



NTA
East Indonesia Aid

Note: All the items from the Pos Kupang below are summary translations from the Indonesian by the editor (Denis Fisher). Thus they should not be regarded as literal translations, though the editor 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 d-fisher@homemail.com.au. Further information on the Nusa Tenggara Association (NTA) and its development assistance activities in NTT can be found on www.nta.org.au.

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Glossary of Indonesian Acronyms

<i>puskesmas:</i>	<i>community health centre (usually at kecamatan or kabupaten level).</i>
<i>pustu:</i>	<i>an auxiliary puskesmas (usually at village level);</i>
<i>polindes:</i>	<i>village (baby) delivery post/clinic;</i>
<i>posyandu:</i>	<i>integrated (health) service post/clinic (for pre- & post-natal and infant care/information)</i>
<i>raskin:</i>	<i>rice for the poor</i>
<i>balita:</i>	<i>(child/ren) below 5 years old.</i>

1. **Items of General Interest** (Nil this issue)

2. **General Economic and Development Issues**

2.1 **Very Few Land Titles Held in Rote Ndao**

Kupang Post, 9 &10/6/09

Ba'a: The ownership of about 96% of the approx. 150 000 blocks of land in Rote Ndao *Kabupaten* has not yet been certified. The local office of the National Land Authority (BPN), through BPN's national land certification program, is currently moving to correct this situation. A BPN spokesman told *KP* on 8/6 that in Rote Ndao the process would be slow because of the limited resources of BPN's local office, but the plan was to finalize titles for around 1 000 blocks in 2009. So far the process was running smoothly and it was hoped that this would continue, so that all landowners would eventually have their tenure certified and legalized, thereby forestalling future land disputes... *(more)*...

2.2 **1 965 More Poor Households in Sikka**

Kupang Post, 11/6/09

Maumere: The number of poor households eligible to receive rice allocations under the *raskin* program in Sikka *Kabupaten* has risen to 35 779, up from 33 814 in 2008. A government spokesman told *KP* that each poor household was eligible to receive 180 kg of rice over a year. There was plenty of rice in stock to go around. He also said that the data indicated that the number of poor families had increased because a large number of foreign workers originally from Sikka had recently returned to their villages and joined the ranks of *raskin* recipients...*(more)*.....

2.3 **Houses Rehabilitated Under P2KP Program**

Kupang Post, 16/6/09

Kupang: 17 houses in Kelapa Lima *Kecamatan*, Municipality of Kupang, previously unfit for habitation, have been rehabilitated under the Program for the Eradication of Urban Poverty (P2KP), with each household receiving Rp1.2m (±US110) for the rehabilitation work. A village official confirmed to *KP* that 2 houses in his area had been rehabilitated, but they were just 2 among 7 uninhabitable houses in the area (but there was no funds to rehabilitate the other 5 at this stage)... *(more)*....

2.4 **Those Excluded from *Raskin* Program Threaten Boycott**

Kupang Post, 16/6/09

Kupang: Many poor families in Mantasi *Kelurahan*, Alak *Kecamatan*, Municipality of Kupang, recently threatened to boycott *kelurahan* activities because of their exclusion from this year's list of poor families eligible to receive rice under the *raskin* program. The *lurah* of Mantasi explained to *KP* on 12/6 that only 59 household were registered as *raskin* recipients this year compared to 147 in 2008. As those excluded this year were indeed poor families, he had called a meeting of the residents at which it was agreed that

the registered *raskin* recipients would share their *raskin* allocations with those poor families excluded from the program this year. This approach would mean that no household would receive a full *raskin* quota, but everyone would receive an equal share of any rice distributed. He hoped this approach would dissuade the disgruntled households from staging the boycott they had threatened.....(more).....

3. Health Issues

3.1 Childbirth Deaths High in South West Sumba

Kupang Post, 10/6/09

Weetabula: According to the head of the Health Service of South West Sumba (SBD) *Kabupaten*, the death rate among birthing mothers and newly borns in SBD remains high. He told *KP* that so far in 2009 8 mothers and 8 babies had died during childbirth, whereas in 2008 18 birthing mothers and 66 newly borns had died. SBD currently had 8 *puskesmas*, 3 short of what he thought was the ideal number. Of the 8, only 4 had in-patient facilities. In any case, even if a *puskesmas* was nearby, most people went to in traditional healers (*dukun*) (of whom there were 691 in SBD), who followed procedures which often endangered the lives of mother and baby. In an attempt to reduce the number of childbirth deaths, the *kabupaten* has been working with the WHO since 2007. Part of that program had provided training to 40 *dukuns*.

