



**NTA**  
East Indonesia Aid

*Note: All the following items from the Pos Kupang are synopses translated from the Indonesian by the editor (Denis Fisher). Thus they should not be regarded as literal translations of the original articles, though the translator takes pains not to go beyond the meaning and nuances in the original articles. The item from the Jakarta Post is an unedited version of the original. Any comments, suggestions or feedback on this clipping service are welcome and should be sent to [d-fisher@home.com.au](mailto:d-fisher@home.com.au).*

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### **1 Lembata: 3 New HIV/AIDS Patients in One Month**

*Kupang Post, 23/4/09*

Lewoleba: According to the HIV/AIDS Counsellor at Lewoleba regional hospital, Dr Bernard Y Beda, there has been a very significant increase in the incidence of HIV/AIDS in Lembata *Kabupaten* in 2009. Dr Beda told *KP* on 21/4 that so far in 2009 there had been six new cases of the disease (3 in Jan-March and 3 more (including two who had died) in April alone). This was a big jump compared to last year. Figures issued in late

2008 by the regional HIV/AIDS Control Commission indicate that, since HIV/AIDS was detected in Lembata in 2003, there have been 33 cases comprising 22 men and 11 females (of whom 25 had died and 8 were still alive)...*(more)*...

## **2 Fishing with Explosives Escalates in Waters off Pureman in Alor**

*Kupang Post, 23/4/09*

Kalabahi: According to a police spokesman in Pureman *Kecamatan*, Alor *Kabupaten*, the Pureman police unit has asked the government to provide them with a speed boat, communications equipment and weapons to be used in stemming the escalation in fishing with explosives in the waters off Pureman. The spokesman told *KP* that available information indicated that those responsible were from outside the local area, either from neighbouring East Timor or other parts of NTT. They were using sophisticated equipment (powerful speedboats and electrically detonated explosives) and were well organized, coming in six or so boats at a time, with one fishing while the others stood guard at a distance. They were not just killing fish but causing serious damage to other marine life and coral reefs – to the great detriment of the local people. As the local police's boat was not up to the task of pursuing the culprits, it was hoped that the plea for help from the local police would be heard...*(more)*..

## **3 Bakunase Kelurahan Acquires 3 Drinking Water Wells Under Special Program**

*Kupang Post, 27/4/09*

Kupang: According to the coordinator of the *Sehati Kelurahan Bakunase* NGO, Anderias Tabun, several poor communities in Bakunase *Kelurahan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, which up to now have not had access to fresh drinking water now have 2 new wells to provide them with drinking water (with a 3<sup>rd</sup> well almost complete) thanks to funding provided to them under the *Water and Sanitation for Low Income Communities Scheme*<sup>1</sup>. Tabun explained to *KP* that the local *lurah* and his NGO had been trying for some time to increase the availability of drinking water to the local people. The 3 wells now in place were constructed by the local people on a DIY basis using materials funded by that scheme...*(more)*..

## **4 West Kupang Farmers Group in Need of Capital**

*Kupang Post, 27/4/09*

Oematanunu: The 17-member Imanuel *kelompok* (group) of farmers operating since 2006 in Oematanunu village, West Kupang *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten* is short of capital to expand its farming activities especially in the profitable area of secondary crops (*palawija*) such as cabbages, cauliflowers, tomatoes, kidney beans and cucumbers. A *kelompok* member told *KP* that to look after the extra land, and to get the additional water, required for the expanded activities, the *kelompok* needed around Rp.100m (±US\$9 000). Lack of capital meant that only 30 ares of the 2 ha. available to them could be planted with *palawija*. Up to now the *kelompok* had depended on capital borrowed on

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<sup>1</sup>*(translator's note)* a national Department of Health program (*air bersih dan sanitasi berbasis masyarakat*) in place since 2004 aimed at funding, on a needs basis, self-help (DIY) efforts by poor communities to build or upgrade their fresh water and sanitation facilities.

the basis of a 50:50 share of production. This was burdensome for the *kelompok* which therefore hoped to get the capital now required from the *kabupaten*. Most farmers in NTT use traditional method to cultivate their land and are seasonal planters, but not so the Imanuel *kelompok*. The myth in NTT that you cannot grow *palawija* effectively in the wet season has been debunked by the Imanuel *kelompok*. Thanks to training in wet season farming techniques and the use of pesticides provided by the Jakarta-based PT Panamerah, the *kelompok* is successfully growing *palawija* all year round. Even students from the Kupang State Polytechnic come to study what the *kelompok* is doing....(more)...

