

<b>NTA – Press Clippings on NTT Edition No. 11 6 March 2009</b>
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*Note: All the following items from the Pos Kupang are summary translations by the editor (Denis Fisher). Any comments, suggestions or feedback on this clipping service 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 How Can Kupang be the Most Corrupt City?**

*Kupang Post* 26/2/09 by Alfons Nedabang and Agus Sape

Kupang: 98 people attended a seminar in Kupang on 3/2/09 on the claim of Transparency International Indonesia (TII) that Kupang was the most corrupt city in Indonesia. Presenters at the seminar were Frenky Simanjuntak (TII), Gunawan Sunendar (Office of the State Minister for Administrative Reform (PAN)), Daniel Adoe (Mayor of Kupang) and Stefanus Y Kontan (legal expert, Cendana University).

Simanjuntak explained that TII's conclusion that Kupang was the most corrupt of the 50 cities surveyed (i.e. all provincial capitals + 17 other cities/towns) was based on the responses of 70 respondents (44 from business, 19 government officials and 7 community leaders). Thus its findings were based on the perceptions of the public (its respondents). Those perceptions could have been formed from personal experience, personal observation, media reports etc.

Simanjuntak's presentation provoked a heated reaction. After all Kupang called itself Kota Kasih (Loving City) and was very religious with everyone devoutly going regularly to church or the mosque. How could it possibly be so corrupt? TII's motives, findings and methodologies were questioned. A local assemblyman even called for legal sanctions against TII, if its findings were proven to be incorrect. The Mayor of Kupang (Adoe) was also critical. He said he had had personal experience of the inaccuracy of surveys: a survey of his electoral prospects had predicted he would win just 5% of the vote in the mayoral race, but lo and behold he had been elected mayor! Adoe went on to say that good governance was an essential part of Indonesia's program for reform and regional autonomy – it was not just an optional extra. He was committed to

eradicating corruption and enumerated the policy approaches (eight in all) taken by Kupang City to prevent misappropriation of funds and corruption more generally.

Simanjuntak did not present any detail on specific corrupt practices in Kupang, but each participant at the seminar was given a copy to TII's publication (194 pages) "Disaggregating Corruption: In-depth Analysis of Corruption in 10 Regions of Indonesia". That publication had nothing specific on Kupang, but it did detail the kinds of corruption occurring in one NTT Kabupaten, viz. Sikka, namely in respect to the issuing of licences/permits, tender procedures and government processes more generally (policy formulation, budgetary processes in particular). One could be sure that abuses similar to these were occurring in Kupang as well. The seminar was presented with figures published by an NGO, the Centre for Popular Initiatives and Advocacy (PIAR): 108 suspected cases of corruption occurred in 1998 in NTT's 13 *kabupaten* (Rote Ndao having 14 cases, City of Kupang (13), the Provincial Government (12), Kupang *Kabupaten* (11) South Central Timor (TTS) (9) and Sikka (9). In addition the NTT office of the State Audit Bureau (BPK) had reported misappropriation Rp101 billion (\$A13 040 000) between 2004 and 07 (a lot of that money still remained unaccounted for).

Gunawan Sunendar said that PAN often used TII findings as a point of reference, among others, to promote good and clean governance. Thus there was no point reacting in a niggardly way to surveys, but rather they should be used as inputs for policies aimed at eliminating corruption. The executive and legislature should work together in this endeavour.

The seminar chairman (a *KP* editor) summed up by urging everyone to respond to the survey with action aimed at making Kupang a "Loving City" not just in name but in fact. A few practical suggestions were made on how to control corruption: a good level of competency had to be set for all government officials; a similar level of competency should be set for members of the legislative; government policy formation should be done transparently with the involvement of the people as a control.

Appreciation was expressed for the past efforts of the City of Kupang to eliminate corruption and its future plans. But it had to be admitted that the effort had not yet been fully effective. Local government staff, proven to be corrupt, were still getting off lightly. The quality of government staff was not up to scratch, especially those involved in tender processes. A corrupt relationship persisted between government and business because there continued to be a culture of indebtedness to government officials on the part of business ...*(more)*...

