



NTA
East Indonesia Aid

NTA – Press Clippings on NTT **Edition No. 20**
11 June 2009

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. Jakart Post items are edited versions of the originals. Any comments, suggestions or feedback on this clipping service are most welcome and should be sent to d-fisher@homemail.com.au.

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Glossary of Indonesian terms/acronyms

<i>puskesmas:</i>	<i>community health centre (usually at kecamatan or kabupaten level).</i>
<i>posyandu:</i>	<i>integrated (health) service clinic (for pre- and post-natal and infant care/information)</i>
<i>polindes:</i>	<i>village delivery clinic</i>
<i>musrenbang:</i>	<i>discussions with the community (down to village level) on development priorities</i>
<i>gotong royong:</i>	<i>working together on a self-help basis</i>
<i>raskin</i>	<i>rice for the poor</i>

1. Items of General Interest

1.1 Sikka Resident Wins Environmental Award

Kupang Post, 8/6/09

Jakarta: Viktor Emanuel Raiyon, a resident of Reroroja village, Magepanda *Kecamatan*, Sikka *Kabupaten*, was one of several people from various provinces to be presented a Champion of the Environment (*Kalpataru*) award¹ by President Yudiyono in a national award ceremony in Jakarta on 5/6. A range of other awards were also presented to people from around the country to mark World Environment Day....(*more*)...

1.2 Demonstration Against Construction of Defence Bases in TTU

Kupang Post, 9/6/09

Kefamenanu: As part of a yearlong campaign, about 1 500 residents of North Central Timor (TTU) *Kabupaten* demonstrated outside the local regional assembly (DPRD) on 8/6, protesting against the proposed construction of military bases (for infantry and a tank company) in TTU. 500 of the demonstrators, led by prominent Catholic clergy, were admitted to the floor of the DPRD and had a 5 hour long discussion with 17 assembly members. The *Bupati* resisted calls from the crowd for him to join that meeting. For their part, the military have long since made it very clear that construction of the bases will and must go ahead as part of Indonesia's self-defence strategy into the future along the border with East Timor. The Commander of Regional Military Command (Kodam) No. 9 (Udayana), General Panjaitan, said as much in a visit to TTU in April '09....(*more*)...

1.3 Earthquake shakes East Nusa Tenggara

Jakarta Post, 6/6/09

An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale hit East Nusa Tenggara at 01:08 a.m. Jakarta time on Saturday (6/6). The Meteorology, Geophysics and Climatology Agency located the epicenter of the quake at 86 kilometers beneath sea level, 84 kilometers northeast of the provincial capital of Kupang. It triggered no tsunami, the agency was quoted by Antara news agency as saying. The quake is the fourth to have jolted Indonesia this week. On Friday morning an earthquake shook Bitung in North Sulawesi.

2. General Economic and Development Issues

2.1 Development Priorities of Newly Formed Sabu Raija Kabupaten

Kupang Post, 6/6/09

Seba: According to the acting *bupati*, developing sea resources, particularly fish and edible seaweed, will be a prime concern of the new *Kabupaten* of Sabu Raija. He told *KP* that education and health would be other top priorities, followed by public works, agriculture, horticulture and the need for electricity and public transportation. A grant of Rp.10 billion (±US\$92 000) from the provincial government and Sabu's former *kabupaten* would be used for institution building and the construction of a fuel depot. A community leader told *KP* that Sabu Island had no electricity during daylight hours, as PLN supplied power only at night. How could Sabu develop in such a situation?, he asked...(*more*).

¹ According to a *Jakarta Post* report on 6/6/09, Raiyon received the award for growing 55 ha. of mangrove along Maumere's northern coast following the 1992 tsunami in the area (Ed.)

