



**NTA**  
East Indonesia Aid

<b>NTA – Press Clippings on NTT</b>	<b>Edition No. 23</b> <b>22 July 2009</b>
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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. The items from the Jakarta Post are slightly 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](mailto:d-fisher@homemail.com.au). Further information on the Nusa Tenggara Association (NTA) and its development assistance activities in NTT can be found at [www.nta.org.au](http://www.nta.org.au).*

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### Glossary of Indonesian Acronyms in This Edition

<i>puskesmas:</i>	<i>community health centre (usually at kecamatan or kabupaten level).</i>
<i>posyandu:</i>	<i>integrated (health) service post (for pre- and post-natal and infant care/information)</i>
<i>gotong royong:</i>	<i>working together on a self-help basis</i>
<i>balita</i>	<i>child/ren under five years old</i>
UNDANA	Cendana University Kupang
DPRD	Regional Assembly

## **1. Items of General Interest**

### **1.1 Earthquake Rocks Waingapu (East Sumba)**

*Kupang Post, 14/7/09*

Waingapu (East Sumba): An earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale rocked the city of Waingapu and surroundings around 6PM local time on 13/7. As the epicenter of the quake was on land (107 km west of Waingapu), there was no danger of a tsunami. It is not yet known what damage the quake caused.....*(more)*...

### **1.2 NTT fishermen form Alliance against Australia**

*Jakarta Post, 14/7/09*

Kupang: Tired of Australian authorities' "inhumane" treatment, fishermen in NTT have established a Timor Sea Traditional Fishermen Alliance aimed at providing legal advice for those subject to arrests while fishing in the Timor Sea and around Pasir Island. During the declaration at the Oesapa beach, Kupang, on 13/7, alliance secretary Sadly Hudari Ardhani said the organization would protect traditional fishermen. "Thousands of fishermen have been arrested and their boats burned, but the Australian authorities have never compensated them. They have violated international laws, but the international community has remained silent."

## **2. General Economic and Development Issues**

### **2.1 Seminar of Local Food Production/Consumption**

*Kupang Post, 15/7/09*

*(Editor's note: The KP hosted a seminar on 14/7 on NTT's food production and consumption patterns in the face of NTT's continuing food shortages and malnutrition. It coincided by the launch of a book on NTT's efforts over 50 years to achieve food self-sufficiency. Speakers at the seminar were: KP Editor-in-Chief Dion DB Putra (chairman); NTT Governor Lebu Raya; UNDANA Rector Frans Umbu Datta; and agricultural expert Viator Parera. Attendees included elected representatives, government officials, academics, journalists, members of NGO and observers of NTT's agriculture and food situation.*

*A general theme of the seminar was the extent to which eating habits in NTT had moved away from local products (maize, tubers, local fruits and vegetables) to foodstuffs exotic to NTT (rice, imported fruits, even fast foods) and how reluctant people were to revert to local foods. Symptomatic of this situation was the fact that local hotels and restaurants did not have local dishes on their menus.*

*To try to correct this situation, Lebu Raya stressed the importance of lifting the lacklustre image of local food, especially that based on maize, by making it tastier and easier to prepare and by advertising it more attractively. He noted that NTT's iconic maize dish, jagung bose<sup>1</sup>, took several hours to prepare, losing out to easy to prepare rice dishes. He welcomed efforts being made by experts at UNDANA and elsewhere to develop an instant version of jagung bose. He repeated his recent call that Thursdays should be a "local food eating day" throughout NTT, including in restaurants.*

*Frans Umbu Datta said that, if the consumption of local food was to be encouraged, more effective food distribution networks were needed (to avoid local shortages in a situation of overall surplus, as was now happening). Local food should also be affordable to all. His paper was reported in full in the KP – see following item)*

### **2.2 Local Food: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

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<sup>1</sup> crushed maize eaten with coconut cream or milk (*Ed.*)

*Kupang Post*, 15/7/09 by Frans Umbu Datta, Rector of UNDANA

Kupang: The people of NTT are very fortunate in terms of the natural riches they possess, but, even though they could be wealthy or at least have enough for a comfortable life, stories about hunger, malnutrition and death from oedema continue to abound. Despite all these stories, research work and efforts to overcome food-related problems, they continue to bedevil NTT, with the death toll rising and more and more people going hungry. Why? For one thing, the people of NTT do not appreciate the natural wealth they have. Greedy for natural resources, they slash and burn what is already marginal land; they rarely replace nutrients in the soil; they do not fully utilize the abundant rainfall received each year, albeit in a 3 month period; the young are abandoning rural areas in droves to take up low level city jobs or seek work abroad; those who attend university mostly do not want to study agriculture-related sciences; and those who do work in the primary sector are mostly tradition-bound and loath to learn new techniques. (The writer then summarizes NTT's food situation and dietary habits over the past 50 years or so. He argues that in earlier times people seemed to happily consume locally produced food and there did not seem to be as many hunger and malnutrition problems as at present. Whatever problems there were at that time became worse because of the "wrong" policies pursued under the New Order's development plans (REPELITA), which basically took away the ability of farmers, fishermen etc to rely on themselves in exploiting the resources at their disposal. Ed.)

