

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. Ex E. Timor refugees to receive training
2. Reservoirs in Upfaon in Disrepair: Villagers Left High and Dry
3. Rabies Kills 6 People in Manggarai Barat
4. Quake Rocks Labuan Bajo
5. Tents Used to Provide Additional Classrooms
6. Anserius Takalapeta: Regent proves his green spirit
7. Care and Belu Kabupaten Discuss Draft Anti-malarial Regulations
8. The Development of Maize Production in NTT
9. Maize and Edible Tubers Can Counter Malnourishment
10. Four Children Suffering from Serious Malnutrition
11. Soybeans Overcome Malnutrition
12. IFAD Still Supporting PIDRA in NTT
13. Deadlock Between East Flores Bupati and His Deputy
14. Provincial Regulation on HIV/AIDS Not Just For Show
15. Inhabitants of Maeoe Face Problems with Water
16. NTT faces chronic malnutrition alone
17. 117 Cases of HIV/AIDS in NTT

1 Ex E. Timor refugees to receive training

The Jakarta Post 1/8/08

KUPANG: Thousands of ex-East Timor refugees in Belu regency will receive training in farming and home industry skills, aimed to help them improve their quality of life

"The government hopes they will later develop their abilities and can meet their daily needs," local Social Affairs Agency head Frans Salim said Thursday, adding that the government had allocated Rp 27 billion (approximately US\$3 million) to fund the program.

The government also provides housing for the refugees, and is expecting to finish the construction of 4,500 houses this year. Since 2006, the government has constructed 12,500 such houses in Kupang, Timor Tengah Selatan, Timor Tengah Utara and Belu in West Timor, East Nusa Tenggara

2 Reservoirs in Upfaon in Disrepair: Villagers Left High and Dry

Kupang Post 5/8/08

KEFAMENANU: 12 reservoirs and 10 584 meters of water piping in Upfaon (Kecamatan of Biboki Selatan), built at a cost of Rp 1 173 million in 2007, are in a serious states of disrepair – indeed they have not yet provided any water to residents. A Settlements and Regional Infrastructure (Kimpraswil) spokesman told *KP* that he had ordered repairs to be done, but the problem was mistakes in the initial survey of available

water. By the time the project was completed the supply of water had declined drastically and was insufficient to flow through the pipes. The contractor was consulting traditional elders in Manufui to obtain their blessing to use alternative sources of water...*(more)*

3 Rabies Kills 6 People in Manggarai Barat

Kupang Post 7/8/08

LABUAN BAJO: Since 2004 613 cases of rabies have been identified in the Kabupaten of Manggarai Barat, according to a local official, resulting in the death of 6 people. He told *KP* that 2008 was the target year for the eradication of rabies in NTT, but Maggarai Barat was still not rabies free, as deaths were still occurring. Steps being taken to stamp out the disease included public education, comprehensive vaccination of all susceptible animals especially dogs...*(more)*

4 Quake Rocks Labuan Bajo

Kupang Post 7/8/08

LABUAN BAJO: A brief quake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale rocked Labuan Bajo late morning on 4 August. The quake caused general panic, but people returned to work etc soon afterwards. Amongst those disturbed by the quake were participants in a rabies eradication coordination meeting. The epicentre of the quake of 39 kms to west south west of Ruteng..*(more)*

5 Tents Used to Provide Additional Classrooms

Kupang Post 7/8/08

WAIKABUBAK: A primary school in Lompu village (Sumba Barat Daya Kabupaten) has had to resort to using tented emergency class rooms to accommodate an increased enrolment of 90 students this school year, bringing the number at the school to 335. Because of already full classrooms and lack of funds to provide additional space, the school had no other choice, given that its principal decided not to turn away the extra enrolments. According to the principal, the three emergency classrooms, erected by the parents concerned, make teaching and learning problematic and are noisy, being located near a main road. He hoped the Kabupaten would fund the erection of extra classrooms.

