



**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. Any comments, suggestions or feedback on this clipping service are most welcome and should be sent to [dfisher@homemail.com.au](mailto:dfisher@homemail.com.au).*

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**Glossary of Indonesian terms/acronyms:**

<i>pustu:</i>	<i>auxiliary puskesmas (usually at village level).</i>
<i>puskesmas:</i>	<i>community health centre (usually at kecamatan or kabupaten level).</i>
<i>musrenbang:</i>	<i>discussions with people (down to village level) on development priorities</i>
<i>Bappeda:</i>	<i>Regional Development Planning Authority</i>
<i>gotong royong:</i>	<i>working together on a self-help basis</i>

**1 AusAID-Funded Mother and Child Health Program To Be Launched**

*Kupang Post, 13/5/09*

Kupang: An AusAID-sponsored Maternal and Neonatal Health Program is to be launched via NTT's Health Service with the aim of reducing the death rate among mothers and children in NTT (the highest in Indonesia). The head of the Health Service, Stefanus Bria Seran, told *KP* on 8/5 that a crucial element of the program would be to have mothers

deliver their babies in one of NTT's health service facilities (such as a *pustu* or *puskesmas*) rather than in their own homes. Pregnant mothers about to give birth had to be equipped to take quick and accurate decisions about the delivery of their babies, including in respect of travel to a health service facility. Achieving this would require a lot of funds and the process would require strong support from all sides.....(*more*)...

## **2 Central Amfoang Being Neglected**

*Kupang Post*, 13/5/09

Amfoang: Residents of Central Amfoang *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, told *KP* on 8/5 that they felt abandoned by the *kabupaten* because their *kecamatan* still lacked facilities and infrastructure (such as clean water, electricity and roads), despite the issues having been raised at successive *musrenbang*. There were also unresolved issues relating to land tenure. But lack of roads was the key problem as this meant that agricultural produce could not be easily marketed. To travel the 160 kms to Kupang residents first had to walk 40kms before catching public transport – the trip took around 2 days and cost Rp.110 000 (±US\$10) one way. NTT Deputy Governor Esthon who was in Amfoang at the time told *KP* that, given that Amfoang was a promising area (particularly for cattle-raising), priority was being given to building a road to reduce the area's isolation. It was hoped the road would attract investors to Amfoang thereby strengthening the local economy and increasing the welfare of the people...(*more*)

## **3 EU Funds Issuance of 127 Land Titles for Villagers**

*Kupang Post*, 13/5/09 (*report by Salomo Haba*)

Kupang: 127 heads of family from several villages in Kupang *Kabupaten* have received titles to their land, confirming the legality of their ownership. The titles were processed and issued as part of Care International's SENSE<sup>1</sup> Project, funded by the EU, covering the issuance of 450 titles in all. According to the CI's Kupang Project Manager, Toni Bengu, having land titles was very important for the people. While the titles meant that the land owners had to be able to manage their land properly, they could also be used as a surety for obtaining business credit from a bank...(*more*)...

## **4 Japan to Assist Resurgence of Sandalwood on Timor**

*Kupang Post*, 13/5/09

Kupang: The NTT governor has formally received, via the Forestry Department, a proposal from an (*unnamed – Ed.*) international agency in Japan that it fund a sandalwood re-development program on Timor Island, an idea welcomed by the NTT government. A NTT government spokesperson told *KP* that the Japanese agency concerned would open an office in Kupang to oversee the implementation of the project. Timor's historical position as *Pulau Cendana*<sup>2</sup> was lost because of unbridled exploitation. A subsequent government regulation forbidding the felling of sandalwood trees is now seen as having been counterproductive, as it led to a situation where the people lost any sense of ownership over sandalwood and avoided cultivating it...(*more*)..

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<sup>1</sup> = "Support for Empowerment of non-Integrated Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) to improve Settlement and Economy" – a EUR1.5m program to assist 6 000 IDPs in West Timor and Central Kalimantan (*Ed.*).

<sup>2</sup> A phrase historically used to refer to the Lesser Sundas (NTT), but which literally means "sandalwood island".(*Ed*)

## **5 Investor Confidence Decreasing : The Soga Manganese Mine Problem**

*Kupang Post*, 13/5/09 (report by Jakarta-based journalist and Indonesian Journalists Association office-holder Upa Labuhari).

