



NTA
East Indonesia Aid

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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>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

1.1 Local Assembly Votes against Construction of Military Bases

Kupang Post, 20/6/09

Kefamenanu: In a special plenary session on 18/6, the regional assembly (DPRD) of North Central Timor (TTU) objected to plans to build military bases (for infantry and a tank company) in TTU. The vote was taken after the presentation of reports from DPRD teams appointed to investigate the proposed bases. All factions represented in the assembly opposed construction of the planned bases. *(more)* (cf. *ed. No. 20 item No 1.2*)

1.2 Thousands Leave NTT to Work Abroad

Kupang Post, 29/6/09

Kupang: Over the past 18 months, 14 233 people from NTT have travelled abroad to become Indonesian foreign workers (TKI). Countries of destination included Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Brunei and Saudi Arabia. The great majority took up jobs in the informal sector... *(more)*.....

2. General Economic and Development Issues

2.1 Kupang to Disburse Credit for Business Ventures

Kupang Post, 17/6/09

Kupang: The Deputy Mayor of Kupang indicated on 16/6 that the municipal government would disburse Rp6.5 billion (\pm US\$0.5 m) in 2009 as credit to stimulate community business activities. The funds, available under a special scheme called PEM (empowerment of community economies), would be advanced to cooperatives and other group business ventures in the city of Kupang. For those who borrowed money, repayments would start only in the second year at an interest rate which could not exceed 16%. *..(more)*...

2.2 Population Putting Riverine Areas under Pressure

Kupang Post, 17/6/09

Kupang: A workshop on how to achieve more integrated management of NTT's riverine areas was held in Kupang on 16/6. In a written message, NNT Governor Lebu Raya told the workshop that NTT's increasing population was putting ever greater pressure on NTT's riverine areas. The workshop noted that up to now activities in riverine areas (e.g. clearing for human settlement and agriculture) had been carried out separately by various interested parties. NTT had put in place regulations governing the use of riverine areas (Regional Regulation (*Perda*) No. 5/2008) (the first such regulations in Indonesia), but a much more coordinated approach to exploiting such areas was required. The workshop was attended by a large number of relevant provincial and *kabupaten* officials, NGOs and community leaders from riverine areas. *(more)*..

2.3 Bank NTT Committed to Supporting NTT's Development

Kupang Post, 4/7/09

Kupang: The new managing director of Bank NTT, Daniel Tagu Dedo, told *KP* on 3/7 that, under his leadership, Bank NTT would provide credit to boost NTT's grassroots economy (*ekonomi rakyat*) and to accelerate the pace of overall development. To stimulate the grassroots economy, the bank had already invested in cotton growing in East Sumba (a "pioneer project") and would provide support for two particularly promising sectors in NTT, viz. edible seaweed and cattle production. The bank planned to finance the building of a seaweed factory which would be a fillip to seaweed growing

efforts. It would also provide credit and extension services to farmers wanting to cultivate seaweed. In respect to cattle, the bank hoped to finance the development of modern cattle farms/ranches managed on a group basis. To help accelerate the pace development generally, the bank would support the development of infrastructure in such areas as electricity, health, education and transportation (airports and ports).

Tagu Dedo also said that the bank would be looking to cooperate with foreign donors.

2.4 Seminar on Grassroots Economic Development in NTT

Kupang Post, 2/6/09

Kupang: A regional consultation seminar, entitled “Development: a Grassroots Economic Movement” was held in Kupang on 1/7 at the initiative of PIAR¹ under the auspices of INFID (International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development). Speakers included Dr Fred Benu (Cendana University), David Pandie and Awan Santosa (academics), and Sofia Malelak de Haan (Alfa Omega Foundation). In his remarks, entitled “NTT’s Grassroots Economy v. the Free Market”, Benu noted that up to now the people had required government intervention in their efforts to develop. But problems had arisen. Government involvement had been uneven and misdirected, resulting in outcomes inferior to what had been hoped for. He argued that grassroots economic development demanded that the government concentrate on small and marginal economic players. For example, the government’s provision of revolving funds to the people had created problems because of the lack of a clear format for the program. Also the amount of money going to small players could not be identified – indeed much of it had been misdirected. Accordingly, government assistance to the grassroots economy needed to have a clear format and to be well regulated. Such an approach would help verify that money was going to those whom it was most appropriate to help...*(more)*...