6 Anserius Takalapeta: Regent proves his green spirit

Yemris Fointuna, The Jakarta Post 5/8/08

Kupang: Anserius Takalapeta is not an ordinary leader. The regent of Alor in East Nusa Tenggara is a man who talks little but does much. The latest recognition for his work was the prestigious Kalpataru award given by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in June this year for his role as an environmental advisor.

The 54-year-old shoulders the responsibility of bringing prosperity to the 174,964 residents of Alor, a 2,864 square-kilometer regency. This is a heavy burden for him, with the region's average per capita income at Rp 1.2 million. Because of the region's limitations, Anserius knew he had his work cut out for him when he was appointed regent his first five-year term, from 1999 to 2004. His work continues in his second term, from 2004 to the present.

He said his main priority was to make Alor green by growing various kinds of beneficial plants. His goal is to plant over 7 million trees...The plants include canary (nuts), cashew, mahogany, coffee, sandalwood, manila teak, mangrove, candlenut and some rare ones. At the beginning of his term in mid-1999, the father of four directly lead the movement to plant 1 million sandalwood trees. A year later, he took the initiative to plant over 1,000 trees -- ranging from sandalwood to mango -- over an area greater than 10,000 square meters that was later named the "Nostalgia Forest." The regent enthusiastically promotes the fruit tree, as each mango can weigh up to one kilogram. He was also behind the drive to plant over 12,000 mangrove trees of different species along the coastline and produce a regional marine conservation map.

Ansgerius excels in motivating people. He was able to convince the community to raise *rusa* Tumor (Tumor deer, *Cervus timorensis*) in an area where people normally raised livestock such as pigs and goats. "I am not someone who can talk and instruct people. I was the first person to raise deer. In my private garden, I now have a herd of 25," he said. The community now has 312 Tumor deer. "My target for 2009 is 600 deer owned by the community and increasing annually," he said.

Ansgerius said there was also an increasing role among village communities to protect their environment through the implementation of customary laws. "One of the regulations designates Pantar Strait and its surroundings as a marine conservation park," he said. His move has fostered the presence of young marine lovers, comprised of environmental activists, students, university students and young church activists. They serve as partners with the administration to boost environmental preservation.

Regarding the entire archipelagic region, rich with marine life, Ansgerius said he never tires of visiting fishermen, telling them to fish properly to protect the underwater life. "I tell them never to catch fish using bombs," he said.

The regent has also launched "Clean Friday Movement" to foster green awareness among the community. The weekly drive requires all government officials and students in the regency to clean up their neighborhoods, including drainage ditches. "The 'Clean Friday Movement' has lowered the risk of malaria because there is no more stagnant water, the usual place for breeding mosquito larva," he said.

The regent's initiatives have turned out fruitful, as the per capita income of Alor residents has increased by 30 percent. "Before all these programs started the per capita income was only Rp 1.2 million per year. Now it has increased to around Rp 1.5 million," he said.

7 Care and Belu Kabupaten Discuss Draft Anti-malarial Regulations

Kupang Post 8/8/08

ATAMBUA: The Bupati of Belu (Jonisius Mali) has told *KP* that one of the basic health problems in his area is the malarial mosquito. According to Mali, figures put together by Care International indicate that malaria is very prevalent in the Belu region. Care has offered their services to Belu and other kabupatens in NTT to assist in the development

of kabupaten level regulations aimed at eliminating the malarial mosquito. It is hoped to bring a draft regulation before the Belu Regional Assembly shortly.

8 The Development of Maize Production in NTT

Kupang Post 9/8/08

Commentary by Yahanés Djelho, Lecturer, Faculty of Livestock, University of Nusa Cendana, Kupang

We are being urged to be optimistic re the new governor's political commitment to develop NTT's maize production. Let's hope that that commitment will lead to something out of the ordinary, i.e. consistent and sustained implementation of the idea through practical and adequately funded policies and programs so that in 5 years or so the people will really feel the benefit. On the assumption that that will happen, the following ideas are offered on how to make NTT more amenable to the development of maize production.

