister of State for the Empowerment of Women, Meutia Hatta (daughter of Mohamed Hatta), said that, although women were increasingly taking part in the revival of women in Indonesia, discrimination was still occurring from the centre right down to the regions. She hoped that the seminar would open the eyes of policy makers and stakeholders so that the empowerment of women and the potential of Mabar and NTT generally would be seen as valuable development assets. Women had to be put on a par with men in Mabar so that they could be productive development assets, especially for tourism. Women should not be looked down upon, but rather given the chance to implement their ideas and plans. As the marginalisation of women could result from the quality of the women themselves as a human resource, discrimination against them in the form of obstructing their education must be eliminated. Development, often seen a more positive for males, must be of equal benefit to both men and women.(*more*)

4 UNICEF Assists Mawar villagers with Running Water

Kupang Post 8/7/08

KALABAHI—The villagers of Mawar (Alor Kabupaten NTT) have begun to feel the benefit of a program of assistance with running water from Unicef. The village head, Yusak Olang, told *KP* on 7/7/08 that with this development the villagers would soon no longer experience difficulty obtaining fresh water and their health would be better. The program would see the village’s 203 households connected to piped water....(*more*).

5 Minister of State Meutia Hatta visits Village of Pasir Putih.

Kupang Post 9/7/08

On 21/6 Minister for State for the Empowerment of Women, Meutia Hatta, visited the villagers of Pasir Putih on Mesa Island (Komodo). Village head Rasyid raised two urgent

problems with her: water supply and electricity. Because local water was brackish, villagers had to buy water from Labuan Bajo. With respect to electricity, some villagers could afford to buy a generator, while others used kerosene lanterns. A local woman asked that urgent government attention be given to the minimal educational facilities on the island and asked the minister to look into the poor facilities available for youth activities (Karang Taruna). Another women asked the minister to help with capital for women's ventures, in particular a project of a group of local women to grow edible seaweed...*(more)*

6 Increasing Drug Use in Kupang

Kupang Post 9/6/08

The Mayor of Kupang (Adeo) told a meeting of municipal staff that everyone should address more seriously the problem of increasing drug use in Kupang. A special body was being set up to handle this problem. Civil servants and students in Kupang needed to be examined to establish whether they had ever used drugs..*(more)*.

7 Villages on Solor Face Water Crisis

Kupang Post 9/7/08

LARANTUKA: Since 1980 four villages on Solor Island (East Flores (Flotim) Kabupaten) with 3 700 inhabitants, viz. Balaweling I, Balaweling II, Pamakayo and Ongaleng, have been plagued with a water crisis and have been consuming brackish water from a makeshift well. As a result, from 5 to 10AM every morning, the women and girls of the villages walk between 1 and 3 kms to fetch clean water. The Flotim government has not yet addressed this basic need of the four villages..*(more)*

8 Tsunami Detection Device Installed in NTT

Kompas, 19/7/08

JAKARTA: A tsunami detection device is soon to be placed 50 miles off the coast of Komodo Island NTT. The device, which will give 15 minutes warning of the arrival of waves on land, is being moved from its current less suitable location in the Sunda Straits, to NTT, chosen because of its relatively high susceptibility to tsunamis... *(more)*

9 Corruption: People Still Distrustful

Kupang Post 11/7/08

KUPANG: – According to Dr Yohannes G Tuba Helan SH MH (Chair of the NTT/NTB office of the Ombudsman Commission) and Sarah Lerry Mboeik (Secretary of the Group for the Promotion of Popular Initiatives and Advocacy (PIAR)), the increase in the number of reports/complaints about corruption in NTT sent to the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) in Jakarta shows that the people of NTT still distrust local law enforcement agencies. According to them, NTT is one of the most corrupt provinces in Indonesia, but very few people are in jail for corruption. Tuba Helan points out that the KPK only takes charge of corruption cases which involve losses to the state of more than Rp1 billion, with cases involving less than that figure being referred back to local law enforcement agencies. Sarah Lerry Mboeik argues that the KPK should take direct charge of cases involving provincial leaders (the governor, bupati and mayors). A deputy chair of the KPK has commented that of the 380 reports/complaints received from

NTT up to 30/6/08, 377 have been examined and sent back to NTT law enforcement agencies for follow up action...(more).