2.2 Foreign Affairs Field Visit Workshop Suggests New Directions for NTT

Kupang Post, 6/6/09 Report by Apolonia Dhiu

Kupang: At the conclusion of a 5-day field trip by participants in a training program run by Indonesia's Centre for Education and Training (Pusdiklat²), a workshop was held in Kupang on 5/6, at which a paper was delivered by the workshop coordinator, Aninditha Axioma, on how to promote good governance in NTT and maximize the potential benefits of NTT's common border with East Timor. Axioma said that the 5 day study concluded that NTT was pursuing appropriate strategies/policies, focused as they were on the eradication of poverty, but development broke down at the implementation stage because the people and other stakeholders were insufficiently involved. He spoke about NTT's strengths (its ocean resources, trade possibilities including with East Timor, livestock, agriculture and horticulture, its people, ports and airstrips) and its weaknesses (sometimes obstructive local cultures, undeveloped human and technological skills, leaders who did not adequately communicate with stakeholders, inadequate infrastructure (especially electricity), limited financial resources and the constraints of geography and nature). Axioma argued that NTT needed to re-orient itself in two respects: first, there needed to be a change in the mind-set of NTT's leaders, who should not be constrained by the ways of the past, but should be innovative in finding new approaches. Second, leaders should by all means build on the successes of the past, but in going forward should concentrate on developing ocean-related infrastructure, upgrading the people's skills vis-à-vis the ocean and sailing, and developing sea-related ventures and industries (edible seaweed, tuna fishing, eco-tourism and maritime tourism). He argued that in the long term, stunted economic development in NTT could be a fillip for separatist tendencies in Indonesia. Axioma suggested that relations with East Timor needed to be developed: the ideas of having a free trade area (duty free and visa free) along the border and setting up a border control authority should be re-considered.

Jonny Sinaga, Senior Director of Pusdiklat's Senior Diplomatic Training Course, told the workshop that NTT was chosen for this field trip because it bordered on two of Indonesia's neighbours (East Timor and Australia). The workshop was meant to help NTT develop closer cooperation with both these countries....(*more*)...

2.3 Cendana University Students Hold Seminar on Climate Change

Kupang Post, 9/6/09 Report by Apolonia Dhiu

Kupang: A catholic student group hosted a seminar on climate change at Kupang's Cendana University on 6/6. NTT Governor Frans Lebu Raya was the principal guest speaker. A student leader explained that the aim of the seminar was to increase the level of cooperation on climate change between government and other stakeholders. He commented that advances in science and technology were having a negative effect on the sustainability of human life on earth. Natural disasters, the increased incidence of infectious diseases, prolonged droughts and crop failures were all symptoms of climate change. Governor Lebu Raya said the NTT government was doing what it could to tackle environmental change. But, he noted, meteorological data indicated that there had been no significant change to NTT's climate over the past 20 years. When asked to comment

² Established in the 1970's, Pusdiklat is the successor to the original Indonesian National Foreign Service Academy set up in 1949. The Centre's brief nowadays goes beyond that of the original Academy in that it educates and trains not only foreign affairs (DEPLU) staff but also certain officials from other departments including from the regions, as well as selected non-governmental students (*Ed.*)

on the claim that NTT was Indonesia's poorest province, Lebu Raya said: "We should do away with that tag. NTT is not poor, it is just that we have not yet fully exploited all the resources we have and in that quest our main immediate priorities should be education and health"....*(more)*...

3. Health Issues

3.1 NGO Provides Food to Undernourished Children and Pregnant Women

Kupang Post, 5/6/09

Kupang: A local NGO, The Program for the Alleviation of City Poverty (P2KP) in Kelapa Lima *Kecamatan*, Municipality of Kupang, has provided assistance to 50 undernourished people (36 children and 14 pregnant women). When receiving the assistance packages (each one consisting of 2 kg of refined sugar, 2 kg of mung beans, 800 gm of Dancow enriched milk, 10 packets of instant noodles and 10 eggs) the recipients were asked to ensure that the food was consumed by the persons identified as being in need and not passed out to others (guests etc). *Puskesmas* data had identified all but 16 of the recipients. Those 16 (all children) had not been to a *puskesmas* but were located by P2KP within the community.*(more)*.

3.2 Free Eye Cataract Operations to be Available in Kupang

Kupang Post, 6/6/09

Kupang: The Municipality of Kupang will run a free eye cataract operation service at Kupang General Hospital on 14-15 July for those who register at their local *puskesmas* or *pustu* from 1 June. A Municipal Health Service spokesperson told *KP* on 3/6 that a Javanese foundation (*unnamed (Ed.)*) was sponsoring the service, which would be available also to the people of Kupang *Kabupaten*, and would bring in the necessary specialists to perform the operations. Kupang's contribution would be provision of accommodation for the visitors and operating facilities at Kupang Hospital. *(more)*

3.3 83 Additional Doctors for NTT

Kupang Post, 6/6/09

Kupang: On 2/6 the head of NTT's Health Service, Dr Stefanus Bria Seran, officially welcomed 83 new doctors (62 generalists and 21 dentists (all civil service contract staff)), to NTT prior to their being assigned to *kabupatens* throughout NTT. Dr Bria called on the doctors to be agents of change and development in the province's health sector. In particular, he asked that they work with all relevant areas of government in pursuing a key health objective in NTT, viz. the reduction of the number of childbirth and neonatal deaths, which was very high compared to other areas of Indonesia...*(more)*...