The issue of the manganese mine in Soga, Manggarai *Kabupaten*, (see *Press Clippings No 17, item 18 – Ed.*) has ended up in Kupang's State Administrative Court (PTUN).

The case illustrates why investors are reluctant to invest in NTT: quite simply, because government cannot provide sufficient legal certainty for companies undertaking projects.

In the Soga case, the *bupati* of Manggarai, having issued PT Sumber Jaya Asia (PT SJA) with approvals to mine for manganese at the Soga location, subsequently annulled retracted permission to mine most of the area originally approved, on the grounds that it was protected forest. The company (one of the biggest mine operators in NTT) has finally taken the case to the PTUN to protect the tens of billions of rupiah (US\$ hundreds of thousands) invested in the project, which currently employs some 250 local people.

This is not the first time PT SJA has suffered at the hands of the *Bupati* of Manggarai. In 2007 the company received 3 approvals for mining operations in Manggarai only to have them retracted a year later on the grounds that no mining had taken place at the approved sites. But PT SJA's position was that it had actually started operations but had put them on hold, pending resolution of a dispute with the local community. PT SJA had informed the *kabupaten* of the situation, but the *bupati* revoked the approvals nonetheless. The *bupati's* subsequent decision to give approval to another company to mine one of the PT SJA's former sites raised real questions in PT SJA circles. Their concern has been compounded by the fact that the company concerned has so far undertaken no activity at the site.

The key point in all this is that a *bupati* should approve a mining venture only after having conducted full consultations with relevant government agencies and should stick to a decision once made. A *bupati* must have the courage to resist pressure to go back on a decision, irrespective of where the pressure comes from (government officials or disgruntled members of the community). Even the emergence of the possibility of legal action against a decision is not sufficient reason for a *bupati* to go back on it. If companies cannot be certain that an approval once given will not be rescinded (except on a court order) they will be reluctant to invest in mining in NTT and that does not serve NTT's interests.

It is fortunate that the dispute before the PTUN on this occasion is between the *kabupaten* and a local company. If an international company were involved (as was the case in Papua in years gone by), the dispute could become an issue between Indonesia and another country, with implications for Indonesia's image abroad..(more)..

## **6 World Vision Indonesia Launches Campaign Promoting Breastfeeding**

*Kupang Post*, 13/5/09

Ba'a: On 8/5 World Vision Indonesia (WVI), in conjunction with the Health Service of Rote Ndao *Kabupaten*, conducted a workshop for 39 doctors, nurses, nutritionists and mothers on the importance of breastfeeding for children up to age 2. Dr Utami Roesli from the Jakarta Lactation Centre conducted the session, the first step in a campaign to promote breastfeeding. He said lack of information about the virtues of breastfeeding

was one of the principal reasons for Indonesia's poor record in that regard and for mothers using formula instead. Breastfeeding from birth would help reduce the 22% death rate among newborns and would reduce families' costs by ±Rp18 trillion (±US\$91m), the amount spent in Indonesia on formula each year...(more)..

## **7 High Rate of Brucellosis Infection**

*Kupang Post*, 13/5/09

Atambua: In a message to a meeting to evaluate the eradication of brucellosis (which remains highest in the *kabupatens* of Belu and North Central Timor (TTU)), the governor of NTT noted that the incidence of the disease had first been reported in Belu and TTU in 1986. Brucellosis had proved difficult to eradicate, because of the intensive system of cattle raising specific to Timor and the fact that *sapi Bali* (prevalent on Timor) were particularly prone to catching the disease. In 1993 the then governor of NTT had issued a decision containing a strategy for eliminating the disease. Part of that strategy (still in place) was to isolate the cattle of Belu and TTU and control the movement of beef meat emanating from the infected areas.....(more)...<sup>3</sup>

## **8 Importance of Increased Breeding Stock**

*Kupang Post*, 13/5/09

Labuan Bajo: The head of NTT's Livestock Service, Marthinus Djawa, told a meeting on rabies control and animal health on 10/5 that priorities for the livestock industry in NTT were increasing the number of breeding stock especially breeding cows, and preventing the occurrence of livestock diseases. Success in these areas, which would help NTT regain its former reputation as a premier cattle production centre, depended not just on government but on the community as a whole. Djawa calculated that the budget needed to achieve the government's livestock objectives was around Rp455 billion (±US\$42m) – a relatively small amount compared to the ±Rp13 trillion (±US\$1.2 trillion) which the government of West Nusa Tenggara was proposing to allocate for livestock development up to the year 2020...(more)...