2.5 Swiss to Help Develop Tourism on Flores

Kupang Post, 18/6/09

Labuan Bajo: The Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), through the agency of Swisscontact², is considering helping Flores promote itself as a tourist destination by setting up tourist promotion centres, called Destination Management Organizations (DMO), in Labuan Bajo and Maumere (sub-offices of a DMO to be established in Bali). A representative of Swisscontact, John Raja, told a workshop, convened to consider the idea, in Labuan Bajo on 15/6 that initial financial and technical assistance would be provided, but the centres would be expected to become progressively self-funding. The terms of the project would be guided by the findings of the workshop*(more)*

3. Health Issues

3.1 Climate change worsens hunger issues

AAP, 26/6/09 by Gabrielle Dunlevy

¹ *Perkumpulan Pengembangan Inisiatif Advokasi Rakyat*, a Kupang-based NGO set up in 2003, concentrating on activities relating to advocacy on behalf of the common people (*Ed.*)

² a Swiss private sector development assistance organization set up in 1959 whose aim is to promote, on a self-help basis, economic and social development in selected countries in the South and East through advisory services, training and continuing education. (*Ed.*)

CLIMATE change is worsening the hunger problem in Indonesia's West Timor province, which is already rivaling Africa. Years of poor harvests mean many children in the region, where the climate can feel more like parts of arid Australia than lush Indonesia, are underweight and malnourished. A report last year by the Church World Service and other organisations found **91 per cent of West Timor's children suffered from "food insecurity", meaning they don't have access to regular and affordable nutritious food.** **About 50 per cent of infants and young children were either moderately or severely underweight,** compared to African countries overall, where 21.9 per cent of children were underweight.

Oxfam's West Timor program manager **Aloysius Suratin** said there was evidence the problem was growing worse, as farmers were at the mercy of more unpredictable weather patterns. Mr Suratin said a review of the area's rainfall records for the past 13 years – the limits of available data – showed only 46 per cent fell in the expected rainy season. "Because this is a dry area, people need water," he said. "They ask for rain, but when the rain comes rain creates a disaster. For the farmer, it's difficult to anticipate. The risk in farming is higher now."

Rice farmer Petronella Baro, whose family was working on this year's harvest, said it was only yielding one or two tonnes per hectare if they were lucky, **compared to four tonnes last year.** The mother of six children, aged from 17 down to an infant, agreed the rainy season was getting harder to predict. This year, the rain came to her village of Desain, about 40km from Atambua, but it was so intense it washed away a nearby bridge. Adding to the problem is that this family, like many others, relies on traditional farming methods. The farmers said they waited for a moon "with a rainbow around it" to judge the right time to plant, then waited about a month for the ground to become muddy before sowing the seed. "We just follow the rain," Mrs Baro said. "But if it's like this again, it will be a problem for our family."

Hunger is so common in West Timor that November to March is known as the "hungry season". But Mrs Baro said her children had enough to eat, as she was able to grow corn, cassava and beans when the rice began to dwindle, and the children were given priority at meal time.

Oxfam last month studied the village of Tes, 20km from Kefamenanu, where 90 per cent of the population are subsistence farmers. Mr Suratin said the study aimed to find out how many families were having to sell their assets – usually land, livestock, woven clothes and coconut and teak trees – to survive a failed harvest. He found the declining crop yield had reduced the village's meagre assets by 58 per cent, and that the district government would have to boost its funding to the village five times over to return residents to their former levels of well being. Mr Suratin said **the situation was the most severe in families headed by women, as they usually gave a share of their harvest to labourers, and were more likely to resort to selling assets.** "This is a clear portrait of the food insecurity condition and why I say it has become worse – not meaning that more people are in hunger conditions – but in the future, the value of their assets is limited ... they have not many options to recover," he said. Oxfam is helping farmers trial basic rain harvesting, but says farmers need practical meteorological advice and an early warning system to help them prepare for dry spells

The Australian government, through AusAID, has a \$6.5 million program to address

nutrition in women and children in NTT area, and also contributes to food programs run by other organisations.

3.2 Shortage of Midwives on Solor Island (East Flores)

Kupang Post, 17/6/09

Solor: The head of Moton Wutun village, East Solor *Kecamatan*, East Flores (*Flotim*) *Kabupaten*, complained to *KP* on 16/6 that the four villages on Solor Island were served by just one midwife. As a result many mothers had to give birth without medical assistance, with mothers and babies dying as a result. The general health standards of the people also suffered from a lack of a ready source of advice on healthy living. The *bupati* of *Flotim*, during a visit to Solor, said that heads of villages without a midwife should use village funds to hire stand-in midwives, given that *Flotim* had insufficient government midwives to cover every village.....(*more*)...