3.2 HIV-AIDS Awareness Night Held in TTU

Kupang Post, 12/6/09

Kefamenanu: A night of reflection on the problem of HIV-AIDS, attended by over 200 people including officials, students and representatives from other sectors of the community, was held in Kefamenanu on 9/6. In a message to the meeting the *bupati* said that since 2000, 19 people had been recorded as suffering from HIV-AIDS in North Central Timor (TTU) *Kabupaten*, of whom 9 had died and 10 were undergoing treatment. But it was possible that hundreds of others were infected but had not yet been identified. Everyone needed to pull together to contain the spread of the disease. The theme of those who addressed the gathering was how to live one's life in order to avoid being infected by HIV-AIDS (avoid free sex, stay faithful to your spouse etc)...(more)..

3.3 Many Ende Residents Handicapped

Kupang Post, 10/6/09

Ende: Figures of the Social Affairs Service of Ende *Kabupaten* indicate that Ende has a relatively high number of handicapped residents – 4 557 in all. An NGO active in this area, the Flores Institute for Resources Development (FIRD), is attempting to develop programs of rehabilitation and prevention based on the family unit, focusing on 11 villages with 67 disabled people. But a FIRD representative points out that their work is just a beginning and by no means easy, and that the management of disabilities and efforts to reduce their incidence demand the involvement of many parties.....(more).....

3.4 Many Have Cataracts Removed Gratis in Ngada and Nagekeo

Kupang Post, 12/6/09

Bajawa: 228 residents of the *kabupatens* of Ngada and Nagekeo had eye cataracts removed free of charge in a special program conducted on 9-11/6 with the sponsorship of a range of NGOs from Jakarta and West Java at the Bajawa regional hospital. A team of 10 eye specialists did the operations in cooperation with the medical staff of the local hospital....(more)..

3.5 Healthy Mother and Baby Revolution

Kupang Post, 14/6/09, report of a discussion hosted by KP on 13/6, attended senior KP staff and members of NTT's Health Service led by its head, Dr Stef Bria Seran.

Kupang: Dr Seran told the meeting that NTT's Health Service was launching a Healthy Mother and Baby Revolution (Revolusi KIA) which would include extraordinary measures aimed at reducing NTT's maternal and neonatal death rate to the level of, or just below, the national average (in 2004 the national average was 307 mothers dead per 100 K live births; the 2004 NTT rate was 554/100 K). Efforts to reduce the death rate among birthing mothers in NTT had been only partially effective and, because of NTT's disturbing numbers, Revolusi KIA had been launched. An important element of the revolution would be that every mother should give birth in a health facility with adequate support from trained staff (thereby obviating the most common cause of childbirth deaths now: excessive bleeding during delivery at home). There were six elements in the revolution: satisfactory birth attendants; good quality equipment; having the necessary medications in place; delivery rooms which met standards; a very good system of service provision; and adequate funding. As a minimum, every village would be equipped with a *pustu* (auxiliary *puskesmas*) with an adequate treatment room and accommodation for health staff (doctor, midwife) so that he/she did not need to leave the *pustu*. Also, by 2010 every *puskesmas* in NTT would be upgraded to have facilities for 10 in-patients. Dr Seran stressed that, for the revolution to succeed, constant, open and honest evaluation was essential, with a preparedness to learn from mistakes made.

As a footnote, Dr Seran adverted to the associated issue of child nutrition, pointing out that of NTT's 504 900 *balita* (children under 5), 55 500 had nutritional problems. In concluding, he stressed that public health was everyone's responsibility, not just the Health Service's. The latter was like a goalie: it was those out in front, not the goalie, who scored all the goals.

(The article concludes with the following list of NTT's healthcare facilities: puskesmas: 326; pustu: 890; mobile health clinics (pusling): 336; hospitals: 33 (incl. general:16; provincial: 1; Armed Forces: 4; private: 12))....(more)...