First, there must be participation of and support for farmers, especially poor farmers who for now rely on the bounty of mother nature and know little about farming technology and planning or the processing and marketing of their product. If maize is to be NTT's showcase product, farmers will have to learn to produce the crop on a commercial basis. The governor's proposal provides an opportunity to reorient farmers towards commercial production, making maize production a source of income rather than just a domestic food source. In this regard extension services for farmers will be important, especially in respect of post-harvest and marketing activities.

Second, engendering a job-creating entrepreneurial environment in which most of the maize produced is processed, particularly in cottage industries. Animal fodder (which is still being imported into NTT) could be one such enterprise. Many well known obstacles (particularly sources of finance) militate against such a development, but consistent implementation of the maize policy demands that those obstacles be overcome. Maybe an animal fodder factory could be established in NTT (as has happened in Makasar following Gerantolo province's success with maize production). Such a factory would stimulate the livestock industry in NTT, e.g. cattle and commercial poultry production. Tons of processed poultry from Malaysia and Latin America bound for East Timor currently pass through NTT - evidence enough that we need an environment more conducive to chicken production/processing in NTT.

Third, there should be synergy between all concerned and at all levels to ensure that the various elements of the program are present, e.g. infrastructure (such as roads) and inputs (such as high quality seedlings, fertilizer, and non-rain dependent water supply). Capital will be needed to develop currently uncultivated land. Revitalization of NTT's "Economic Development Areas" (originally for rice production) would also be relevant.

Fourth, NTT's various research bodies need to be fully involved e.g. to determine the type of maize most suited to NTT and identifying new varieties, as well as delving into technologies for improved cultivation, processing and marketing. Is it possible that, within 5 years, NTT could produce various varieties of maize suited to NTT's cultural and climatic situation – some of which could be for human consumption and others for the animal fodder industry?...*(more)*.

9 Maize and Edible Tubers Can Counter Malnourishment

Kupang Post 9/8/08

KALABAHI: In his first visit to the regions since being installed, NTT governor Frans Lebu Raya told a gathering in Kalabahi (Alor Kabupaten) on 6/8 that maize and edible tubers could quite effectively counter child malnutrition. The question was how to process them to make children like eating them. The (local to NTT) vegetable “kelor” or “marungga” could also be good for children. The governor urged women involved in the Poverty Eradication Committee (PKK) to realise the potential of villages so that in future NTT was not stigmatized as an area of malnutrition and poverty. He added that, as the planting season approached, farmers should ensure that every square inch of soil was ready to be sown with useful plants. He also urged that every drop of rain be captured and stored and not allowed to run into the sea...*(more)*

10 Four Children Suffering from Serious Malnutrition

Kupang Post 11/8/08

KEFAMENANU: Four children – two from the same family - (one aged 6, two aged 5 and one 19 months) from Timor Tengah Utara (TTU) Kabupaten have been treated in hospital in Kefamenanu for two weeks for serious malnutrition (marasmus and kwashiorkor) and are now recovering in a nutritional unit. According to a spokesman, the 6 year old was in the worst condition before treatment, as he was suffering from oedema and all his skin was flaking. The child’s father had admitted that his children had not had enough to eat because this year’s harvest had failed and he had only edible tubers to give his children twice a day. The mother of another of the children said that her maize crop had been ruined by disease and thus her child had eaten whatever was available.

11 Soybeans Overcome Malnutrition

Commentary by Serman Nikolaus, teaching staff, University of Nusa Cendana, Kupang
Kupang Post 11/8/08

Almost every edition of local newspapers in NTT carries a report about child malnutrition. The frequency of the reports, it seems, is boring readers and making such news appear normal, whereas in fact malnutrition deserves close attention and is a very important indicator of the state of NTT’s economy and social welfare. The incidence of malnutrition means that NTT’s economic situation is very worrying.

