



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.

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Glossary of Indonesian terms/acronyms

puskesmas: community health centre (usually at *kecamatan* or *kabupaten* level).

musrenbang: discussions with people (down to village level) on development priorities

gotong royong: working together on a self-help basis

1. Items of General Interest

1.1 New Kabupaten of Sabu Raijua Formed

Kupang Post, 28/5/09

Kupang: A ceremony in Jakarta on 26/5/09 marked the creation NTT's newest *kabupaten*, Sabu Raijua. Commenting on the event, Sabu Raijua community leaders told *KP* they hoped that the new local government would stop the recent drift of people off Sabu island in search of work elsewhere. The acting Bupati, Thobias Uli, should therefore immediately give top priority to economic development (especially infrastructure) and increasing the level of services available to the local community....(more)....

1.2 Two Foreigners Under Suspicion in East Manggarai

Kupang Post, 25/5/09

Borong: A member of the East Manggarai (*Matim*) regional assembly has told *KP* that the villagers of Golo Lijun village, Elar *Kecamatan*, *Matim Kabupaten* are concerned about the presence of two foreigners (one from France, the other New Zealand) who have apparently set up home in the area. He said they had asked the government to investigate, fearing that the two had a hidden agenda, though the two had reportedly told police that they did not...(more)...

2. General Economic and Development Issues

2.1 AusAID to Cooperate with Kupang Kabupaten on Community Development

Kupang Post, 23/5/09

Kupang: AusAID is to cooperate with the government of Kupang *Kabupaten* to strengthen community development under the Australian Community Development and Civil Society Strengthening Scheme (ACCESS)¹. The Director of ACCESS, Paul Boon, indicated that the cooperation would support seven *Kabupaten* programs which had aims consistent with those of ACCESS, as well as proposals coming out of the *musrenbang* process. The *Bupati* of Kupang, Titu Eki, said that a joint secretariat would be set up to

¹ ACCESS is a continuation of AusAID's Indonesia-Australia Small Activities Scheme (IASAS), which was an integral part of Australia's official bilateral assistance to Indonesia from 1989. Like IASAS, ACCESS supports community development through grants, capacity building, planning and collective learning. Its goal is to contribute to the alleviation of poverty and strengthen civil society, particularly in Eastern Indonesia (*Ed.*)

coordinate the cooperation to ensure there was no overlap or doubling up. An MOU is to be negotiated to cover the cooperation....(more)...

3. Health Issues

3.1 West Manggarai's Efforts to Control Rabies

Kupang Post, 19/5/09

Labuan Bajo: As part of one its priority programs, the control/eradication of rabies, the *Kabupaten* of West Manggarai is doing a census of all animals capable of carrying the disease (dogs particularly, but also cats and monkeys). Anti-rabies coordinating units, which have been in place for some time down to the lowest administrative level throughout the *kabupaten*, are being used do the information gathering. The data will be used as a basis for a program of comprehensive vaccination and selective elimination of carriers.

3.2 90 Ende Residents Bitten by Rabid Dogs

Kupang Post, 19/5/09

Ende: In Ende *Kabupaten* between January and May 2009 90 people have been bitten by animals suspected of carrying rabies, but there have been no fatalities. Because rabies is endemic in the area every person bitten by a dog is treated as being infected with rabies. The head of the local Agriculture and Livestock Service told *KP* that there were an estimated 48 000 dogs in the *kabupaten*, which represented a serious threat to the people of Ende. The central government had this year provided 50 000 anti-rabies vaccinations which was likely to be enough to vaccinate the dog population. The problem was the many people viewed the vaccination program with suspicion (thinking it to be an elimination program) and so they hid their pets, thus preventing them from being vaccinated. That behaviour negated the effectiveness of the vaccination program.(more).