3.6 One Dead of Rabies in Manggarai

Kupang Post, 10/6/09

Ruteng: Manggarai is still a rabies infected area, evidenced by the fact that a 14 year older from Wae Rii *Kecamatan* died of rabies recently after being bitten by a dog in 9/08. So far in 2009, 69 others have been treated for suspected rabies after being bitten by dogs...*(more)*..

3.7 New Action Program Targets Malnourished Children in Kupang

Kupang Post, 15/6/09

Kupang: On 12/6 Oesapa *Kelurahan*, Kupang *Kabupaten* launched a new program under the umbrella of ACT (*aksi cepat tanggap* – quick response operation) to help undernourished *balita*. At a ceremony marking the launch, 80 *balita* were presented with small food packages and given free medical check-ups. The director of ACT said that undernourishment was not so much due to poverty but rather to traditional ways of eating in some families (where women and children ate only after men had had their fill). The new ACT program would use volunteers and relevant *puskesmas* staff to constantly

monitor the progress of *balita* identified as undernourished (who numbered around 720 in the Oesapa area)..... (more)....

3.8 Mental Institution in Naimata Still Not Functioning

Kupang Post, 15/6/09

Kupang: A mental hospital, built by NTT's Health Service in Naimata *Kelurahan*, Maulafa *Kecamatan*, Municipality of Kupang, in January 2008, is still not operational. The building is now in a sad state, unfinished in some places, looted in others. The only "staff" to be seen is a guard. When asked by *KP* for an explanation of the situation, the head of NTT's Health Service, Dr Stef Bria Seran, responded that the hold-up was due to a lack of funds in 2009 to complete the building and equip it with an in-patient polyclinic. The project was a staged one, and work would continue in 2010.....(more)....

3.9 Assembly Members Demand Thorough Investigation of Biscuit Issue

Jakarta Post 13/6/09 Report by Yemris Fointuna (*abridged version of original. Ed.*)

Councilors at the NTT provincial legislature (DPRD) urged the WFP, the security forces and other related institutions to thoroughly investigate the case of sharp objects found inside biscuits donated to elementary school students in Kupang and other regencies (Belu and North Timor Tengah). "The donations were very noble. Why would they contain sharp objects? The WFP must give a more transparent clarification on the matter, including who is responsible for the sabotage," deputy speaker of the provincial legislative council, Kristo Blasin said Friday (12/6). ...Another councilor, Karel Yani Mbuik, urged the provincial administration to evaluate the biscuit donations. "The administration must also take responsibility. How could it let the students eat biscuits containing sharp objects," Karel said. He also expressed hope the investigation would be finished in the near future, the results of which he said, must be announced to the public. Soleman Dethan, nutrition rehabilitation program manager at the Alfa Omega Foundation, which distributed the biscuits in Kupang, confirmed Friday that sharp objects were found in the biscuits distributed in seven districts in Kupang. He said the incidents occurred between the first and third weeks of May. He added that his foundation had withdrawn a total 3.5 tons of biscuits.

WFP Indonesia deputy country director, Brasly Bussefe, said previously that sabotage might have been behind the incidents, when he responded to similar cases found in Belu and North Timor Tengah in April. He said an investigation conducted by his organization confirmed that both the production and distribution processes were 100 percent safe. WFP's public relations officer, Mitra Salima, separately told the *JP* that the WFP had handed the case over to the police and were awaiting the results of the investigation. "It's deplorable for us that because of the incidents, hundreds of thousands of malnourished children can no longer receive the nutrition aid," Mitra said.

3.10 Woman In Labour Carried 3 km to Deliver Baby

Kupang Post, 16/6/09

Borong : The unavailability of medical facilities in her village (Ruan, Borong *Kecamatan*, East Maggarai *Kabupaten*) and the lack of public transportation made it necessary for an mother about to give birth to be carried 3 km, while sitting in a chair, to the nearest *puskesmas* to deliver her baby. The local people decried this situation, calling on the government to set up at least a *polindes* (delivery post/clinic) in the village.