3.3 Shortage of Nurses in Rote Ndao

Kupang Post, 4/7/09

Ba'a: The head of the Health Service in Rote Ndao *Kabupaten*, Sonny Dayd, told *KP* on 1/7 that, although the *kabupaten's* 12 *puskesmas* all had doctors, 22 its 84 *pustu* were non-operational, due to the lack of nursing and midwifery staff. This situation needed to be addressed if the health system was to provide an adequate and balanced service, given that the *pustu* concerned were far flung and all over the *kabupaten*. Many *pustu* were also in a state of disrepair. Sonny said the *kabupaten* was giving priority to locating the required staff and would be looking to employ nursing staff in this year's intake of civil servants.

3.4 Malnourished Children in East Kupang

Kupang Post 8/7/09

Kupang: According to a staff member of the local *posyandu* (health station) in Oesao village, East Kupang *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, 56 *balita* (children under 5) are suffering from undernourishment. Another child is listed as malnourished. The staff member told *KP* that the causes of the problem included the lack of a healthy diet for needy pregnant women and new mothers and their babies, as well as the failure of mothers to have their children checked periodically at the nearest health service centre. She said that, as the *posyandu* had no resources to supply additional food, the nearest *puskesmas* had been asked for help (but no response had yet been received). Other local sources of assistance were also being approached.

3.5 Kupang to Benefit from National Nutrition Improvement Program

Kupang Post, 4/7/09

Kupang: The head of the Health Service of Kupang Municipality, Dr Dominggus Sarambu, said on 4/7 that Kupang had been chosen as a target area for the Nutrition Improvement Through Community Empowerment (NICE) program being sponsored by the Indonesian national Health Department. The NICE program was to run for 5 years (2008-2013) with funding from the Asian Development Bank. The aim was to control the problem of child malnourishment by empowering poor communities with better understanding of what good nourishment meant. It was hoped to achieve this by way of placing nutritionists throughout the municipality of Kupang (each one to cover two *kelurahan*) with the wherewithal to educate, help and motivate communities so that they could become responsible for recognizing and overcoming nutritional problems. ...(*more*)..

3.6 Malnourished Children in Manggarai

Kupang Post, 6/7/09

Ruteng: The *Lurah* of Carep, Manggarai *Kabupaten* (on Flores) has told his *Bupati* that 12 *balita* in his *kelurahan* are suffering from malnutrition and dozens of others are undernourished, as a result of negligence on the part of their parents. Health officials are seeking to remedy the situation but they have not fully succeeded because the parents concerned tend to leave the problem totally in the hands of the health workers. The *Bupati* said he regretted that this situation had developed, given that Manggarai *Kabupaten* produced more rice than it needed to feed its people.... (*more*)...

4. Education Issues (Nil this issue)

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

5.1 Large Shortfall in NTT's Rice Production Expected in 2009

Kupang Post, 2/7/09

Kupang: According to the head of the Kupang office of the Bureau of Statistics (BPS), NTT's rice production in 2009 is expected to be around 331 803 tonnes, or 175.565 tonnes below NTT's expected demand for rice in 2009 (507.368 tonnes). He said the demand for rice in NTT had been increasing in line with NTT's average population growth of 1.98% p.a. over the past 5 years and changing dietary habits away from non-rice products to rice. By contrast rice production had risen by an average of 1.73% p.a. over the past 5 years. Some of the rice shortfall would be made up by rice distributed under the government's *raskin* (rice for the poor) program, with an estimated 71.660 tonnes to be distributed to 557.640 poor households throughout NTT in 2009. Rice would be brought in from elsewhere to supplement local production, but supplies could be interrupted in the wet season (Dec-Feb), leading to rice shortages and inflationary pressures....(*more*)..

5.2 NTT's Maize Production Likely to be Down in 2009

Kupang Post, 4/7/09

Kupang: According to the head of Kupang office of the Bureau of Statistics (BPS), a recent agricultural census indicated that NTT's maize crop in 2009 would be 636 778, down by around 5.4% on last year's maize production. The decline represented the net effect of the "rolling" method used by farmers to rotate land being planted in a particular year. He noted that the 2008 harvest had marked a 31% increase over 2007's output (and commented at length on why 2008 had been such a good year). (*more*)...