3.3 UNFPA Provides Midwife Incentives for Puskesmas in Alor

Kupang Post, 23/5/09

Kalabahi: The United Nations Fund Population Fund (UNFPA) is to provide 3 *puskesmas* in Alor *Kabupaten* with midwife incentive funding of Rp 10m each (\pm US\$900) in an effort to reduce the number of maternal and neonatal deaths. According to the UNFPA coordinator for Alor *Kabupaten*, Unun Fernandes, deaths associated with childbirth continued to be high in Alor. E.g. in the last 5 months two mothers and 4 newly born babies had died in just one *puskesmas* (Kenarilang), while two babies had died in each of two other *puskesmas* (Alor Kecil and Moru). To overcome the problems underlying such deaths, UNFPA was training midwives, funding support for *puskesmas* and now providing midwife incentive funding. Fernandes told *KP* that half of the incentive funding could be utilized to purchase equipment, while the other half could be used to encourage traditional healers (*dukun*) to bring pregnant mothers to a health facility for regular pre-natal checks and delivery.

3.4 High Death Rate among Mothers Giving Birth in Lembata

Kupang Post, 30/5/09

Lewoleba: According to a Lembata *Kabupaten* spokesman (Bernadus Boli Hipir of the Regional Secretary's office), 6 women died during childbirth in Lemabata in 2008. The deaths had occurred mainly in *puskesmas* in Loang, Balauring and Wairiang. Although this figure was down from 7 in 2006, he said, it was still high and needed to be brought

under control. Hipir was speaking at a ceremony marking an upgrading of *puskesmas* facilities under the Australia (AusAID)-Indonesia Maternal and Neonatal Health Scheme. He commented that one reason for the deaths was the lack of adequate delivery facilities, which was one reason for the AusAID assistance. Such help, including from NGOs, was needed, as the *kabupaten* did not have the necessary funds to supply all the facilities required.(more)...

3.5 Childbirth Deaths Caused by Lack of Timely Medical Service

Kupang Post, 3/6/09

Kupang: A workshop was held in Kupang on 28/5 to consider issues related to the continuing high level of deaths of birthing mothers and newborns (of whom over 100 died in Kupang during 2008, according to Kupang Mayor Daniel Adoe). Workshop participants included medical staff and *lurahs*. The head of NTT's Health Service, Bria Seran, told participants a key factor contributing to the deaths was the delay in medical help reaching mothers in danger (whether because of geography, no transportation or a lack of qualified staff/equipment/facilities/medication). Relevant in this context was that parents were generally unaware of the signs indicating that a birth was imminent.(more).

3.6 Facilitating Change at Village Level

Kupang Post, 23/5/09

A 26 year old woman, Aisya M Ambi, is trying to make a difference at the village level in Pulau Ende *Kecamatan*, Ende *Kabupaten*, as an agent of change in the areas of sanitation, clean water and the environment. Recruited by the Ende Health Service 18 months ago to be a facilitator of water and environmental programs, Aisya and three of her friends have been active in the villages of Rorurangga and Pu'utara, talking to village and religious leaders as well as youth and women about the importance of good sanitation and a healthy living environment. They have managed to gain the support of the people and are now having a real impact. She admitted to *KP* that it was no easy matter to get people to change but with perseverance people's attitudes and habits could be changed...(more).

3.7 Number of HIV/AIDS Suffers in NTT Reaches 538

Kupang Post, 30/5/09

Kupang: At a meeting of the provincial AIDS control committee on 28/5 NTT Deputy Governor Esthon Foenay said that the number of people infected with the HIV-AIDS virus in NTT had now reached 538, most of whom were people in the most productive period of their lives. The majority of cases had been detected only after those concerned had developed the full blown disease, highlighting the inadequacy of NTT's early detection measures. He attributed the spread of disease *inter alia* to population mobility, NTT's cheap and easy sex industry and the increasing use of drugs. The large number of cases indicated that the government, NGOs and the community at large had to join in efforts to contain the spread of the virus.(more).