Whereas in days gone by the people of NTT consumed a balanced diet of local food, nowadays their diet is static, dominated by rice and very rarely nuts, vegetables (usually not fresh) and imported fruit, which are not always affordable. Fast food is also in vogue in city areas.

As for the future, we should "go back to basics". The past can help us reach a good understanding of issues relating to food availability. I have long argued that food self-sufficiency for NTT should be based on local foodstuffs, produced by our own people using our own natural resources. Were we to achieve such self-sufficiency, we would be far more self-confident and less dependent on western Indonesia. If our current economic dependence on other areas continues, we will become restive out of a feeling of being vassals in our own homeland....(more)...

### **2.3 NTT Plagued by Three Serious Problems**

*Kupang Post*, 14/7/09

Kupang: Launching a book entitled "A 50 Year Food Pilgrimage in NTT"<sup>2</sup> in Kupang on 14/7, the book's editor, *KP* Editor-in-Chief Dion DB Putra, said that NTT continued to be plagued by serious problems in three areas, viz. food, water and energy. The book was meant to be a contribution to the resolution of these issues and to support NTT Governor's commitment to make NTT a Province of Maize, a Province of Cattle and a Province of Cooperatives. He made the point that NTT had not always suffered food shortages. In the period 2000-03 NTT had food surpluses of around 20%. With respect to water, Dion said that the epithet "driest province in Indonesia" was often used as a ruse to hide failures on the part of government. E.g. Kupang City had a plan to sink 200 bore holes by the beginning of 2009 but had managed to develop only a few water sources for

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<sup>2</sup> This *KP* report indicates that "50 Tahun Ziarah Pangan di Nusa Tenggara Timur" (320 pp. published by PT Timor Media Grafika), edited by Dian DB Putra, Tonny Kleden and Jonatan Lassa, is a compilation of some 600 articles written by concerned citizens of NTT and published over the years in the *KP* (Ed.).

distribution to the people. So far as energy was concerned, around 23% of NTT's population, i.e. some 1.1 million people, still did not have access to electricity. (*more*).

### **3. Health Issues**

#### **3.1 Dutch NGO Helps Two *Kabupatens* on Flores**

*Kupang Post*, 13/7/09

Bajawa: The Dutch NGO Cordaid (Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid) is to help the *kabupatens* of Ngada and Nagekeo (on Flores) to improve the quality of their health services through a program called Performance Based Financing (PBP). A Cordaid representative, Ernest Schoffelen, signed an MOU to that effect with the *bupati* of Ngada on 10/7. Mr Schoffelen explained to *KP* that, under the PBP system, Cordaid's support, rather than being an input, would be based on outputs, i.e. financial assistance would be provided on the bases of specific target being achieved. Money would be provided only after outcomes were verified and would be channeled through *PT Bahana Mitra Buana Indonesia*<sup>3</sup>. If the program with Ngada and Nageko (Cordaid's first in Indonesia) was successful, Cordaid would look to develop similar links with other Indonesian *kabupatens*. The MOU signing was accompanied by a workshop on the PBP system...(*more*)...

#### **3.2 56 Undernourished Children in Kupang *Kabupaten***

*Kupang Post*, 10/7/09

Kupang: 1 *balita* (child under 5) is currently suffering from malnutrition in Oesapo *Kelurahan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, and 56 others are listed as undernourished. Commenting on this situation, the head of the *kabupaten* Health Service, Dr. I Wayan Ari Wijana, told *KP* on 9/7 that any *balita* suffering from malnutrition would be transferred to Kupang Hospital for emergency treatment. Local *puskesmas* and *posyandu* would handle cases of undernourishment, by way of information programs and the distribution food under the WPF-supported Nutrition Rehabilitation Program. Ari commented that a survey of *kabupaten* health facilities in May had shown that only 56% of *balita* in the *kabupaten* had been brought in to be weighed and of that number 17.5% were undernourished. As the other 44% had not been weighed, undernourishment could be more prevalent than that percentage indicated.....(*more*).....