3.4 8 Cases of Child Malnutrition in Kolisia

Kupang Post, 8/6/09

Maumere: During May, 8 children were identified as suffering from malnutrition in Kolisia village, Magepanda *Kecamatan*, Sikka *Kabupaten*. All 8 are currently receiving treatment in the village *posyandu* and Magepanda's *puskesmas*. The Regional Secretary of Kolisia told *KP* that malnutrition frequently occurred in Kolisia not because of food shortages but rather parental neglect (even though village authorities urged people having a problem to come to the village *polindes* or *posyandu*). *Kabupaten* health authorities were addressing the malnutrition issue with additional food being supplied since May by Sikka's Health Service and Magepanda's *puskesmas*..*(more)*..

3.5 Five Die of Diarrhoea in Remote Part of Alor

Kupang Post, 9/6/09

Kalabahi: The acting head of the Alor *Kabupaten* Health Service, Yulius Plaikol, told *KP* on 8/6 that 5 residents (including a child aged 9) of West Kalondama village, South West Pantar *Kecamatan*, Alor *Kabupaten*, died mid-last week from diarrhoea, though the village's remoteness meant that news of the problem only reached Kalabahi a day or two after the deaths. A medical team had been dispatched forthwith to the village and had found that, apart from the 5 who had died, 12 other villagers were suffering from diarrhoea. They had all been given special treatment and the problem now seemed to be easing.

Asked about the cause of the outbreak, Plaikol attributed it to the people's generally unhygienic living conditions. For example, only 10 of the 117 households in the village had their own toilet. The elements of better hygiene were being explained to the villagers. Evidence gathered by *KP* indicates that in January-May '09, 11 people died of diarrhoea in Alor *Kabupaten*....(more)...

3.6 Malnutrition worsens in children with HIV/AIDS

Jakarta Post, 9/6/09 Report by Yemis Fortuna

(A slightly edited version of the original. A similar report is carried by KP on 10/6 Ed.)

Kupang: The health of seven children with HIV/AIDS at shelters in NTT is jeopardized by weak immune systems and malnutrition, an executive said Monday. The provincial HIV/AIDS commission secretary, Husein Pancratius, said that the children, all under 5 years old, were susceptible to catching other diseases such as diarrhoea and tuberculosis, due to their weak health conditions. "Malnourished children have low immune systems so they contract other diseases easily. The children are currently at malnutrition rehabilitation centers," Pancratious said.

Husein said the children were being treated at shelters in Timor Tengah Selatan, Belu and Manggarai regencies. He said most of the children had contracted HIV/AIDS from being breast fed by mothers who were HIV positive. "Those mothers contracted HIV/AIDS from their husbands. The children are the victims of the irresponsible behavior of their parents," he said. He said the children were receiving medical treatment, including antiretroviral medication, from general hospitals in their area.

Manggarai General Hospital director Dupe Nababan said three children, two with HIV and one with AIDS, who were currently being treated at the hospital had contracted the disease from their parents. "It is likely the disease was transmitted in the womb."

Meanwhile, Antonia Lau, an operator of the Haliwen Malnutrition Rehabilitation Center, said three malnourished children in the center were HIV positive. "We have sent the children to Atambua General Hospital," Antonia said.

Sources at W.Z. Yohanes General Hospital in Kupang said the hospital had no stock of antiretroviral medication. "We had to borrow medication from Atambua hospital. In fact, we asked for a supply of antiretroviral medication on May 20, but we have not yet received it." The limited stock of antiretroviral medication may affect the treatment of 15 people with HIV/AIDS at the hospital. Of 671 HIV/AIDS cases in the province, 199 people have died from the disease in the past 12 years. Most people with HIV/AIDS are aged between 20 and 29 years old.