3.8 Experts Focus on North Central Timor's Food Problems

Kupang Post, 30/5/09, report by Julianus Akoit

Kefamenanu: A team of researchers from the Agricultural Institute of Bogor (ITB) have researched food and nourishment in three villages (Sekon, Banain and Tokbesi) in North Central Timor (TTU) *Kabupaten*. At a workshop on their findings in Kefamenanu (28-29/5) they said they had found 39.3% of the people to be undernourished (against the TTU average of 37.5%). They came up with 15 issues relevant to the situation, one being

expenditure on gifts (*sirih pinang*²) and cigarettes (more than was spent on education). (*the other 14 factors were not enumerated – Ed.*) TTU's *bupati* told the meeting that malnourishment was a serious problem which the *kabupaten* was working with NGOs to address. It could not be overcome by people working individually – all concerned parties had to pull together to tackle it. A number of NGOs took part in the workshop, including the Indonesian Facilitators Network and representatives of Plan International....(*more*)...

3.9 Belu: Need for Greater Nutritional Awareness

Kupang Post, 30/5/09

Atambua: The Belu Health Service and UNICEF have been focusing on the problem of malnourishment which frequently strikes Belu *Kabupaten*. The findings of a team of health researchers have shown up a low level of understanding in the community (especially mothers) about what constitutes healthy food. Lack of awareness was evident in every *kecamatan*, but most acute in Weliman, Nualain, Halilulik and Weoe. A meeting cum workshop was held in the Emaus Episcopal complex in Atambua (26-28/5) to consider the research findings and discuss ways of raising awareness about nutrition in the community. A Health Service spokesperson said the awareness raising effort would continue, including by way of midwives throughout the *kabupaten*.... (*more*).....

3.10 46 Families Suffer Food Shortage in Kupang

Kupang Post, 3/6/09

Kupang: As many as 46 heads of family, spread throughout 6 *kelurahan* in the Municipality of Kupang (*viz.* Belo (8), Kolhua (20), Sikumana (9), Fatukoa (2), Naimata (2) and Liliba (5)) are suffering from food shortages. A spokesman said the details of the families involved had been forwarded to the provincial government for appropriate follow up, as no funds were available in the Municipal budget. Extension service officers were gathering data on other people who might be short of food, but no details had yet come in. ...(*more*)....

3.11 Swine Flu Alert in East Sumba

Kupang Post, 30/5/09

Waingapu: The East Sumba *Kabupaten* is observing its pig population for any sign of the H1N1 virus (swine flu) and is starting to examine pigs coming in from outside (especially West Sumba and Flores) for any signs of the virus. So far nothing has been detected. The *Kabupaten* is not monitoring human beings entering the *kabupaten* because it does not have the facilities to do so, but all officials have been asked to be alert for any sign of the virus....(*more*)...

4. Education Issues

4.1 Children Drop out of School to Become Labourers

Kupang Post, 23/5/09

Soe: At a ceremony marking the formation of an Integrated Service Center for the Empowerment of Women and Children (*P2TP2A*) in Soe on 18/5, the *Bupati* of South Central Timor (TTS) expressed concern about the number of children from TTS dropping out of school to become labourers in Kupang. He also decried the continuing high rate of maternal and neonatal deaths in TTS. He adverted to local cultural factors which militated against the protection of women and children. A central government *P2TP2A*

² = items presented to other people as a sign of honour and respect.

representative, noting that in 2007 Alor ranked 329th on the human development index for Indonesia's 457 *kabupatens*, expressed the hope that the *Kabupaten* government would put in place facilities supportive of the *P2TP2A* program....(more)....

4.2 Education of Professional Extension Service Officers

Kupang Post, 30/5/09, opinion piece by Leta Rafael Levis, Lecturer, Cendana University, Kupang.