5.3 The Mining Controversy

Kupang Post, 16/6/09 Editorial

Mining has always been a bone of contention in NTT. The basic issue is between those who are pro-government and pro-investment and those who want to preserve the natural environment and avoid the destruction resulting from mining. Thus it is feared that gold mining on the small island of Lembata will scar the environment forever and no amount of argumentation in favour of mining has yet won over most of those whose land is to be mined. The same applies to marble mining in South Central Timor (TTS) and North Central Timor (TTU) *Kabupatens*, which has hardly ever been trouble-free. The result has been that many investors have simply walked away. Now digging up manganese has become the rage throughout most of west Timor. Truck loads of manganese, purchased

cheaply, are being removed without any controls or income being generated for the local governments. Why? The Government needs to investigate the issue and, in the meantime, put a stop of the extraction of manganese in west Timor. We should learn from the mistakes of the past. For example, in the past marble was shipped out of TTU and TTS at cheap prices with little benefit to the local people. In fact, if locals needed marble, they had to import it at high prices. The 1945 Constitution says that the resources of Indonesia's land and water should be used as much as possible for the benefit of Indonesia's people. This is all that the people of NTT are asking for....(more)...

5.4 East Sumba Producing Cotton

Kupang Post, 2/7/09

Kupang: A provincial regional assembly (DPRD) member (J Kana), who had just returned from East Sumba *Kabupaten*, told *KP* on 1/7 that cotton had been successfully grown and harvested on half of a 2 000 ha area set aside for cotton production in the area. The harvest indicated that East Sumba could soon become self-sufficient in cotton (needed for its local weaving cottage industry). Kana said that, given the superior quality of the cotton harvested in East Sumba and the general suitability of Sumba Island for cotton growing, the other three *kabupatens* on Sumba were now looking to encourage cotton growing in their respective areas. He argued that, if those efforts succeeded, Sumba would become a centre for cotton production in Indonesia...(more)..

5.5 The Controversy over Mining in West Manggarai

Kupang Post, 3/7/09 two long articles by Obby Lewanmeru

(Lewanmeru reviews the recent controversy over the mining of several minerals (manganese, gold and lead in particular) in West Manggarai (Mabar) Kabupaten (located on Flores). He refers to various meetings and demonstrations that have been held recently in protest against the government of Mabar's issuing permits to companies to do exploratory mining in what the protestors regard as sensitive areas. Lewanmeru notes that the controversy arose partly because the government (and the mining companies) did not prepare the people for what was coming and what mining operations would involve. He depicts the controversy as being broadly between those who see mining as a way of bringing in revenue and promoting development, and those who want to preserve the natural environment particularly for the tourism industry. He notes that one argument used by the latter group is that mining, as opposed to tourism, is not sustainable into the longer term, given that the resources it exploits are non-renewable; nor does the mining sector create as many jobs as tourism. Another argument is that by granting permits to mine in sensitive areas (such as Batu Gosok, Komodo Kecamatan), the government is riding roughshod over local or national regulations relevant to such areas. The balance of the two articles appears to favour the views of those who oppose mining, as their views are well aired in the articles. Ed.)

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

6.1 Five villages On Flores Inaccessible by Road

Kupang Post, 16/6/09

Ende: Five villages in Ndonga *Kecamatan*, Ende *Kabupaten* are accessible by boat, but can only be reached overland on foot or by motor bike. The *camat* is trying to fix the problem by building a 2 km stretch of road, but requires the services of heavy equipment

from the Public Works Service. He told *KP* that building that road was a high priority for 2009, as it would boost the local economy and the quality of life of the villagers.. (*more*).

6.2 Netherlands Mayor Promises Infrastructure Development Grants

Kupang Post, 24&25/6/09

Kupang: After a four day visit to Kupang, the Mayor of the Netherlands City of Tynaarlo (Mr F Van Zuilen) announced that his city would provide funding for a number of sanitation, drinking water, electricity and micro-finance projects in the *kelurahans* of Batuplat and Lasiana, as well as to support a government cheap housing scheme in Manulai II *Kecamatan*, where a windmill would also be erected to generate power. The bulk of the funds provided would be channeled through a local NGO, *Yayasan Penegak Kebenaran dan Keadilan Victory* (YPK2V), with an emphasis on transparency and involvement of the people in identified projects....(*more*).....

6.3 Demand for Solar Power in NTT on the Increase

Kupang Post 7/7/09 Report by *Obby Lweanmeru*

Kupang: The head of the Mining and Energy Service of NTT told *KP* on 6/7 that the demand for solar power had been increasing each year in NTT over the past 10 years or so. 18 690 units had been fitted in the 10 years to 2007, with a further 6 500 being installed in the subsequent two years. The units had been provided mainly by the government under various schemes, but also by NGOs. The government continued to respond favourably to requests for the provision solar power, especially in remote areas.