## **9 Ende Aiming for Food Self Sufficiency by 2012**

*Kupang Post*, 13/5/09

Ende: According to the deputy *Bupati*, Ende *Kabupaten* aims, by 2012, to move from the current situation in which it produces between 50% and 75% of its food needs (putting it at moderate risk of experiencing food shortages) to one of food self-sufficiency. To achieve this objective, he said, all sectors (fisheries, horticulture and livestock but especially agriculture) would need to improve their performance and extension services officials working at village level would need to give the greatest possible assistance. The *kabupaten* would also work with interested NGOs to achieve the goal...(more)...

## **10 Rp15 Billion for Desalination Project in Lembata**

*Kupang Post*, 13/5/09

Lewoleba: Lembata *Kabupaten* is once again venturing into the area of mega projects with a plan to complete construction of a seawater desalination facility near Bunga Muda

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<sup>3</sup> *The report did not give details of the conclusions of the Atambua meeting – Ed.*

village by 2010 at an estimated cost of Rp15 billion ( $\pm$ US\$1.5m), to supply potable water to the *kecamatan*s of Ile Ape, East Ile Ape and Atadei. The project was discussed at a working session between members of the local assembly and *kabupaten* officials on 8/5. Most assembly members present at the meeting expressed misgivings about the likely benefits of the project and regarded the amount of money to be spent on it as outlandish. They urged the government to do everything possible to foresee and forestall future problems.

Figures obtained by *KP* indicate that the operating cost of the completed facility will be  $\pm$ Rp.208m ( $\pm$ US\$19 000) per month and the obvious question to ask is who will be responsible for those costs?..(*more*)

## **11 The Poor: Most Vulnerable to Natural Disasters**

*Kupang Post*, 13/5/09

Kalabahi: A UNICEF sponsored workshop and disaster mitigation exercise was held in Lendola village, Teluk Mutiara *Kecamatan*, Alor *Kabupaten*, on 9/5 aimed at sensitizing the community to the fact that the poor were more likely than the well-off to be victims of natural disasters such as floods (a frequent occurrence in that area). Hundreds of local people took part in the exercise, which it is hoped will help them better to prepare for, and cope with the effects of, future natural disasters... (*more.*).

## **12 Disease Ruining Betel Nut Vines in Alor**

*Kupang Post*, 13/5/09

Kalabahi: Betel nut vines, which are a mainstay of residents of Kafekbekak village, North Central Alor *Kecamatan*, have been attacked by disease for the past two years and the villagers do not know what the problem is or how to overcome it. According to a village spokesman output has fallen accordingly. He said the problem had not yet been reported to the Horticulture Service, because there was no extension services official assigned to the village (although the village was asking government to send one to look at the problem)...(*more*)...

## **13 Manganese Mining Proceeding Apace**

*Kupang Post*, 15/5/09

Kefamenanu: In the six months to May 2009, North Central Timor (TTU) *Kabupaten* received Rp.410m ( $\pm$ US\$38 000) in royalties from manganese mining operations in the *kabupaten*, according to a spokesman for the local Mining and Energy Service. He said that 28 250 ha. of manganese rich territory in TTU (of a possible 80 000 ha.) were currently being mined by 23 investors. The *kabupaten* expected the arrival of more investors once regulations were in place pursuant to the new national law on mining (Law No.4/2009). Asked about environmental damage from mining, the spokesman said each investor was required to pay an amount up front to cover reclamation and greening. ...(*more*)...

## **14 Challenging the Role of International NGOs and Agencies in NTT**

*Kupang Post*, 15/5/09 (*opinion piece by Daiman SSi MPM, a member of the NTT Academic Forum, civil servant and observer of public policy issues*).