## **2 21 Citizens of Ende Die of AIDS**

*Kupang Post 25/2/09*

ENDE: Director of the NGO Swabina Yasmine Ende, John Ire, told the *KP* that since HIV/AIDS had first been discovered in Ende in 1999, 30 cases had been recorded and of those 21 had died. *KP* met Ire in the corridors of a 3 day HIV/AIDS awareness/training program in Ende on 23-25/2 for those likely to be exposed to the virus (commercial sex workers, transvestites, former drug addicts and other young people with active night lives). A number of experts addressed the participants in the program. Controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS was important and could not be left to government alone but required everyone to work together, Ire said. The aim of the program was to educate vulnerable youth about sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS so that they in turn could spread the word in the community.*(more)*...

## **3 NTT Farmers Short of Fertilizer**

*Kupang Post 27/2/09*

KUPANG: Provincial Assembly member Adrianus Ndu Ufi told the *KP* on 25/2 that farmers in

the *Kabupatens* of Rote Ndao and Kupang had had difficulty obtaining fertilizer since the beginning of the current wet season. He said that rainfall this year in these two areas had been normal and that had been quite helpful. Non-rice crops were quite promising (if only in terms of meeting local food requirements), but wet rice farmers were beginning to complain about the lack of fertilizer. It was after all the government which wanted farmers to not just provide food security for their families, but also to produce enough for an income. Ndu Ufi had asked the governor and relevant provincial authorities to give the issue priority attention. Separately, the Chair of the Provincial Assembly, Mell Adoe, described rainfall this wet season as “very good” and hoped that complaints about fertilizer could be addressed. For their part, both Mell Adoe and Ndu Ufi had asked farmers in the areas they had visited to concentrate, for the rest of the rainy season, on less water-intensive, quick producing crops other than rice. Meanwhile, a weather service spokesman said on 24/2 that the rainy season was expected to last until the beginning of March, though in some places the dry season had already begun....(*more*)...

#### **4 State Vocational Secondary School No 5 (SMKN 5) Without a Library**

*Kupang Post 27/2/09*

KUPANG: The principal of SMKN 5 in Kupang, Martinus Rona, told *KP* on 25/2 that the school library had not yet been completed or fitted out, despite its importance in the improving the standard of teaching and learning at the school. The students at the school generally came from middle to lower income groups and thus could not be asked to buy books. Many even arrived at school out of breath, because they had no money to use transportation. The school also had insufficient permanent teachers and, to make up the shortfall, teachers paid by honorarium had to be employed (a far from satisfactory situation).....(*more*).

#### **5 Don't Trivialize Diarrhoea**

*Kupang Post 27/2/09* by Vinsen Making, Student, Faculty of Community Health

*(This article is a long and thoughtful exposition on the dangers of diarrhoea, how it is transmitted and how it might be prevented. The following are short extracts giving some useful details on the size of the problem in NTT (editor)).*

Diarrhoea affects many people, especially in the rainy season like now, which is no surprise given that the microbes which cause diarrhoea are mainly water borne..... Diarrhoea is a big problem in NTT, with many deaths resulting from the condition. According to Provincial Health Service statistics, in 2002 there were 39 965 cases of diarrhoea; in 2003 the number increased to 69 894; in 2004 63 555 cases were reported. 2005 was a particularly bad year with 28 dying of conditions associated with diarrhoea. The latest figures show that for the period Jan-Dec 2008 77 741 have suffered from the condition, with 16 dying as a result.....The government is doing a lot to try to prevent diarrhoea, but it is still a big problem.... The community has to become more involved in preventing it. Mothers in particular need to be targeted as infants are especially vulnerable to diarrhoea. ... ..We need to bear in mind that diarrhoea snuffs out the lives of 160 000 children p.a. worldwide (including tens from NTT)...(*more*)..