Kupang Post 12/7/08

NTT's government prosecutor, Wahyudi SH, acknowledges that people are reporting many cases of corruption to the KPK because there is a lack of trust in NTT's law enforcement agencies. But people should understand that every case of corruption under investigation in NTT is referred to the KPK as well...(more)

10 Yoseph Ahriyanto Ludoni: Building up the poor's fading hopes

Yemris Fointuna, *The Jakarta Post*, 14/7/08

Kupang: Take a close look at the elegant house built in the local architectural style in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara, and you might notice something: This building is earthquake-proof...

The house was built by street children and other members of the community, led by Yoseph Ahriyanto Ludoni, director of the community...which helps not only street children, but also other disadvantaged people including victims of political conflicts and sex workers.

Born in Niki-Niki, Timor Tengah Selatan Regency, on June 29, 1974, Ahriyanto's own bitter childhood inspired him to serve the community.... In 1999, he and a group of friends set up the Communication Forum for the Care of Mothers and Children, which focused on impoverished women, street children and victims of the religious and political violence wracking East Timor, Poso and Ambon...He also established the Purnama Kasih Community, whose members come from various backgrounds. He provided them with vocational training and music lessons, and helped develop an informal education system to combat illiteracy.

Armed with a burning idealism and strong commitment, Ahriyanto tried to enlist the aid of government institutions in his quest to help the poor...Despite limited funding, Ahriyanto always found a way through. ...Community members who have received vocational training with the group are in high demand from the labor market to work in various fields, including home industries. Purnama Kasih Community has trained 30,000 people, with 90 percent of them now gainfully employed.

Ahriyanto's effort .. has drawn the attention of various national and international institutions, including the Vatican. In 2004, Ahriyanto received an award from Kailas Satyarchy, head of the UN's Global Campaign for Education, for Purnama Kasih Community's achievements.. The Center for the Betterment of Education in Jakarta also awarded him for his community service programs. In 2005, the House of Representatives' Commission VIII, which oversees education, awarded him for his role in helping eradicate illiteracy in East Nusa Tenggara, and in 2006, Pope Benedict XVI awarded Ahriyanto the Apostolic Blessing at the Holy See....(more)

11 Classroom Capacity in Kupang's Schools

Kupang Post 14/7/08

KUPANG: In light of limitations placed by the Municipality of Kupang on the number of senior high school classes and on student numbers per class, it is estimated that at least 96 additional classrooms are needed to accommodate the 3,336 junior high school graduates who are currently awaiting their results in the national equivalency test (UNPK) ..(*more*)

15/7/08: Kupang's mayor has stated that, in meeting the shortfall, classrooms not meeting technical guidelines could not be used. He would invite private schools to participate in the process of finding extra classroom space ..(*more*)

12 Lemon Producers Complain about Crop Mortgaging

Kupang Post 14/7/08

RUTENG: The villagers of Ketang, Kecamatan Lelak, Kabupaten Manggarai are complaining about the existing crop mortgaging (*ijon*) system farmers have to use to market their lemons. The system disadvantages farmers because, when their fruit is ripening and they need money to finance living and other costs, cashed up people pay them very low advance prices for their fruit (acceptance of which is the only option farmers have to obtain money). The newly installed deputy Bupati of Manggarai has been asked to take action to protect the farmers from this practice... (*more*)..

13 10 Health Facilities in Alor without Staff

Kupang Post 14/7/08

KALABAH: As many as 10 community health sub-centres in Kabupaten Alor are empty staff-less buildings which cannot provide health services to the community. According to a local health official, this situation makes it impossible to meet demands from the community for even more health facilities.....(*more*)

14 New governor of NTT told to focus on poverty

The Jakarta Post , 17/7/08

Kupang: Home Minister Mardiyanto asked the new governor and vice governor of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) to pay more attention to poverty, a persistent problem in the nation's least-developed province.

The minister made the request when swearing in Frans Leburaya, as governor, and Esthon Foennay, as vice governor, for the period from 2008 to 2013. Frans and Esthon were nominated by the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) and won a majority victory in the province's first-ever direct gubernatorial election last month.

Mardiyanto alerted the new governor to numerous social problems affecting the majority of the province's four million inhabitants. In addition to a yearly per capita income of Rp 1.3 million (US\$141) -- or less than US\$1 a day -- NTT suffers from inadequate education and health services. Lacking natural resources, the province's economy has depended on agriculture, fishing and copra. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency, NTT's unemployment rate has reached 30 percent, mostly due to infertile land and lack of human resources.