NTT is labeled the province of a thousand NGOs. The implied slur is a reality, if we

consider that so many international agencies (IA) both NGOs and governmental are present in NTT. *Bappeda* data indicates that more than 25 IAs are at work in NTT. The limited funds and human resources available to NTT's government for providing for the community makes their role an important one (and it has been thus since 1970).

It must be recognized that IAs have made important contributions in NTT, e.g. the reduction of the death rate among mothers in childbirth from 554/100 000 to 306/100 000. But other programs have not been able to change NTT's image as a poor and problem ridden region. So what is there to say about the role played by IAs over the past 30 years?

IAs have two broad types of activities: (i) emergency assistance, such as the provision of food etc. to combat outbreaks of malnutrition in various areas of NTT. There is nothing wrong with these activities, but prevention by way of long term solutions is better than a short-term cure. (ii) project assistance to address particular issues: the problems here are that: (a) the duration of projects is generally only 3 to 5 years and many ventures (such as potable water and agricultural projects) are wasted because of the lack of an effective exit strategy which ensures durability. Often the IAs concerned blame the local government for such failures, but the real problem is lack of adequate coordination between the IAs and government in respect of effective exit strategies. (b) another problem is the focus on short term results without a clear picture of what the ultimate objective is. The writer thought it interesting that, when he asked two IAs for information on their long-term strategies for the elimination of malnutrition and poverty in NTT, they could not respond beyond saying that it was a matter for their headquarters. This response runs counter to the tenor of the 2005 Paris Declaration which clearly states that donor activities must support national strategies of the country being assisted.

Successful programs implemented by IAs should become the benchmark for local government in managing its own activities. Professionalism of staff and adequate funding are two hallmarks of the projects of IAs, whereas the opposite tends to be the case with government projects.

Another issue in respect of IAs is why their projects tend to be unevenly spread, focused as they are on West Timor and Flores. There is a lack of effective coordination with government in this respect. The procedure seems to be that IAs decide where to locate their projects and only after that do they talk to the government concerned. Ironically, a *kabupaten* sometimes doesn't even know about the presence of an IA in its area. The solution to this sort of situation is contained in the guidance provided by the 2005 Paris Declaration, reinforced by the Jakarta Commitment of 2009.

Funding issues can also be a dampener on collaboration. It is a reality that IAs generally look for some counterpart funding from local governments (in terms of money, buildings or other facilities). This is no bad thing, as it enhances the sense of ownership of a project, but is not good when an IA's contribution is restricted to paying expensive consultants or to holding meetings in expensive hotels. Up to now the breakdown between operational costs and funds actually spent on the people has not been clear cut, whereas the Paris Declaration clearly states that donors should provide timely, full and transparent information on expenditure on any particular project. The real worry is when funds spent on operational elements exceed those dedicated to the community (as happens within government)...(*more*).

## **15 Agricultural Produce from Baumata Hard to Market**

*Kupang Post, 18/5/09*

Baumata: Corn, bananas, edible tubers and vegetables produced in East Baumata village, Taebenu *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten* are proving difficult to market in Kupang because a two kms section of the road to the village is in very bad condition and difficult to traverse in the wet season, making the route unfit for transportation services. Villagers in need of money are thus forced to accept relatively low prices for their produce from buyers who make it to the village. A request that the road be sealed has been raised several times in *musrenbang* but the villagers continue to be disappointed at the lack of action by the government...(more)..

## **16 Bolstering Basic Village Infrastructure**

*Kupang Post, 18/5/09*

There are currently many programs sponsored by the government all over Indonesia aimed at empowering the poorest in our society. One such program is the Village Infrastructure Development Program (PIIP), which in 2009 is targeting 1 400 villages throughout Indonesia, including NTT. The program emphasizes self-help and empowering villages to plan, implement, maintain and preserve the infrastructure put in place by the program. The program is administered by a working unit (*Satker*) at the provincial level. NTT's *Satker* is headed by Frans Pangalinan, Head of the Housing, Planning and Urban Development (*Cipta Karya*) Section of NTT's Public Works Service. A member of the *Satker* told *KP* that clearly defined indicators would be used to measure the effectiveness of this year's PIIP in NTT. One measure would be the extent to which people in the target location had access to irrigation to increase agricultural output. PIIP projects also aimed to make it easier for the poor to have access within their own village to drinking water and sanitation.