#### **6 13 Being Treated for Malnourishment in South Central Timor Kabupaten (TTS)**

*Kupang Post 27/2/09*

SOE: According to the coordinator of the NGO, Church World Service TTS, Kundrat Marianan (contacted by *KP* on 25/2), from the beginning of 2009, 31 young children have been treated for malnutrition and of those 13 are still undergoing treatment in the Therapeutic Feeding Centre of the Mother and Child Hospital in Soe. Five of these had been suffering from marasmus. One of the five (aged 16 months) had a body weight of just 4.65kgs when admitted, but had improved since (now weighing 6.05kgs – still well below the average weight for a child of that age (7.85 kgs). Kundrat pointed out that most cases of malnutrition occurred from October to April, a time

of dwindling food supplies in NTT when many were short of food, impacting most of all on children. ...(*more*)...

## **7 People Clever When Short of Food**

*Kupang Post* 27/2/09

Kalabahi: The residents of Pailonggo *Kampung* in Pandai Village, Alor Kabupaten, in response to having no stocks of maize or rice, are eating edible tubers and bananas as their daily diet. The village chief thinks this could be one factor causing an outbreak of diarrhoea among the people. He explained that food shortages had plagued the area since 2008. In 2007 farmers had hardly cultivated their land because they had given priority to working on a fresh water program for the village. Luckily they had received food under the rice for the poor (*raskin*) program in that year. They had planted maize and rice in 2008, but the crops had been eaten by rats and the resulting food shortage had lasted until now. As the *raskin* program was currently not reaching them, they had had to eat edible tubers and bananas. Normally the people gathered candle (*kemiri*) nuts and sold them, but now because of the diarrhoea they could not do so (given the distances involved). The local authorities were looking at the problems in an effort to overcome them...(*more*)..

## **8 Wells Infected with E-coli**

*Kupang Post*, 28/2/09

Kupang: Laboratory tests confirmed (on 25/2/09) that 65% of the wells in Oesapa *Kelurahan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, were infected with E-coli bacteria. The *Lurah* of Oesapa told KP the problem was that toilets had been built too close to (i.e. within 10 meters of) the wells and the effluent had been allowed to soak directly into the soil. Toilets would henceforth be built with septic tanks or a filtration area. Villagers were being urged to boil all well water before drinking it. It was also hoped that the Provincial Water Authority would soon provide for the drinking water needs of Oesapa. There were several other *kecamatan* in the area which also had inadequate drinking water supplies...(*more*)...

## **9 NTT Has to Become a Maize Granary and Livestock Estate**

*Kupang Post*, 2/3/09

Soe: NTT Governor, Frans Lebu Raya, has said he is committed to making NTT a maize granary and livestock estate. There was a close connection between the two because maize chaff could feed cattle, horses and goats, and thus what NTT needed was integrated farming (*pertanian terpadu*). “We must become obsessed with planting maize and harvesting cattle” (*menanam jagung memanen sapi*), he said. Villagers should also raise chickens for eggs. Everyone should pay particular attention to the nourishment of expectant mother and babies in particular, so that a healthy next generation could be fostered. The governor was visiting Nule in South Central Timor (TTS) Kabupaten where farmers are planting a hybrid maize variety which produces 6 tonnes per ha (and up to 10 tonnes per ha in other areas). He thanked the farmers for their efforts to boost maize production and urged them to extend their planting to so far unworked land. He asked the newly elected *bupati* to consider making budgetary provision for a tractor for the farmers to use.

“I am not embarrassed to eat maize” Lebu Raya told the farmers, “so don’t hold back, process maize and turn it into good food which will stimulate the appetite”. He added that, if NTT’s increased maize output justified doing so, he would ask the owners of a noodle factory in Solo to consider investing in a similar venture in NTT. He urged farmers not to use herbicides as these killed insects, thereby adversely affecting humus decomposition which provided nourishment for maize and other crops. For their part, the farmers asked the governor to provide fertilizer, seedlings and a profitable price for their produce. Lebu Raya undertook to look at providing their farming needs, but said he could not guarantee prices.