4. Education Issues

4.1 Kupang Lions Club Helps Needy Students

Kupang Post, 11/6/09

Kupang: The Kupang Lions Club has donated Rp.37.5 m (\pm US\$ 450) to help 30 needy students in Kupang. According to a Lions Club spokesperson, the gift reflects the club's concern to contribute to enhancing the quality of NTT's human resources. The club also recently provided free medical treatment to around 8 000 residents of several *kabupatens* in west Timor.

4.2 NTT's National Exam Pass Rate Up but Still Regarded as Low

Kupang Post, 15/6/09

Kupang: In the recently completed National Examinations (UN), 70.02 % of the 38 082 NTT students who took the exam passed (7.5% better than last year's result). As for national vocational high schools (SMK) exams, 83.04% of the 8 942 NTT students who sat them were successful (about the same result as last year). These figures mean that 12 867 NTT students who sat either the UN or the SMK exams failed to pass. A senior NTT education official has expressed disappointment at these results, explaining them as due, *inter alia*, to NTT's inadequate educational facilities and relative lack of teaching expertise.*(more)*.

(In a separate KP report on 16/6/09) Kupang's Mayor has reacted negatively to the results, saying that he will sack any school principal whose school obtained a UN pass rate of less than 50% and will look at closing down any schools whose pass rate was 0, if they do no better in the next two years. (Two high schools in Kupang had a 0% pass rate in this year's exams)...*(more)*

4.3 30% of AusAID's 2010 Scholarships To Go to Eastern Indonesia

Kupang Post, 15/6/09

Kupang: Representatives of the annual Australian post-graduate scholarship program run by AusAID briefed the *KP* on 14/6 on the program for 2010/11, explaining the terms of the scholarships and the requirements to be met by applicants. The representative said that 30% of the 300 scholarships available would go to applicants from Eastern Indonesia and Aceh (provided all requirements were met)...*(more)*....

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

5.1 Central Sumba Rice Farmers Cry for Help

Kupang Post, 12/6/09

Waibakul: Rice farmers in two villages (Waimanu and Umbu Riry) in South Kaikutana *Kecamatan*, Central Sumba *Kabupaten* are struggling. Because they are very poor, they are looking to the government to help them on a number of fronts. First, their irrigation channels, installed in 1969 around Wepamanu dam, are in a state of disrepair, depriving many of irrigation water. Second, they are seeking help with the application of new growing techniques. Third, they can't afford equipment and inputs they need such as tractors, seedlings and fertilizer. And, finally, they want help with stopping villagers' free roaming cattle from eating and damaging their paddy fields. The head of the *kabupaten* Agriculture and Plantations Service, Marthinus Jurumana, has indicated that the government plans to address the farmers' irrigation problems this year, and will

progressively assist them in other ways, including with increased extension services. He says the government wants to avoid a situation where the farmers receive equipment and/or technology which they are unable to apply or use...*(more)*

5.2 Edible Seaweed Price Tumbles

Kupang Post, 14/6/09

Kupang: Seaweed farmers in Tablolong village, West Kupang *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, have told *KP* that they have been hit badly by the plunge in the selling price of dried seaweed from Rp22 500 (\pm US\$2.00) per kg in 2008 to Rp.5 000 (\pm US\$0.50) per kg in 2009. For two particular farmers this price fall has reduced net profits to between Rp 0.5 m and Rp 0.75m (between US\$45 and US\$65). They said that this situation had eroded their interest in continuing to cultivate seaweed (which required more careful management than other commodities). They called on the government to guarantee a standard selling price of seaweed so that farmers like them would not be so hard hit.....*(more)*.....

5.3 Animal Health Officials Investigate Possible Pig Epidemic

Kupang Post, 13/6/09

Ba'a: Animal health officials have been dispatched to Dalekoli village, South Rote *Kecamatan*, Rote Ndao *Kabupaten*, to investigate the deaths of 21 pigs between February and April from a strain of septicemia. Officials told *KP* that there had so far been no reports of the disease having spread to neighbouring areas, though a check would be made of those areas once the investigation of Dalekoli was complete. An earlier (inaccurate) report that hundreds of pigs had died had worried *kecamatan* residents....*(more)*...