## **17 FKP : Advocates of NTT's farmers**

*Kupang Post, 18/5/09*

Kupang: The Farmers Communication Forum (FKP) of NTT, the brainchild of Ferry Dethan, acts as an advocate of NTT primary producers (in the farming sector especially but also in the livestock, mining and agribusiness sectors). According to the Director of FKP, Markus Ndoen, its essential purpose is to rekindle the enthusiasm of farmers who have become apathetic or have been lulled into indifference by programs such as rice for the poor (*raskin*), the direct cash assistance (BLT) scheme etc.

He explained that FKP wanted to attract the support of university graduates in areas such as agriculture, livestock, mining and agribusiness so that they could use their professional positions to be advocates of NTT's farmers with the aim of making them self-sufficient in food. FKP's slogan, agreed just last month, was "Food Self-Sufficiency for Farmers: Our Principal Objective". That self-sufficiency was something that NTT's farmers themselves, rather than the government, had to systematically work towards. In that context FKP looked directly at what farmers needed and aimed to provide them with agricultural inputs such as seedlings and fertilizer as well as reliable extension services (it brought in experts from outside the immediate area to help in that regard). FKP had already worked with farmers in Nunkurus, Pariti, Oesao, East Kupang, West Kupang,

Baumata and several other areas. It aimed to have members in every village in NTT. FKP worked in partnership with others such the Kupang-based suppliers of organic fertilizer PT Timor Mulia Sentosa and CV Gajah Dompok....(more)...

### **18 Taneotop Village: Isolated but a Model of *Gotong Royong***

*Kupang Post*, 19/5/09 (report by Muhlis Al Alawi)

Our travelling party, including the Deputy *Bupati* (Benny Litelnoni) and other senior *kabupaten* staff reached Taneotop village, Nunbena *Kecamatan*, South Central Timor (TTS) *Kabupaten*, on 4/5/09 after about 5 hours of travel, crossing 4 rivers, traversing dozens of hills and following a steep rocky road. The party found the *Bupati* (Paul Mella) already there (he came a day early to soak up the atmosphere). The purpose of the visit was to stage TTS's launch of National *Gotong Royong* Month. Why Taneotop village? Because its residents typify what *gotong royong* is about: making something heavy light, making a difficult job easy and turning an expensive job into an affordable one.

Although isolated (and without electricity), the residents of Taneotop have built a village office, a residence for the village head and a new 13 kms long road (without any input from the government or private sector). The village head, Jacob Fay, told *KP* that all this work was done by the villagers themselves, working side by side, in the space of just a few months. He hoped that the road would mean that 4-wheel drive transportation services could soon reach the village.

For his part, Paul Mella said that the spirit of *gotong royong*, so clearly evident in Taneotop had once bonded TTS communities together but had now weakened. Benny Litlenoni fully agreed, saying that the people no longer seemed capable of even keeping their villages and towns clean and free of weeds without government intervention. What Taneotop has achieved through *gotong royong* could very usefully be reflected upon by the government and people of TTS...(more)..

### **19 Residents of Nai's Village Hope to Have Fresh Water Realised**

*Kupang Post*, 19/5/09

Kupang: Saturday 16/5 saw the official launch of a new water service for the people of Nai's village, Fatukoa *Kelurahan*, provided under the *Pansimas*<sup>4</sup> scheme. A village spokesman said that the project had seen the installation of 764 meters of water pipes, a school hand-washing facility, five water storage tanks, a water hydrant for general use and eight wells. He said that up to now villagers had been hard pressed to obtain clean water, so this development was very welcome. A *Pansimas* spokesman told *KP* that the Nai's project had taken around 4 months to complete and had gone very well because the local people were fully involved (an important aspect of the *Pansimas* scheme).(more)...

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<sup>4</sup> *Water and Sanitation for Low Income Communities Scheme*: 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 (*Ed*)