In regard to making NTT a livestock estate, Lebu Raya said that there was great potential for raising cattle in NTT, especially on Timor and Sumba, but the traditional techniques currently used were not effective in a commercial sense. At the invitation of the government, an Australian investor, active and successful in the cattle industry in Australia, had agreed to come to the Timor to set up a cattle ranch. The governor said he had met the investor the previous week when in Australia to look at cattle development. He urged the farmers of Nule to get in early with the idea of using their maize chaff to raise cattle, as he was sure the Australian investor would pay good prices for the cattle they raised. Further down the track he hoped that NTT would not only sell cattle but also packaged meat.

## **10 Don't Get Bored Planting Maize**

*Kupang Post 2/3/09*

KUPANG: Speaking in Kupang, NTT Governor Lebu Raya urged farmers not to tire of planting maize, as it was not just food for the family but could also feed livestock. *(He went to make similar points to those made to the farmers of Nule (see preceding report), using Nule as an example of increased output that can be achieved. (editor)).* On the same occasion, the head of the Provincial Food Crops and Horticultural Service said that estimates indicated that this year's NTT maize crop would show a pleasing surplus (600 000 tonnes compared to the normal annual production of 510 000 tonnes). But the current market price for maize (Rp2 000 per kg (±\$A0.26)) was likely to fall by harvest time (April/May). Thus the farmers' concerns about getting a good price for maize had some point, but they had to understand that prices were the result of market forces which could not be avoided. That said, the head of NTT's Cooperatives and Medium Scale Business Service told the *KP* that he was already liaising with local cooperatives in regard to the purchase the maize. He would suggest to the governor that the government make a budgetary allocation to buy maize to ensure that farmers remained motivated to grow it.

## **11 UNESCO Launches the Disaster Readiness Alliance of School Students in Sikka**

*Kupang Post 3/2/09*

Maumere: On 25/2/09 UNESCO launched the Disaster Readiness Alliance of School Students in Maumere (Sikka Kabupaten, NTT), the first grouping of its kind in Indonesia. Among those present at the launch were Prof Dr Hubert Gijzen (UNESCO Director in Indonesia), and Christine Hakim (UNESCO Ambassador in South East Asia). The aim of the alliance is be a focal point for pupils' attention to, knowledge of, skills in relation to and preparedness for catastrophic situations. Given that Sikka was hit by a tsunami in 1992, the first focus of the alliance will be how to prepare for a tsunami. In the lead up to the launch, 20 students from State High School No.1 Maumere were trained as a "motivating nucleus" to get the message out into the community. Training was also provided to all the students of Waioti Primary School and State Junior High School No.1 Maumere. In providing the training UNESCO is working with the Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI) and Yayasan Puter, with the full support of the *bupati* of Sikka...(more)..

## **12 Is an Anti-Rice Campaign Called for in NTT?**

*Kupang Post, 3/2/09 by Leta Rafael Levis, teaching staff Cendana University, Kupang.*

*(This lengthy and considered article is written as a follow up to Levis's participation in the Food Self-Sufficiency seminar sponsored by the KP on 5/2/09 (see Press Clippings on NTT, Ed.10 item 6). At that seminar he posed the "revolutionary question" whether, to achieve food self-sufficiency in NTT, there needed to be an "anti-rice campaign" to curb the people's current propensity to consume rice rather than local staples (edible tubers, maize and nuts). Following is a summary of some of the points in his argumentation in support of his posing that question-editor).*

Levin writes that in 2002 researchers suggested to the government that it should gradually move to abolish the rice for the poor (*raskin*) program, because apart from the questionable quality of the rice involved, the program would have the long term bad effect of making farmers lazy about planting local staple crops like maize. He notes that he put forward a similar view in the *KP* in 2004 and over a period of time other ideas had circulated suggesting that the government re-emphasize the cultivation of local crops for which NTT had such great potential. The governments of the day took no notice. They were instead committed to “top down” development programs which impoverished the people and gave farmers little incentive to grow local staple crops.