5.4 NGO Urges Dropping Use of Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides

Kupang Post, 14/6/09

Mbay: A local NGO, *Yayasan Mitra Tani Mandiri* (YMTM: the foundation for independent farmers), told *KP* on 12/6 that it was working with a cross section of farmers in an area around Mbay, Nagekeo *Kabupaten*, comprising 2 740 ha of rice paddies. The foundation was trying to teach farmers a variation of the system of rice intensification (SRI) and, via a group under its guidance, had cultivated 87 ha to demonstrate the new technique. This technique, which stressed the need for balanced management of soil and water, was innovative, effective, and environmentally friendly/sustainable. A key ingredient was not using chemical fertilizers and pesticides, which had the effect of reducing yields and endangering future soil productivity. The proof of this was that paddy production per ha had risen from 4-5 tonnes with chemical products being used to 7-8 tonnes when they were not. If the new technique was applied to all 2 740 ha in the area, overall yields, now poor, would increase greatly, YMTM argued...*(more)*....

5.5 Demonstrators Call for Cancellation of Coal Mining Leases

Kupang Post, 15/6/09 (*cf. item No. 5.4 in Press Clippings edition No.19*)

Labuan Bajo: About 500 demonstrators from Geram¹ have once again paraded in the streets of Labuan Bajo, calling on the *bupati* and the regional assembly (DPRD) to immediately cancel all permits issued to foreign companies for the mining of gold in West Manggarai. The demonstrators' basic message was that the government should put the interests of the community and the environment ahead of any agenda the government might have...*(more)*.

¹ *Forum Gerakan Masyarakat Anti Tambang* (Forum of the People Against Mining Movement) (Ed.)

6. Infrastructure (Water, Communications, Roads, Electricity)

6.1 **Disgruntled Villager Blocks off Road**

Kupang Post, 9/6/09

Batuna: Since April '09 Elon Nitti, a resident of Batuna village, West Amarasi *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, has been blocking off 700m of the road to his village, making it impassable for vehicles, by planting banana trees and piling rocks on it. A family member told *KP* that the blocked section of the road originally belonged to the family and was given over to the government for road construction on two conditions: that appropriate compensation be paid to the family; and that the road be sealed. The government had not honoured these undertakings. When *KP* contacted the *bupati* to get his reaction, he said that this was the first he had heard of the matter and undertook to go and see what the problem was....(*more*)

6.2 **Villagers Hard Pressed to Meet Cost of Pumping Water**

Kupang Post, 11/6/09

The villagers of Tesabela village, West Kupang *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, have four bore holes to meet their water requirements but the village has to meet the cost of fuelling, operating and maintaining the motors that pump the water. That cost translates into a levy on villagers who use the water and it is this levy which many are hard pressed to pay. The villagers are therefore calling on the government to provide a source of water which does not impose a financial burden on them.....(*more*).....

6.3 **Minister Nuh: Internet to be Connected to all Indonesian Villages**

Kupang Post, 12/6/09

Malang: Minister for Communications and Information M Nuh said on 12/6 that by the end of 2009, or at the latest by early 2010, the central government aimed to have all of Indonesia's 72 000 villages connected to communications with internet access. The goal was that even the most remote of the 31 000 villages currently without communications would be connected. Jakarta had budgeted Rp.2 trillion (\pm US184m) in 2009 for this purpose. Mr Nuh also said that the potential uses and effects of the internet on communities were currently being researched. Great attention would be paid to such uses as conducting economic transactions, e-health and e-education.....(*more*).....

6.4 **1 220 km of Roads in East Sumba in Need of Repair**

Kupang Post, 12/6/09

Waingapu: According to Kombang Adnyana, head of the Public Works Service, East Sumba (Sumtim) *Kabupaten*, 1 220 km of Sumtim's "national" and "*kabupaten*" roads are in need of repair. He said that this figure excluded "unclassified" roads of lower status. Kombang said the *kabupaten* government was at something of a loss in the face of this problem, given that funding for road repairs was very limited. The *kabupaten* budget had allocated Rp.30 billion (\pm US\$2.8m) for the upgrading and repair of roads in 2009. This money would be used on roads outside urban areas, as well as to construct a bridge at Lailunggi. Funds were available to repair only 2.5 km of roads in urban areas.....(*more*).