## **5 Villagers in Oematanunu Have Water Problem**

*Kupang Post*, 27/4/09

Kupang: 128 families in one area of Oematanunu village, West Kupang *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten* have to fetch water from a well 1.5 kms from their homes to meet their daily needs. According to a village official, in 2005 UNHCR funded the construction of two wells in the area and the Area Development Program (ADP) also provided 30 1x3 meter water repositories (used to store water purchased from water trucks). But water problems remained, especially during the dry season. He said the water shortage was impacting on development. In 2009 50 ha. of rain-fed rice crops and many ha. of groundnuts had failed because of the long drought, causing concern about food supplies. The water issue (and also the problem of inadequate roads) had been raised regularly in *musrenbang*<sup>2</sup> meetings, but there had been not yet been any response.

## **6 20 Ha. of Rice Fail in Fatuleu Kecamatan**

*Kupang Post*, 27/4/09

Kupang: Around 20 ha. of wet rice crops have failed in Naunu village, Fatuleu *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten* because water from the Oelnunu dam did not arrive this year because of the extended dry season. According to the *camat*, Batarudin, the 50 families involved could do nothing because there were no other sources of water. The 276 members of those families now faced food shortages which needed to be addressed by the *kabupaten*....(more)....

## **7 Nunkurus Farmers Benefit from NTT-Produced Organic Fertilizer**

*Kupang Post*, 27/4/09 report by Beni Dasman

Nunkurus: Wet rice farmers in the Uel area of Nunkurus village, East Kupang *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, have harvested their first crop grown with organic fertilizer. In a special get-together to mark the occasion, representatives of the manufacturer and distributor of the fertilizer (Kupang-based PT Timor Mulia Sentosa and CV Gajah Dompok Kupang) explained how to use the fertilizer and talked up its benefits not just for rice crops but for *palawija* production. The companies were encouraging farmers to use their product in support of the “Go Organic 2010” program. More than 2 000 farmers throughout NTT were now using the fertilizer. As part of the supply of their

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<sup>2</sup> =musyawarah rencana pembangunan (community discussions with government about local development needs)

product the companies also provided training to farmers in how to use it. *Kelompok* (groups) could purchase the fertilizer more cheaply than individuals...(more)....

## **8 West Riung's Water and Electricity Problems**

*Kupang Post, 27/4/09*

Bajawa: Water, electricity and poor roads continue to be problems in West Riung *Kecamatan*, Ngada *Kabupaten*, according to the *camat*, Kosmas Tagu. He told *KP* that nearly all the roads in the area were unsealed and of poor quality, leaving many communities isolated. There were water supplies but they required upgrading and reticulation systems to avoid problems arising. He said that six villages in the *kecamatan* had no electricity. Some residents were using solar energy or generators, but most had no electric lighting at night...(more)...

## **9 WVI Helping to Fund Education on Rote**

*Kupang Post, 27/4/09*

Ba'a: World Vision Indonesia (WVI) is contributing to the cost of education and books in Rote Ndao *Kabupaten* in an effort to increase the quality of education in the area. According to Marthen Henukh, the head of the local Education Service, with whom WVI is working closely, WVI has designated 3 primary schools as model schools receiving special attention. Marthen said that WVI was helping with uniforms, books and the upgrading of teaching skills (with some teachers being sent to study benchmarks in Java). A series of seminars would also be sponsored by WVI to look into the education problems in Rote Ndao and develop strategies to overcome them so that the quality of education could be improved...(more)..