There is a serious decline in interest on the part of Indonesia's students in studying at Indonesia's tertiary agricultural institutions. One factor contributing to this situation is the failure of agricultural studies to keep pace with technological developments and the needs of farmers on the ground. A meeting of National Communication Forum of Indonesian Agricultural Institutions being held in Kupang (26-29 May) is considering this worrying situation among many others. (*The article comments on those issues at length – Ed.*). Declining student interest in agriculture and the limitations of the current agricultural education system are having a serious impact, *inter alia*, on the availability of qualified agricultural extension officers (*penyuluh pertanian (PP)*), who are key players in efforts to enhance agricultural output. At present Indonesia as a whole has only 54 000 or so primary sector (agriculture, fisheries and forestry) extension service officers (against an estimated need for 100 000 such officers). In NTT, there are just 1,250 PPs – not all of whom are professionals – (against a need for 2 783 (if we accept current policy that there should be one per village/*kelurahan*)). Sadly, it would take the current education set-up (in which only 6 institutions in Indonesia provide professional training for PPs) around 250 years to meet NTT's need for qualified PPs. There is clearly a pressing need to improve the education system in this area.....(more, much more).....

5. Primary Industries (Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock, Mining)

5.1 Pigs in *Kabupaten* Kupang Infected with Cholera

Kupang Post, 23/5/09

Pariti: A number of pigs in Pariti village, Sulamu *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, are dead and others are sick from what is suspected to be cholera, caused by the change of season and the unhealthy sties in which they were housed. Animal health officials came from Bali and the provincial animal health service to check on the situation and have made the provisional diagnosis of cholera. Special precautions have been put in place to dispose of the remains of the dead pigs. A special briefing has been given to animal owners in an effort to prevent the disease spreading...(more)...

5.2 Japan to Hand Over Fish Port Facilities to East Flores

Kupang Post, 30/5/09

Larantuka: on 2/6 the Government of Japan will hand over to the *Kabupaten* of East Flores (*Flotim*) a fishing port facility constructed with a Japanese government grant of Rp.80 billion (±US7 m). The facility, built on 10 ha. in Postoh-Larantuka *kelurahan*, is complete with piers, an ice factory, refrigerated storage space, administrative offices, electricity and water supplies as well as other supporting infrastructure. The head of *Flotim*'s Fisheries Service told *KP* that the new facility would give a boost to the *kabupaten*'s fishing industry, with expected higher levels of catch and less wastage(more)

5.3 Soga Mining Saga: Investor Confidence versus the Common Good

Kupang Post, 26/5/09 (Comment by Simon Suban Tukan, member of Vivat International and Coordinator of the Commission for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of the Natural Order, Divine Word Fathers (SVD), Ruteng)

(This long article takes issue with the views expressed by Upa Labuhari (opinion piece in the KP on 13/5/09) - see NTA Press Clipping Service No. 18 item 5). Suban Tukan, in short, applauds the “brave” decision of the Bupati of Manggarai for ordering the temporary cessation of mining operations by PT SJA at the Soga site, given that it is a protected forest area, a fragile habitat for wildlife and an important water catchment area for the local community. He disputes PT SJA’s claim that the mine provides a livelihood for 250 locals, as only 160 locals have been working at the mine (with many workers being brought in from China). He argues that the local community, rather than benefitting from the mining operation, has been seriously disadvantaged by it (disappearance of wildlife and decreasing water availability). Suban Tukan agrees with Labuhari that the incident has implications for investors in NTT, but rather than undermining their confidence (as Labuhari claims), the saga should alert prospective investors to the need to fully understand local law before venturing into business ventures. Ed.)

5.4 West Manggarai DPRD Urges Halt to Mining Exploration

Kupang Post, 3/6/09

Labuan Bajo: On 29/5 the deputy speaker of the DPRD (regional assembly) of West Manggarai (Mabar) *Kabupaten* told hundreds of people from Geram³, who staged a protest against mining in Mabar at the DPRD, that the DPRD would urge that all forms of mineral exploration be halted temporarily pending clarification to the DPRD by the executive of a range of issues relating to mining. 11 members of the DPRD met the Geram representatives, who expressed particular concern about approval being given to mining companies (without any consultation with local land owners) to undertake projects in the important tourist area of Batu Gosok and the fish seeding area of Loh Mbongi. The DPRD members commented that there needed to be more coordination between the executive and the assembly on mining issues, as up to now the DPRD had been kept in the dark on such matters....*(more)*...