4. Education Issues

4.1 West Manggarai Short of Teachers

Kupang Post, 6/6/09

Labuan Bajo: According to the head of the Education, Youth and Sports Service of West Manggarai (Mabar) *Kabupaten*, the *kabupaten* is short of around 1 000 teachers. He told *KP* that 1 035 certified teachers, supported by 135 people who are not really teachers, serviced the *kabupaten*'s 208 primary schools (SD) and 40 lower secondary schools (SMP). Lack of teachers was thwarting efforts to improve the level of education. *(more)*

4.2 NTT Has Low Level Reading Culture

Kupang Post, 9/6/09 Report by Apolonia Dhiu

Kupang: A meeting of provincial library officials and other invitees including from local government was held on 8/6 to discuss issues related to library services and the low level of reading culture in NTT. A discussion paper was presented by a librarian from Kupang's Widya Mandira Catholic University, Frans Wayan. He argued that the main reason for NTT's poor reading culture was that the forebears of the current population bequeathed an oral and aural culture, not one of reading and writing. Official statistics indicated that of the current Indonesian population 85.9% watched television, 40.3% listened to the radio and just 23.4% read newspapers. In 2007 18 m (over 70% of them female) Indonesians were listed as still illiterate. There were many factors contributing to this situation and the solution of course had to begin in the home, with parents reading to their children and encouraging them to read. Libraries also had an important part to play in promoting reading as an enjoyable, enriching experience. *(more)*

4.3 Village whiz kid deprived of a future

Jakarta Post, 27/5/09 Report by Yemris Fointuna *(edited version of original – Ed.)*

Kupang: Mozez Lawa, 20, the eighth of nine children, is locally dubbed the "whiz kid from Lili" (Kupang Regency, NTT) as he has one of the highest IQs of all senior high students in NTT. But he is at risk of not being able to pursue his studies at university, because of financial constraints (His father is a retiree with a monthly pension of Rp. 500 000 (±US\$50) and his mother is a housewife). "I want to become a physicist or a mining expert. I have the capability, but what can I do? My parents can't afford to send me to university," Mozez said recently.

His outstanding ability was proven when he kept being ranked at the top of his class at Lili primary school and later at junior high school in Rote Tengah and at state senior high school in East Kupang. He scored an average of 9.5 points, or almost perfect marks in physics and mathematics every semester, and was listed as the only senior high school student to represent NTT twice at the National Physics Olympiad, in 2006 and 2007.

Mozez's academic prowess in physics also received recognition from the Jakarta-based Indonesian Physics Development Center (LPFI). For almost 18 months, Mozez received intensive training at the center, under the tutelage of Professor Yohanes Surya.

Among family members, Mozez is known as a very brilliant person, despite his daily diet often lacking the proper nutrients. "At times I eat rice only with a dash of salt. I don't know why I have a high IQ. Maybe its genetic or a gift from God," he said. One of his regrets is the lack of goodwill from the provincial administration in providing attention to gifted students.

"I'm still looking for assistance from donors, the government or other parties who wish to help me pursue my education," he said. He added if any such third parties came forward

to help him finance his way to university to get a bachelor's degree, he would prefer to enter the mathematics and science school or the oil mining school at the Bandung Institute of Technology. He said he often got depressed and even distressed because of the family's financial woes. "I only pray for a miracle," he said. ...*(more)*..

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

5.1 NTT's Food Production: Rice Down, Maize and Other Produce in Surplus *Kupang Post, 6/6/09*

Kupang: According to the head of NTT's Food Security and Extension Services Service, Petrus Langodai, NTT is facing a shortage of rice to the tune of 139 000 tonnes in 2009 (due to crop failure, disease and natural mishaps), but has surpluses of 367 000 tonnes of maize, 180 000 tonnes of edible tubers and 10 000 tonnes of nuts (the rice shortage will be made good to an extent by the distribution of rice under the *raskin* program to 577 460 poor household throughout NTT). He said on 3/6 that, as the surpluses counterbalanced the rice shortage, NTT's overall food situation was secure. Food distribution systems down to the household level were also adequate. That said, his Service continued to monitor nutritional levels down to village level. But he gave an assurance that food stocks currently stored in depots would be sufficient for the next several months...*(more)*...