The predominantly Catholic province also faces numerous, related health problems including high infant mortality, malnutrition and hunger caused, in part, by drought, which claimed the lives of 23 toddlers in the first semester of this year.

Mardiyanto also expressed his hope that the new governor would guarantee transparency in the management of public funds, promote good governance, uphold the rule of law, and eradicate corruption..(*more*).

15 Remember the Election Promises

Kupang Post, 17/7/08

KUPANG: Frans Leburaya and Esthon Foennay made at least 3 promises in their election campaign: the creation of thousands of job opportunities; free education and health services for those unable to afford to pay; and provision of unsecured working capital. If implemented, these three promises would be the answer to NTT's development problems. NTT's population is poor because of a dearth of jobs, because of a lack of working capital and business venture capital and because of the low quality of its human resources and its poor health situation.....(*more*)

16 NTT governor starts term with focus on poverty

Yemris Fointuna, *The Jakarta Post* 18/7/08

Kupang: On his first day in office, East Nusa Tenggara Governor Frans Leburaya met with regents, mayors and other high-ranking local officials to discuss steps for alleviating poverty and improving the quality of education in the underdeveloped province.

Chief spokesman for the provincial government, Eduard Gana, said following the three-hour meeting that all regional heads and other officials in attendance agreed to build a joint database of low-income people and education problems. Once the database is complete, they will be able to draft adequate budgets and policies for addressing these two problems.

"According to the provincial government's data, the number of poor people in the province is only 1.16 million, or 27.58 percent of the 4.8 million population. According to the BPS, the number of cash aid recipients in the province has reached 70 percent of the population," he said.

Eduard said the administration would allocate soft loans for low-income people and provide skill training as well as free medication. It will also provide free education for people. ..(*more*)

17 103 Babies Die in Last 6 Months

Kupang Post 17/7/08

KUPANG: ---Between January and June 2008, as many as 103 babies have died in the Prof Dr WZ Johannes Hospital in Kupang (79 were still born and 24 died after birth). Hospital sources point to several reasons for the stillbirths: toxoplasmic infection, rubella, the cytomegalovirus and herpes simplex virus; hepatitis B and C, syphilis, and damage resulting from mothers taking *jamu* or proscribed medication..The main cause of post-

natal deaths was that the mothers were too young to have babies and thus gave birth prematurely to babies weighing less than 2 ½ kgs.....(*more*)..

18 NTT To Learn from Gorontalo

Kupang Post 19/7/08

KUPANG: To achieve optimal development of its cultivation of corn, NTT will benchmark Gorontalo Province's success in corn production. The governor of Gorontalo will be invited to visit Kupang after 17 August 2008.....(*more*)

19 El Tari Airport Set to Receive Garuda Flights

Kupang Post 19/7/08

KUPANG—According to the General Manager of PT Angkasa Pura I, Sakirman, El Tari Airport in Kupang is suitably equipped and ready for the resumption of international flights. He made this comment when indicating to *KP* that he had received information about a possible Kupang-Dili-Darwin flight (a cooperative venture between PT TransNusa Air Service and Garuda).

20 NTT Government Insensitive to Agricultural Development

Kupang Post 21 July

KUPANG, PK---At a seminar on Using Water Mill Technology in Support of Agriculture at Nusa Cendana University on 19/7, the NTT Government was criticised for being insensitive to the development of NTT's considerable water resources in support of agriculture. NTT's agricultural land had great potential, but the province still imported thousands of tonnes of rice each year. Development efforts were too focused on the infrastructure sector, while a lot of arable land remained dormant and unexploited, and rice fields were rain-fed. Water mill and water diversion technology could be used to make more effective use of NTT's shallow rivers and streams by extracting the water and channeling it into dormant land and rain-fed rice fields...(*more*).

21 Indonesia Faces a Critical Shortage of Beef

Kupang Post 21/7/08

GORONTALO: Vice President Jusuf Kalla said on 19/7 that Indonesia faced a critical situation in respect of beef production. Indonesia had imported at least 400 000 head of cattle and still had to import meat, equivalent to 200 000 head of cattle, to meet domestic demand. If no action was taken, a further 1 million head of cattle could be imported in the next 4-5 years. Accordingly, the GOI intended to breed cattle intensively.....

The *KP* notes that NTT is a beef producing area, but the province's herd is not significantly increasing from year to year. This issue must be addressed, as growth in cattle numbers would be beneficial for everyone (farmers, business, government and consumers)...(*more*).