

<b>NTA – Press Clippings on NTT Edition No. 7</b> <b>23 November 2008</b>
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*Note: Items from the Jakarta Post in this edition are edited versions of the original and items from Kompas are synopses translated by the editor (Denis Fisher). Because of a warning (generated by Google) that the Kupang Post website remains a possible virus attack site, the editor has been unable to access the KP since mid-August. Efforts to contact the editor of the Kupang Post to remove this problem have so far been unsuccessful. Any comments or suggestions on this clipping service (and the KP virus issue) are welcome and should be sent to the editor at [d-dfisher@homemail.com.au](mailto:d-dfisher@homemail.com.au)*

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## **1 Hoka Village Primary School Badly Damaged**

*Kompas* 9/10/08

**KEFAMENANU**, The primary school of wooden frame and thatched roof in Hoka village, North Central Timor (TTU) Kabupaten, is no longer fit to be used, as parts of its walls and roof have been damaged by storms. In the rainy season classes are severely disrupted. A proposal that the school be repaired, supposedly put the TTU government in 2003, has received no response. But a local Education Department spokesman says that his department has not received information about the damaged school. If it were established that the school needed repairing a proposal would be included in the 2009 budget. He added that there were dozens of primary schools in need of repair which were in the process of being upgraded.

## **2 NTT encouraged to eat local foods**

*The Jakarta Post* 20/10/08

The NTT provincial administration plans to build the country's largest corn development center across 11 locations on the islands of Timor, Flores, Sumba and Alor. "Our output of corn is lower than in other areas in Indonesia although we have massive potential," NTT Governor Frans Lebu Raya told reporters in Kupang on Friday.

Frans said the province's agriculture and horticulture agency was already measuring plots in the locations to be used in the project. He said the agency had yet to decide whether it would develop the centers on new plots of land, land owned by farmers, or on neglected

plantations. The East Nusa Tenggara Legislative Council has allocated Rp 1.2 billion (US\$122,488) from the provincial budget for the program.

Frans said the development of the corn production centers was one of NTT's top priorities, along with a husbandry development program and the establishment of fishing and agriculture industry centers. East Nusa Tenggara was once the largest corn producer in the country. Corn development reached its heyday under the leadership of Governor Ben Mboi between 1978 and 1988 and during the term of his predecessor, El Tari, from 1973 to 1978. During the period, the province developed a large corn production program called Nusa Makmur (prosperous island) and another called Nusa Hijau (green island), as well as launching a movement called Tanam Sekali Lagi Tanam (plant and then plant again). After the downfall of the authoritarian regime under president Soeharto in 1998, the country's agriculture development programs, including for corn, were largely ignored by subsequent government regimes...*more*.

### **3 Violence against children on the rise in school**

*Jakarta Post* 25/10/08 Ernawati recalls her outrage when her daughter, a second-grader at a private school in Bekasi, West Java, came home in tears one day. "I was shocked to learn the teacher 'hit' my daughter with a ruler in front of the whole class, just because she made a mistake in maths," she told *The Jakarta Post* on Friday. She said her seven-year-old daughter, Lestari, ranked in the top 10 in her class, grew fearful of attending math classes at the school.

Lestari is among millions of students across the country who suffer some form of violence at school. The government-sanctioned Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) said violence against children was on the rise in schools....On Friday, the KPAI reported the incidents to Vice President Jusuf Kalla. The commission said it received 555 complaints in 2007 about cases of violence committed by teachers during school hours, with that number constantly rising..."Surprisingly, in 11.8 percent of the cases, the abuse was committed by teachers in school, and in 18 percent of cases, by people in their immediate social circles," Masnah said.

She said that in West Sumba, East Nusa Tenggara, 13 students were forced to leave their school because they refused to salute the national flag. "The students refused to do so because of their religious beliefs. They weren't wrong. It was the teachers who violated the 2002 law on child protection," Masnah said after meeting with Kalla...*more*...

### **4 NTT starts 'non-rice' food program**

*The Jakarta Post* 26/10/08

East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) provincial administration initiated a program, called "the eating non-rice based food movement", during the commemoration of World Food Day, on Thursday. Through a press release, distributed by the provincial spokesman Eduard Gana on Friday, NTT governor Frans Lebu Raya encouraged residents to consume corn. This has now been made obligatory every Thursday for people of the province.