The reports have provoked a variety of commentary in the media critical of the policies of government at all levels. But the cause of malnutrition in NTT is not so much the government, but all of us, i.e. government, the private sector and the entire citizenry. We have to rid ourselves of the idea that only the government is responsible for development, with the people being mere onlookers. If we don’t, the people (particularly ordinary people) will continue to be dependent and poor, and malnutrition will never be overcome. Malnutrition occurs mainly among low income earners such as farmers who in fact are main players in development. Low income among farmers results from low levels of work ethic and technology. So long as they use traditional methods of agriculture, it will not be possible to achieve hoped for levels of production. Our first challenge is therefore to educate and motivate farmers so that they can play a role in eradicating poverty in NTT. In this context the new governor’s placement of education at the top of his agenda

is spot on.

Specifically in respect of eradicating malnutrition, farmers must be encouraged and taught how to cultivate soybeans, which are simple and cheap to grow. Why soybeans? Because one of the nutrients most needed, especially in growing children, is protein, which is contained in meat, milk, eggs and nuts, but also soybeans. Soybeans have long been valued in the world, as they can be used to produce a range of food and non-food items (*the writer describes these in detail*). Soybeans are also very good for human health and well-being (*the writer gives a long list of the benefits*).

Up to now NTT's supply of soybeans has been provided from elsewhere (West Nusa Tenggara, Bali and Java) and they have been consumed mainly by townspeople. NTT's climate and soil are suitable for soybean production, as according to the literature any area good for maize cultivation is also good for soybean production. The new governor's plan to make NTT a centre of maize production is very much to the point, but would be even more spot on if it made NTT a centre of soybean production as well. The two could be intercropped, thereby making NTT's land even more productive.

12 IFAD Still Supporting PIDRA in NTT

Kupang Post 11/8/08

KUPANG: The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) believes that its program called Participatory Integrated Development in Rain Fed Areas (PIDRA), which has been in place for the past 8 years in 94 villages in five NTT kabupatens (i.e. TTS, TTU, Alor, Sumtim and Sumbar) has effectively promoted participation of the village people in its activities. PIDRA's NTT coordinator, Doddy Tibuludji, says that for the future IFAD is interested in maintaining and building upon the PIDRA program in NTT. He added that 2008 would see the end of the current program. The kabupatens involved had held meetings to frame Pidra-related activities and for the future they would provide extension services and enhance management techniques of those involved.

Doddy explained that the activities of village PIDRA focus groups included making terraces, fertiliser, organic pesticides and long-life chicken feed; capturing runoff water using plastic repositories; and using cattle manure to produce biogas to reduce the felling of trees for fire wood and the expenditure of money on fuel oil. In respect of entrepreneurship, activities included home market gardening, communal ventures, saving and borrowing, home industries, trading ventures, brokering trade, managing a business to increase income, development of solidarity within a village and accelerating the participation of women.

A spokesman for South Central Timur (TTS) Kabupaten said that TTS would adopt the Pidra program of activities, but lack of finance remained a problem for the 240 Pidra farmers groups and he hoped the government could help in that regard.

13 Deadlock Between East Flores Bupati and His Deputy

Kompas 11/8/08

LARANTUKA: Lack of cooperation between the Bupati of East Flores (Flotim) and his deputy has deadlocked development in the kabupaten since 2006. The region's most pressing problem requiring immediate attention is the dearth of roads and bridges especially in the interior of Adonara Island (with a population of 110 000) which is virtually cut off from the outside. According to the deputy speaker of the local regional

assembly, if the tension between the two continues, their five year term in office (ending in 2010) will bring no meaningful benefit for Flotim. The head of the village of Panadai says that his village is one of the most isolated and undeveloped on Adonara Island. Although his village is a "storehouse" of coffee, macadamia nuts, cloves, betel nut, vanilla and coconut, much of its produce rots away as the villagers cannot carry it to market, 15 kms away.

14 Provincial Regulation on HIV/AIDS Not Just For Show

Kupang Post 14/8/08

KUPANG: Speakers at a publicity session on Provincial Regulation (Perda) No 3/2007 relating to the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS urged participants (mainly provincial and kabupaten level policy makers) to be more active in combating the virus. The Chairman of the NTT Parliamentary Forum (and vice chairman of the NTT regional parliament), Kristo Blasin, told the meeting that the prevalence of HIV/AIDS was on the rise and required a greater and better coordinated effort to combat it. Perda No 3 was meant to provide a solid legal base for the fight against the virus and he hoped that local governments would take the problem seriously and allocate sufficient funds for the purpose.. *(more)*.