Thus, governor Lebu Raya’s emphasis on increased maize production was a real breath of fresh air, representing as it did a village oriented and people’s welfare oriented approach. Levin asserts his conviction that, if farmers return to growing local crops and if at some point the government terminates the *raskin* program, the problem of oedema will disappear. And that, he says, is the dream we all share.

He goes on to say that his asking whether an anti-rice campaign should be considered was not meant to imply that people should not eat rice – far from it. The intention was to have a campaign which would tell people, especially farmers, not to become over-dependent on rice (especially *raskin*) and would make them aware of the factors which cast doubt upon the future reliability of rice supplies.

He then outlines in detail several factors likely to affect the availability of rice in the coming 15 years: (i) the International Rice Research Institute’s prediction that there will be future extended shortages of food, especially rice, throughout Asia, resulting from such factors as water shortages, global warming and declining levels of farming skills; (ii) Indonesia’s continued population growth in the coming decades and its greatly increased demand for food especially rice at a time when its land and forests are being degraded; (iii) changing patterns of food consumption in South Asia and some parts of Africa away from wheat to rice will lead to more intense competition for available supplies of rice; (iv) NTT’s wet rice fields are themselves becoming less productive (*Levin lists several reasons for this trend*).

In light of these facts Levin concludes, that it is not excessive to suggest “an anti-rice” campaign aimed at making the people of NTT more enthusiastic about consuming local staples and prepared to begin to reduce their consumption of rice.

### **13      7 Treated for Malnutrition in North Central Timor (TTU)**

*Kupang Post* 2/3/09

Kefamenanu: During Feb 2009, 7 young children from East Miomaffo *Kecamatan* (TTU Kabupaten) have been treated for malnutrition in a local Nutritional Care Centre. Two of those involved (aged 22 and 23 months respectively) were confirmed cases of marasmus, while one has been discharged. A spokesperson for the Centre told the *KP* that, although the allocated funds for 2009 had not yet arrived, the Centre’s stocks of food and medicine were enough to keep them going. Apart from attending to those who come to them, staff of the Centre also went into the villages including remote ones looking at the situation and helping malnourished infants/children. *KP* asked the mother of one of the children being treated in the Centre why her child had not been effectively cared for. She replied that she often left her child with her own mother while she went to the market selling her wares. She came home in the evening, only to find that the child had been neglected. “It’s my fault” she said, “but what to do? If I do not do my selling in the market, what will we eat? My husband is just a farmer.”

Information available to the *KP* indicates that up to November 2008 there were 882 recorded cases of malnourished children in TTU (out of a total of 20 187 children that had been weighed in the TTU’s health clinics). This was a big improvement on 2007, when of 17 782 babies weighed 6 583 were under-nourished.

#### **14 North Central Timor (TTU) Farmers Cooperating with Garuda Food**

*Kupang Post* 3/3/09 report by Julaanus Akoit

Kefamenanu: 1 308 farmers from 16 villages in TTU Kabupaten, with help from Care International, will cooperate with PT Bumi Mekar (Garuda Food) to produce top quality peanuts for the company's snack factory in Pati (Central Java). This emerged at a meeting between Garuda Food and the farmers in Kefamenanu on 24/2/09 facilitated by Wilfridius Nahak (Care International). Nahak explained that in this, the first, year of the venture the farmers would cultivate 327 hectares which were expected to yield between 250 and 300 tonnes of nuts which Garuda Food would purchase for a good price. Harvest time would be from the second week of March until April. Garuda Food had helped the farmers set themselves up by supplying 39 240 kgs of top quality seedlings as well as technical experts in peanut growing to work with the farmers and local agricultural extension personnel (PPL). Care International is also providing training to the farmers on working as a team and marketing.