## **10 Misinformation: a Disruptive Influence on Religious Harmony in NTT**

*Kupang Post, 28/4/09* report by Alfred Dama

Kupang: Inter-religious harmony was currently in very good shape in NTT and any disruptions were due to misinformation coming into NTT from outside the province. This was the message of the head of the NTT office of the Department of Religion, Frans Sega, to a meeting of NTT's various religious groups in Kupang on 25/4, which included Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist leaders. Sega noted how diverse NTT was, not just in terms of geography and culture but also religion. Of NTT's 4.5 m people Catholics made up 53.3%, non-Catholic Christians 35.5%, Muslims 8.2% and other religions 3.4%. He recalled that major religious conflict had occurred in NTT before 1995 but since then only minor ripples of disturbance had been caused by irresponsible individuals engaging in religious vilification. Such incidents were being handled in a mature and non-emotive way and were being left to law enforcement authorities to settle. But Sega stressed the need to bear in mind how prone to exploitation religious diversity could be and thus it was important that religious leaders sustain a process of dialogue...(more).....

## **11 Disease Attacks Cocoa Trees in Sikka**

*Kupang Post, 28/4/09*

Maumere: Over the past 7 years hundreds of cocoa trees in Wolomotong village, Doreng *Kecamatan*, Sikka *Kabupaten* have been under attack from the coffee berry borer *Hypothenemus hampei*, which makes trees unproductive. According to a village

spokesman, the villagers hope that the government will intervene to overcome the problem. He said the situation was causing great economic hardship, as most villagers depended on cocoa plants. The area also produced other items such as cloves, coconuts, vanilla, vegetables and *palawija*, all of which had been doing well. One effect of the cocoa problem had been that some farmers had changed occupations by becoming laborers in Maumere or further afield. The problem had often been brought to the attention of government without success. But the village had been promised that it would be part of a national program to lift cocoa production and, in that context, would be provided with seedlings, fertilizer and pesticides during 2009....(more)....

## **12 Villagers of Liang Bua Consume Stream Water**

*Kupang Post*, 28/4/09

Ruteng: Residents of Liang Bua village, North Rohang *Kecamatan*, Manggarai *Kabupaten*, have told *KP* that they have complained to the *bupati* about their lack of drinking water, because water pipes installed some years ago have an inadequate water flow. The water they were now forced to use came from a polluted stream, which was causing health problems. It was hoped the government would fix the problem this year, so that the villagers would have clean water to consume...(more)..

## **13 Residents of Wolomotong Village in Need of Clean Water**

*Kupang Post*, 28/4/09

Maumere: As many as 2 469 residents in Wolomotong village, Doreng *Kecamatan*, Sikka *Kabupaten*, are in dire need of fresh water, particularly in the dry season. The newly installed village head told *KP* on 25/4 that the villagers had been waiting 10 years for water to be piped to their homes. Local water sources, located 2 to 3 kms from the village, should be adequate to service the village's needs. When water supplies stored during the rainy season ran out, villagers had to walk 3 kms to collect water. The problem had been aired every year in *musrenbang* (discussions re development needs), but nothing had happened so far. The village also needed additional health services, as the village clinic had just one midwife.....(more)...

## **14 Kupang to Provide Rp. 5 Billion to the Bank of NTT As Security for Loans**

*Kupang Post*, 30/4/09

Kupang: The municipal government of Kupang will cooperate with the Bank of NTT in providing credit to small business in Kupang, by handing over Rp. 5 billion ( $\pm$ US\$ 460 000) to the bank to guarantee unsecured loans to small businesses in Kupang. In announcing the scheme on 25/4 as part of efforts to empower the community, the mayor of Kupang, Daniel Adoe, said the Municipality would guarantee loans up to Rp.50m ( $\pm$ US\$4 500) per applicant in the hope that the small businesses receiving the credit would grow and create jobs for Kupang residents. Applications for loans would be assessed by the Bank of NTT and loans issued in accord with the bank's rules...(more).

## **15 Empowering People's Potential in Ende**

*Kupang Post*, 30/4/09

Ende: Cendana University, the University of Flores and Ende *Kabupaten* are cooperating to bring a special Empowering People's Potential Program (*Sibermas*) to four areas of

Ndona *Kecamatan*, Ende *Kabupaten*. According to the head of the *Sibermas* team, Stefanus Tany Temu, the aims of the program launched in April included to realize the potential in the community and to enhance welfare by applying sustainable technological techniques, particularly to the agricultural sector. He told *KP* that it was hoped that the people would benefit by way of higher incomes and greater welfare, increased skills, a more entrepreneurial approach and outcomes more consistent with preservation of the environment. Innovative technology would be applied according to the potentialities of each of the four areas, as follows: (i) in Ndungga village: the focus would be on cocoa production and pig raising; (ii) in Lokoboko *Kelurahan*, on weaving, wet rice growing and horticulture; (iii) in Onelako *Kelurahan*, on horticulture and goat and pig production; and (iv) in Nanganesa village, on wet rice and vegetable growing, and the raising of cattle and pigs. The program was scheduled to run for 3 years and to cost around Rp.1.5 billion ( $\pm$ US\$ 130 000), including some funding from the Directorate of Higher Education, Department of National Education....*(more)*...