15 Inhabitants of Maeoe Face Problems with Water

Kupang Post 14/8/08

BA'A: Villagers in Maeoe ward, Daiama Village (East Rote Kabupaten) have great difficulty with water. They have to walk around 3 kms to fetch clean water and have to buy water almost every day (paying Rp2 500 per jerry can full). A network of water pipes was haphazardly installed in 2006 (at a cost of Rp 250 m) but has not carried any water and are now in a state of disrepair. Complaints have been made but the local water authority has not reacted..*(more)*

16 NTT faces chronic malnutrition alone

Yemris Fointuna, *The Jakarta Post*, 14/8/08

The NTT provincial administration has accused the central government of neglecting a help plea to address chronic malnutrition in the area. The administration reportedly submitted an aid fund proposal for Rp 50.4 billion (US\$5.5 million) to the Coordinating Ministry for People's Welfare in April, but had yet to receive a response. The money is needed to feed tens of thousands of children suffering malnutrition in the province. The current death toll from acute malnutrition has reached 26 (children) since the administration suspended the provision of food aid in January. Limited funding was a pressing issue because the number of children and toddlers requiring immediate medical attention had reached 90,000, Provincial health agency officer Maksi Taopan told the media Tuesday, while the province had only Rp 7 billion to allocate between its 20 regencies and mayoralities.

"The governor sent a letter to the minister for backup funds in April but has not yet received a reply," Taopan said. "We don't know why the central government has not responded to the request, but more people are likely to die if the issue is not resolved immediately." The local administration were banking on the immediate disbursement of

aid funds to revive the existing food aid program, Taopan said. "Based on the program, food supplements are provided every three, six and nine months," Taopan said.

The funding delay, he said, had an immediate impact on the running of *posyandu* (integrated health posts). In Kupang regency and mayoralty, he said, most *posyandu* workers had suspended their activities because of the limited operational funds.

"Kupang regency administration has set aside only Rp 33 million to deal with malnutrition, despite the fact that the regency is home to some 7,500 malnourished children," Taopan said. The region had recently suffered severe crop failures, Taopan said, and as many as 1 million people were now facing food shortages.

So far, the administration has recorded 105 cases of malnourished children with clinical disorders (marasmus and kwashiorkor), 12,673 cases without clinical disorders and 72,073 who were undernourished. The province was in deficit of 110,000 tons of rice, Provincial food resilience agency head Petrus Muga said, however denied it was a factor in the rising number of cases of malnutrition. "The provincial logistics agency will replenish the shortage. The deficit was caused by a drop in production due to excessive rainfalls, long droughts and pests," Muga said.

He urged the community to replace their staple diet with alternative foods such as corn, tubers and nuts.

The World Bank Helps Sub-regency of Kota Baru
Kupang Post 16/8/08

MAUMERE: The villagers of Kota Baru (Sikka Kabupaten) are benefiting from Rp 300 m being provided in tranches by the World Bank in support of economic, social and environmental projects. A first tranche of Rp 60m has been used to build 500 meters of pathway; to provide training in food management (12 people) and sewing (10 people); and to provide extra food to 50 malnourished children over a 20 day period. It is hoped that a recent positive audit of first tranche expenditure will see the program continued.
..(more)

17 117 Cases of HIV/AIDS in NTT

Kupang Post 20/8/08

KUPANG: According to the deputy mayor of Kupang (Daniel Hurek), nine NGOs collaborating with the Committee for the Control of AIDS have, on the basis of data collected between 2001-08, documented 117 HIV/AIDS cases throughout NTT (84 men and 33 women). The breakdown by age of those involved was 10-19 yrs (4 persons), 20-29 (19), 30-39 (58) and 40+ (36). Kupang had the highest number of infected people. 28 had so fa