5.2 Rp 2 Billion for Agribusiness in East Sumba

Kupang Post, 8/6/09

Waingapu: The head of the Agriculture and Horticulture Service of East Sumba (Sumtim) *Kabupaten*, Josis Djawa Gigi, told KP on 4/6 that Rp 2 billion (\pm US\$18 000) had been allocated in 2009 to assist poor farmers in Sumtim develop their agribusiness skills. The allocation was down on 2008's figure of Rp 3 billion (\pm US\$27 000) because of delays in submitting last year's expenditure report. Josis said this year's money would be advanced, on a *Gaptoktan*³ basis, to poor farmers in 20 villages. Rp 100 m (\pm US\$9 200) would be made available to each *Gaptoktan* for lending out to finance expenditure on cultivation, post-harvest processing or marketing of agricultural (food crops) or horticultural produce, or livestock. The program provided technical support, including an advisor for each *Gaptoktan*, to those utilizing the funds.. *(more)*....

5.3 Korean Consortium to Build Manganese Factory in TTU

Kupang Post, 9/6/09

Kefamenanu: The Guangshou Group from Korea is planning to construct a manganese factory in the coming months in Oekolo Village, Biboki Anleu *Kecamatan*, North Central Timor (TTU) *Kabupaten*. Oekolo's relative nearness to the port of Wini will facilitate the export of the factory's product (ferro-manganese) to Korea. A TTU spokesman said the factory would create local jobs and generate income for TTU's economy..*(more)*..

6. Infrastructure (Water, Roads, Electricity)

6.1 Electricity and Water Problems in Rakmano Village

Kupang Post, 6/6/09

Raknamo: Around 200 households in Raknamo village, Amabi Oefeto *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, continue to be without electricity, despite having requested it several times in *musrenbang* sessions. The villagers use lanterns for lighting but the recent

³ Gaptoktan = an association of several groups (*kelompok*) of village farmers..

shortage of kerosene has meant that households can only light a couple of lamps at meal times. Some cannot even afford to buy kerosene. Fresh drinking water is also a problem in some areas. Of Rakmano's 22 neighbourhood groups 3 rely on a well for water, while the others depend on public water hydrants. The community has thus also been asking the government to provide reticulated water....(*more*).

6.2 Residents of Alila Timur Have Electric Power Lines but No Power

Kupang Post, 8/6/09

Kalabahi: According to Baharudin Laan, head of East Alila Village, Kabola *Kecamatan*, Alor *Kabupaten*, the 672 residents of his village continue to ask the government to arrange for the supply of electricity via the power lines which the National Electricity Authority (PLN) erected 4 years ago. As the power lines had so far been dead, he said, villagers had had to use lanterns for lighting (although some had small generators). The people were fed up with the situation, as another nearby village already had power. Laan said that electricity would greatly benefit the village, as it would enable villagers to do productive work at night and, more importantly, enable children to study. A PLN spokesman told *KP* that PLN was looking at the problem but was unable to connect power to East Alili for now because of inadequate equipment and insufficient power availability.....(*more*)...

6.3 Residents of Nian Village in TTU Walk 8 km to Fetch Drinking Water

Kupang Post, 9/6/09

Kefamenanu: 50 households in *Kampung Liman*, Nian village, Central Miomaffa *Kecamatan*, North Central Timor (TTU) *Kabupaten* have to collect drinking water from the Moenana River 8 km away. In the rainy season that water is undrinkable, so the villagers rely on rainwater for that period. Water for bathing, laundry and for giving to animals is available 300 meters from their homes. The villagers' every effort to sink a well for drinking water has come to naught. When asked by *KP* why the village had not asked the government to intervene, a villager said the issue had been raised via the village head, but the *Kabupaten* had not yet responded. In general politicians had come promising to fix the problem but had not re-appeared after being elected...(*more*)

6.4 UNICEF-sponsored Water Program in Ende

Kupang Post, 9/6/09

Ende: Ten villages⁴ in Ende *Kabupaten* are to benefit from the 2009 AMPL program, which is sponsored by UNICEF to provide drinking water and make the environment of target sites healthier⁵. To participate in the program, the residents of target villages must be prepared to become fully involved in the project by learning skills, supplying materials, helping to carry materials, constructing home toilets etc. They must also be prepared to plan for, implement and evaluate steps taken to make their village healthier...(*more*).....

⁴ Welamosa, Weweria, Mautenda (Weweria *Kecamatan*); Ndetundora 1, Ndetundora 2, Ndetundora 3, Randotonda (Ende *Kecamatan*), Tiweria, Tendarea and Sanggharoro (*Kecamatan* Nangapanda).

⁵part of UNICEF's Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES) program (*Ed.*)