## **16 A Special Working Group on Water and the Environment Formed in Ende Kupang Post, 30/4/09**

Ende: The head of the local Economic Planning Authority (Bappeda) in Ende, Dominikus M Mere, has been appointed the head of a *kabupaten*-level Working Group (Pokja) on Drinking Water and Environmental Restoration (AMPL), which was launched in Ende on 28/4. A representative of the national AMPL organization who was present at the launch said that the working group had been established in the context of getting the *kabupaten* government to make AMPL-related development one of its priorities and to put in place the resources needed for AMPL projects. The working group's function included playing a public information role aimed at increasing stakeholders' awareness of the importance of AMPL programs in meeting basic human needs. The working group should be a partner at the regional level in the ongoing national AMPL program, increasing the level of technical support provided to the community in the development of AMPL projects and helping coordinate the activities of the responsible agencies in the AMPL area....*(more)*...

## **17 Hundreds of People To Receive Free Eye Surgery**

*Kupang Post*, 30/4/09

Bajawa: Hundreds of patients in Ngada and Nagekeo *Kabupatens* with cataracts or other eye irregularities are to receive free treatment at the beginning of June thanks to a team of doctors from the Jakarta-based group *Yayasan Setia Bakti*, according to the head of Ngada's Health Service, Hildegardis Bjoko. Bjoko told *KP* that the regional hospital in Bajawa was supporting the project by preparing a database of those requiring such treatment and preparing for the arrival of the team. A similar service had been provided three years ago by a Belgian doctor, but hundreds of people who needed treatment could not be operated on at that time. These people would be given first priority this time....*(more)*...

## **18 Manganese Mine in Manggarai: Both Blessing and Disaster**

*Kupang Post*, 4&5/5/09, report by Kanis Lina Bana

*(Translator's note: the following is a very brief summary of two long articles reporting*

*on a visit to the manganese mine known as Soga II at Torong Besi, Reok Kecamatan, Manggarai Kabupaten on 1 April by a group of NTT journalists, including the author. The visit was a fact finding one in the wake of a contretemps that has developed between the mine operator and the government over the former's unwillingness to accept a government order to temporarily halt operations of the mine which is located in a forest area).*

Is a manganese mine a blessing or a disaster? That was the question which I and my journalist colleagues asked ourselves when we visited the Soga II mine site on 1/4. It is a blessing in the sense that it provides income for the region and the people who live nearby. But its destruction of the environment is a disaster, despite the mine operator PT Sumber Jaya Asia's insistence that it will rehabilitate and "re-green" the area being mined. We learnt that many of the local people support the mining venture because of the benefits they receive and the livelihood it provides them, but many also oppose it. When we visited mining operations were proceeding as normal, despite a contretemps that has developed in recent months between the mine operator and the government over the mine's operations. An order to halt operations at the Soga II site was issued by the *Bupati* of Manggarai on 25/8/08 on the grounds that the site was located in a forest area. The company's reaction to that order was to write to the Minister for Forests in Jakarta on 24/11/08, requesting a "loan" of the section of the forest being mined, but that request was turned down on 27/1/09. Those working at the site admitted to me that they were aware of the order to halt operations, but the company had not yet told them to stop work, and so they continued as usual. So far as the *bupati* if concerned, the decision re the temporary halt is final. For its part the company continues to pursue the route of discussion and persuasion, aware that the legal avenue is always open to it.....(more).....