A Garuda Food representative explained that his company had programs like this in other parts of Indonesia as well. Indonesia was way short of self-sufficiency in peanut production and still imported nuts from several neighbouring countries including Australia. The company hoped that the cooperation with NTT farmers could be sustained into the future, given the good market for any top quality peanuts produced...*(more)*...

#### **15 Mining and Democracy in Development**

*Kupang Post*, 3/3/09 by Juan de Dios, Observer of social affairs, resident in Ende.

*(Following is a very brief summary of a long and rather theoretical reflection of how mining policies should be developed in a democracy – editor)*

The issue of mining in Lembata, Ende and Manggarai (NTT) reminds the writer of social unrest over mining that occurred in Latin American countries like Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay. Fundamentally the people there thought the processes involved ignored the people and amounted to imperialism. Perhaps it is over the top to compare the situation in NTT with that of Latin American countries, but the players are the same here as in Latin America (i.e. the government, members of the provincial assembly (DPRD), business people and the community). Let's hope the in our case all issues relating to mining, however small, which involve the community, are resolved on the basis well considered policies. If they are not, the democratic principles/process we now espouse will be betrayed.

Maybe mining is economically important for Flores, but it cannot be used to promote social welfare, given that its negative effects are so great. The people are saying "no" to the process because they see it as being out of synch with the context of their lives. If the provincial government and the DPRD had consulted the people from the start, it would have been impossible for them to conclude that mining should be an inescapable part of NTT's development, and the problems now besetting mining in NTT would not have arisen. In other words, the conflict over mining is indicative of the absence of effective communications channels between the government/DPRD and the people. In a democracy elected officials and MPs are not only chosen by the people but what they do once elected must take into account the interests and wishes of the people. Elected people are not messiahs. Nor do they know everything about the lives and needs of the people. The provincial government inclines to the view that every capitalist project must help the process of rescuing the people from poverty, even to the extent that they sacrifice the interests of the people to advance such a project. ..More in step with the people's interests is that fact that in NTT 80% of the people are involved in farming and thus it would be unthinkable for the government/DPRD not to give top priority to the farming sector. But it is not enough merely to accord top priority to agriculture. NTT's farmers are still dominated by others, politically, economically and socially. It is they who must be helped to become key players in development capable of competing in a free market...*(more, much more)*.....

## **16 Stop Stigmatizing the People of TTS as Poor**

Kupang Post, 3/3/09

Soe: At the installation ceremony of the new *bupati* and deputy *bupati* of South Central Timor (TTS) Kabupaten on 27/2/09, NTT Governor Frans Lebu Raya asked all and sundry to stop stigmatizing the people of TTS as “poor” or calling them stupid. “The reality is that there are still poor people in TTS”, he said, “But let’s not get the point where the people really believe they are poor and are destined to remain so”. The consequence of that would be that the people, who could change their lot in life, would become resigned to their situation and would not work hard, or indeed would do nothing. Instead, he urged the new leaders of TTS to never stop motivating people to work hard to improve their lives. (*Lebu Raya then gave a pep talk on increasing agricultural output etc.- editor*)...(more).....

## **17 One Person Dead of Diarrhoea in Noemuti**

Kupang Post 5/3/09

Kefamenanu: One person is dead of diarrhoea and another 13 have been treated for the condition in the local community health centre of the *Kecamatan* of East Noemuti, North Central Timor (TTU) Kabupaten. The *camat* told *KP* that, when he heard of the outbreak of diarrhoea, he and a medical team had rounded up those involved and taken them to hospital. The one who died initially refused to receive treatment and subsequently died *en route* to hospital. The 13 who received treatment had now returned home. Asked what caused the outbreak, the *camat* said one reason was the general lack of toilets locally which meant that flies spread diseases from human faeces dumped randomly in the bushes.

In mid-February 14 residents of Insana Tengah had been treated for diarrhoea. They had all been successfully treated.