"We have to return to local foods. East Nusa Tenggara people customarily consumed corn for decades," said Frans, while asking regents and mayors across the province to motivate residents to consume non-rice based food every Thursday. In a bid to make the program a success, the provincial administration would intensify corn production by planting an additional 670 hectares of corn across 10 regencies in East Nusa Tenggara, including Kupang, Timor Tengah Selatan, Timor Tengah Utara, Belu, East Sumba, West

"In efforts to help farmers to optimize their harvests, the administration will introduce modern technology to improve corn productivity to between four and five tons per hectare from the previous average of only 2.3 tons per hectare," he said. Previously, he added, farmers had cultivated about 260,000 hectares of corn, with total production reaching about 500,000 tons per year. "If we compare this with other provinces, this production level was too small," he said.

The East Nusa Tenggara administration now plans to build the country's largest corn development program spread across 11 locations on the islands of Timor, Flores, Sumba and Alor...*more*.

## **5 NTT Food Summit opens path to self-reliance**

*Jakarta Post* 30/10/08

The recently opened NTT Food Summit has provided various stakeholders the opportunity to work together to achieve food self-reliance in the predominantly Christian province. Kupang Archbishop Petrus Turang praised the initiative, singling out religious denominations for developing food self-reliance in the province. "Everyone should play a role in accomplishing food self-reliance. The Church has provided counseling to improve farming techniques and fulfill food and nutritional needs, as well as uphold the principles of justice and dignity for people to live a proper life," he said Wednesday in Maumere.

Tjuk Eko Hari Basuki, head of the Agriculture Ministry's Center for Food Crisis and Stocks, acknowledged the role played by religious figures in tackling the province's food crisis. "It's very important to sit together and map out the potential benefits for the respective stakeholders, especially religious leaders playing an important role in the province," Tjuk said.

Archbishop Turang said a physical and social infrastructure would have to be developed effectively for the province to make the most of its agricultural potential. "People need support to be able to cultivate local seedlings, raise livestock and obtain land ownership rights, so youths do not desert the villages and leave them die," he said.

Local communities and religious groups in Sumba are currently cultivating a variety of crops. Tjuk said the province's food independence hung on the development of local crops because of their respective qualities. "Agriculture here should not be expensive, given the surrounding natural wealth," he said.

Of the 20 regencies in NTT, only Ngada regency is not on the national list of 100 regencies experiencing a food crisis. As many as 2.4 percent of children below the age of five living in the province suffer from undernourishment and severe malnutrition.

Earlier Tuesday, in his keynote speech at the opening of the summit, East Nusa Tenggara Vice Governor Esthon Foennay called on all interested parties to work together to resolve the food crisis and poverty threatening more than half the province's population. The summit, to be held over three days, brings together local and national food experts to discuss strategies to pull the province out of its deepening problem. "The effectiveness of any program implemented, or the amount of money allocated for this cause is meaningless unless all stakeholders sit together to plan, implement, evaluate and arrange further steps," Foennay said. He added the people of East Nusa Tenggara would only attain prosperity through production diversification and adequate food stocks, especially corn.

Dwi Astutim, an activist from the Bina Desa group representing the Alliance for Prosperous Villages, said the summit had opened the way for stakeholders to sit together and seek the best solutions to address the food crisis and poverty issues in the province. "The food crisis is very basic and needs to be comprehensively resolved," she said. The problem is blamed on the dominance of the dry season in this part of the country, lasting for up to nine months a year, compared to the much shorter rainy season of only four months at most.

## **6 NTT/NGOs team up to divert potential food crisis**

*Jakarta Post* 1/11/08

East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) plans to cooperate with an NGO network and other agencies to combat food insecurity through better farming technology and improving access to markets, the governor announced Wednesday. Anticipating a food crisis and hoping to decrease the number of people living below the poverty line, the provincial administration and relevant institutions, including 15 NGOs which make up the Prosperous Villages Alliance, declared Wednesday evening their concerted effort to stress reliance on local resources to improve NTT food security.

"This declaration demonstrates the government, NGOs and other relevant institutions -- gathered today for the East Nusa Tenggara Food Summit -- have seriously committed to fight poverty and food insecurity in the province," East Nusa Tenggara governor Frans Leburaya said upon accepting the declaration.

Provincial legislative council member Melkianus Adoe read the declaration before participants during the commemoration of 2008 World Food Day in Egon village, Waigete district in Sikka regency. Twenty mayors and regents from across the province attended.