6. Infrastructure (Water, Roads, Electricity)

6.1 Villagers Still Having to Purchase Trucked in Water

Kupang Post, 23/5/09

Labuan Bajo: The residents of *Kampung Ujung, Labuan Bajo Kelurahan, West Manggarai (Mabar) Kabupaten* are still having to purchase drinking from tankers to meet their daily needs, because the water reticulation system installed long since is without water. Water from a nearby well used for bathing and laundry is rancid and cannot be used for drinking or cooking. The villagers hope that the government will attend to their need for fresh water so that they do not have to spend money buying trucked in water. *(more)*

6.2 Residents of Alak village (Kupang) Finally Have Fresh Running Water

Kupang Post, 3/6/09

Kupang: The residents of parts of *Kampung Alak, Municipality of Kupang*, after waiting

³ = *Forum Gerakan Masyarakat Anti Tambang* (Forum of the People Against Mining Movement) (Ed.)

for 60 years, now have fresh running water and upgraded toilet facilities thanks to the *pansimas*⁴ scheme. At a handover ceremony on 29/5, the villagers were urged to take good care of the new water and sanitation facilities.....(more)...

6.3 Villagers' Use *Gotong Royong* to Build Road

Kupang Post, 25/5/09

Kupang: Hundreds of resident of Fatukoa *Kelurahan*, Municipality of Kupang, got together on 23/5 to upgrade 4 kms of the area's main road, which had been neglected since 2006. The *lurah* told *KP* that the road was a very strategic one, especially for the people of Petu *Kampung* who, following the work done by the villagers, could now reach his office or the *puskesmas* in 25 minutes (less than a quarter of the time they previously took). The self-help effort was made possible by a donation in kind by CV Tanah Saudara. It was hoped that the Kupang Municipality would acknowledge the *gotong royong* effort and now move to asphalt the road.....

6.4 Kupang Municipality Ignores Airnona's Roads

Kupang Post, 30/5/09

Kupang: The residents of Airnona *Kelurahan*, Municipality of Kupang, have told *KP* they believe that development within the municipality is uneven and discriminates against them. A village spokesman said that roadwork undertaken did not take account of *musrenbang* discussions, but was decided upon by the Public Works Service on its own. The villagers had asked several times for a 700 meter section of their road to be sealed but the request had so far fallen on deaf ears. The road was now in a state of disrepair, hampering the marketing of local farming products. By contrast, another road in the area, not mentioned in the *musrenbang* process, had been asphalted. .(more).

6.5 Blackouts in Kupang: Regional Assembly Asked to Intervene

Kupang Post, 30/5/09

Kupang: Members of 31 community groups descended on NTT's regional assembly (DPRD) on 29/5, asking that it (and the provincial government) intervene to resolve Kupang's power shortages which had grown worse over the past two years. The DPRD was urged to take the matter up with National Electricity Authority (PLN) which should be held accountable to its customers and which clearly could not resolve the issue on its own. The DPRD was asked to allocate funds for the purchase of new power generators. ... (more)....

6.6 Rp.30m Allocated for Pilot Biogas Project in Kupang *Kabupaten*

Kupang Post, 3/6/09

Kupang: Jakarta has allocated Rp. 30m (±US\$3 000) for the construction of a pilot biogas facility in 2009 somewhere in either Taebenu or Amarasi *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*. The best site is still to be decided, but it will be a location with an abundance of cattle to provide raw material for the biogas process. According to a *Kabupaten* spokesman, 10 further project proposals are being developed for implementation on 2010 at a cost of Rp 23 m (±US\$3 000) per unit. He pointed to the usefulness of biogas as a source of power in villages, with a important byproduct being fertilizer...(more)...

⁴ *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*)