## **19 Junior High School Education Inaccessible to 36.000 NTT Children**

*Kupang Post, 5/5/09*

Kupang: According to the head of NTT's Education, Youth and Sport Service, Thobias Uly, around 36 000 children aged between 13 and 15 do not have access to the national benchmark of 9 years of obligatory school education. Uly told *KP* on National Education Day (2 May) that primary education was not a problem, as primary schools were everywhere. It was at the junior high level (SMP) that the problem arose. In NTT only 80% of children had access to SMPs, well short of the national target of 95%. The participation rate was in fact below 80% in some areas of NTT (*viz.* Belu, Alor, West Sumba, Sikka, Southwest Sumba, Manggarai and East Flores). For other *kabupatens* the percentage ranged from 80% upwards, with Kupang Municipality, North Central Timor, Nagekeo, East Manggarai, Rote Ndao and Ende being at the level of 95%.

Uly added that another issue NTT was still wrestling with was the 200 000 or illiterate people. The target was to reduce that number to 5% of the population in 2009. Other challenges facing education in NTT were funding, the quality of education and the need to upgrade, and ensure an even distribution of, available teaching staff .....(more)....

## **20 MOU Between East Flores and French City**

*Kupang Post, 5/5/09*

Larantuka: The *Kabupaten* of East Flores and the French city of La Rochelle have signed an MOU on cooperation in the development of human resources, in particular by way of research. Under the MOU the authorities of La Rochelle will fund research in a number of places in NTT,

encompassing linguistics, anthropology, archeology and the marine economy. It is proposed to involve appropriate experts from Indonesian universities in the conduct of the research. A *kabupaten* spokesman said that the outcome of the research would be made public and would be used as a basis for the discussion of development policies at the district level. It would also enrich community understanding of East Flores' natural wealth and culture. The research would start in May 2009 and run for 4 years....(*more*)

## **21 A Dry Season with Abnormally Heavy Rain**

*Kupang Post*, 10/5/09

Kupang: Almost all of NTT is in the grip of the dry season, but Kupang, South Central Timor, North Central Timor and Belu are receiving unseasonably heavy rain. Belu has received particularly big downfalls (over 100 mm)....(*more*).

## **22 Tuna and Edible Seaweed being Prioritized in Belu**

*Kupang Post*, 10/5/09

Atambua: The *Kabupaten* of Belu is developing seaweed production in an effort to boost local income. 70 ha. of the *cottoni* variety of seaweed is already under cultivation (with good results) along the north coast of Belu (East Tasifeto *Kecamatan*) and, under the terms of an MOU with a Jakarta-based company, this project will be extended to cover 300-400 ha. The edible seaweed sector will complement tuna production which continues to be the lead item in the local economy, resulting in exports since 2007 to Japan and Hong Kong. A local official commented to *KP* that the most difficult aspect of seaweed production was marketing the end product and obtaining a good price. Those issues were not expected to be problems with the Belu venture as a Jakarta-based company had indicated that it would buy the seaweed produced for a good price..(*more*)

## **23 The People of NTT Do Not Reflect Enough, says Ben Mboi**

*Kupang Post*, 11/5/09

Kupang: Speaking at a seminar on "NTT: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" at Cendana University on 8/5, former NTT governor Ben Mboi said that the NTT of 2008/2009 was not much different to the NTT of 1998/1999, largely because local people did not reflect enough on past successes and failures. Such reflection was a necessary first step in the direction of a better future. Ben Mboi went on to say that, from year to year, NTT was being badly left behind and thus it was important to have dialogue between the young and their elders to design an NTT for the next 50 years. Such dialogue should address all the fundamental questions, which should also be thought through by NGOs, the private sector, political parties, and anyone else whose livelihood depended on NTT's future....(*more*).

## **24 10 villages flooded in Belu regency**

*Jakarta Post*, 11/5/09

Kupang: Hundreds of houses and dozens of hectares of rice fields in at least 10 villages in Belu regency were flooded on Thursday following heavy rainfall in areas bordering Timor Leste. "There has been heavy rainfall since Tuesday," West Malaka district head Remigius Asa said, adding the flood was caused by overflow from the Benenain and Motadelek rivers. Water between 0.5 to 1 meter deep forced residents to move to makeshift shelters supplied by the local administration. "To provide water, two tank-trucks have been deployed to the affected areas," Remigius said. The most severely hit villages were Rabasa, Rabasahaerin and Oanme in West Malaka district. "The flash flooding took place all of a sudden, forcing residents to run away," Rabasa resident Marthen Bria said.