"We happily welcome the Maumere Declaration, developed in a process involving all institutions including farmers. It shows the local government really wants to overcome our province's prolonged food crisis," said Witoro, coordinator for the People's Coalition

for Food Sovereignty, an alliance member. The alliance plans to improve access for farmers -- both women and men -- to field management, water, seeds, fertilizer, technology, capital and fair markets. It also aims to help farmers cope with weather changes by strengthening the NGOs adaptability programs.

Separately, Frans Leburaya promised residents Thursday his administration would re-activate the use of rice barns in all villages. Leburaya said he was focusing on rice barns so people would again store their harvest for their own use. He added the province could succeed in feeding its 4.1 million residents by optimizing local food production. Currently, Leburaya said, the central government was subsidizing half of NTT's food requirements.....

## **7 Rabid dog kills student in Flores**

*Jakarta Post* 8/11/08

Eston

Lalu Djone, 8, a student at Ende III Catholic Elementary School in Ende NTT died Tuesday after being bitten in September by a suspected rabid dog. There have been 135 such fatalities in the province over the past ten years, with three this year. "The victim's family said Eston was being bitten in September," said Yosep Deo of the Ende Health Agency. "At the time, the victim did not receive any treatments such as anti-rabies serum or vaccine at the local *Puskesmas* (community health center) or hospital." Yosep said Eston later received a vaccine, but by then he was in a critical phase...

He said some 50,000 out of 200,000 dogs in FloresLembata islands had yet to be vaccinated. Rabies is an acute viral disease that attacks the nervous system and is usually transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. Other animals that can transmit the virus included bats, cats, foxes, raccoons and skunks..*more..*

## **8 Undana cooperates with East Timor University**

*Kompas* 14/11/08

Nusa Cendana University (Undana) Kupang will cooperate with East Timor University by exchanging lecturers and students and in joint research, according to an MOU signed by the rectors of the two universities in Kupang on 14/11/08. The language used in the exchanges would be Indonesian..*more*

## **9 Flores runs out of rabies vaccine**

*Jakarta Post* 15/11/08

The number of people bitten by rabid dogs on Flores has increased, just as the island is running out of anti-rabies vaccine and serum. ...The head of the animal health division at NTT Animal Husbandry Agency, Maria Geong, said Friday her office had distributed 140,000 doses of anti-rabies vaccines and serums to regencies across Flores since May.

"If the vaccine has been used up, then that means the dog population has increased, reducing the stock of vaccine," she said. "My office distributed the vaccine based on each regency's demand. We have yet to receive reports of serum or vaccine shortages." Maria

said that during the past 10 years, her office had records of 162 people in the island having died after being bitten by rabid dogs, not 135 people as reported previously.

"There have been six fatalities this year so far," she said.

Last week it was reported that Nikolaus Nggong, 60, and his grandson, Waldi Yoram, 10, died after being bitten by rabid dogs.....Two other people were saved after receiving an anti-rabies vaccine injection. Previously, Eston Lalu Djone, 8, a student of SD Katolik Ende III elementary school, also died after being bitten by a rabid dog. It is estimated that there are about 30,000 dog on Flores. "The administration had tried the mass elimination of dogs in Flores. The effort, however, failed to prevent the rabies virus from spreading," Maria said.

## **10 Half traditional markets prone to bird flu**

*Jakarta Post* 21/11/08

National

The National Commission on Bird Flu has revealed that 50 percent of traditional markets that slaughter and sell chickens are highly prone to outbreaks of the bird flu virus. Bird flu could spread easily because the markets did not set special zones for slaughtering, selling and accommodating live chickens. Between 2002 and 2008, the Agriculture Ministry reported 13 million poultry had been culled in 31 provinces. Only two provinces -- Maluku Utara and Gorontalo --- were apparently free of the disease. In controlling the spread of the virus the ministry needed to focus on Banten, Jakarta, Bali, West Java, East Java, Central Java, Yogyakarta, South Sulawesi, Kalimantan, Maluku, Papua and Nusa Tenggara.

## **11 Kupang approves laptops for schools**

*Jakarta Post* 28/10/08

KUPANG: The Kupang regency legislative council Monday approved a budget of Rp 4.2 billion (US\$381,818) to provide 364 laptops to schools in remote areas. "Many students from remote areas, which are far from access to information and technology, never see computers," Melitus Ataupah, a member of the council's budget committee, said. "We hope that by providing laptops, students can learn about technology earlier." ...*more..*