#### **3.3 US Air Force provides medical services in Kupang**

*The Jakarta Post*, 16/7/09

National United States Pacific Air force is conducting a week-long humanitarian mission in Kupang NTT ahead of a joint war exercise with the Indonesian Air Force. Codenamed Pacific Angel 2009, the US Air Force's mission aims to provide medical services to local people in Batakte, Naioni and Oebelo subdistricts. The free medical services involve 20 general practitioners, dentists and eye care doctors. Lt. Col. Ferdinand Roring of the Indonesian Air Force said on 16/7 the US troops would also install solar cells to generate electricity and water pumps to help local residents secure their need of clean water. Roring said the joint training would be held next week. "In the coming few days a military plane carrying US personnel will arrive for the exercise."

#### **3.4 Central Government Blamed for Cut in NTT's Budget**

*Jakarta Post*, 27/6/09

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<sup>3</sup>an Indonesian management consultancy firm (*Ed.*)

Kupang: Around 55,550 infants and children suffering from oedema and malnutrition in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) may have less chance of survival this year following a reduction in the disease mitigation budget. The NTT DPRD and administration have blamed the budget cut, from Rp 2 billion (US\$196 000) in 2008 to Rp 1.8 billion (US\$176 000) this year, on the decrease of general allocation funds they received from Jakarta this year. "Around 80 percent of the NTT provincial budget relies on central government assistance," according to Adrianus Ndu Ufi, a member from the DPRD's commission on health. "So, don't be surprised if the allocated budget for malnutrition mitigation decreases in 2009 to Rp 1.8 billion from Rp 2 billion in the previous year," he said recently. He said that 60 percent of the 2009 NTT provincial budget, which totaled around Rp 1 trillion, was set aside for "routine expenditures", while the remaining 40 percent was allocated for "developmental spending".

Isbandrio, head of NTT Health Service, said there were two international organizations, the WFP and UNICEF, which were willing to help tackle nutrition issues in the province. The two organizations, he said, had helped malnutrition patients in the regencies of Sikka, Belu, North Central Timor, South Central Timor and Kupang. "The WFP and UNICEF extended their help by providing fully nutritious biscuits for infants through local *posyandu* and elementary schools," he said. He said that each *kabupaten* should ideally allocate a budget to provide nutritious foods, but some of them had failed to do so. "According to my records, there are three *kabupatens* with high levels of malnutrition, but local administrations do not allocate special budgets to mitigate malnutrition," he said. The three *kabupatens* were South Central Timor, East Manggarai and West Sumba. He said public health insurance cards should also be provided to take care of infants and children suffering from malnutrition. Those patients should receive medical treatment from the age of three months to nine months and receive extra nourishment in the form of protein and carbohydrates during that vital period, he said.

#### **4. Education Issues**

##### **4.1 Ridding NTT of Child Labour**

*Kupang Post*, 16/7/09

Maumere : A local NGO, *Yayasan Nusa Bunga Abadi (Yanubadi)*<sup>4</sup>, is working with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to eliminate child labour from NTT. To further this objective *Yanubadi*, in conjunction with the ILO, organized a workshop in Maumere on 14/7 to look at a system of child-friendly teaching/learning which can be effective with such children<sup>5</sup>. After opening the workshop, ILO's local program officer in NTT, Yunirwan Gah, told *KP* that in addition to working with educators the ILO was promoting better understanding of Indonesian Law No. 23/2003 on Protection of the Child, which prohibited the employment of underage children. (*more*)...

<sup>4</sup> *Yanubadi*, based in Kupang, focuses especially on issues relating to women and children (*Ed.*)

<sup>5</sup> See clipping from 8/4/09 edition of *KP* on the issue of child labour in *Ed. No15 item No. 19. Inter alia*, that article reported that in Atambua hundreds of children under age 15 dropped out of school to work to help their parents support their families and that a number of schools without walls had been established with ILO assistance throughout Belu *Kabupaten* to offer a user-friendly education to such children (*Ed.*)

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

### **5.1 Eni to Exploit Petroleum and Gas in NTT**

*Kupang Post, 15/7/09*

Kupang: Following a meeting with NNT governor Lebu Raya on 14/7, Viki Aziz, the manager of “Eni West Timor”, a subsidiary of the Italian-based Eni Spa, said his company was currently surveying areas of interest in the *kabupatens* of Kupang and South Central Timor, with a view to exploiting petroleum and gas reserves there. He told the press that his company, in which the Australian government owned a 33.3% share, was conducting mining operations in 70 countries and was also active in the humanitarian field. Any mining operation in West Timor would be conducted on a profit sharing basis with the Indonesian Government. Lebu Raya welcomed Eni’s investment in NTT but said he looked to the company to do an environmental impact study and to enlist the cooperation of local communities through consultation, as problems could occur once they were on the ground. He hoped that Eni’s activities would help reduce the level of unemployment in NTT.....(*more*)...

### **5.2 Discrepancy in Maize Production Figures Queried**

*Kupang Post, 12/7/09*

Kupang: A provincial DPRD member, Cirylyus Bau Engo, has queried why maize production figures issued by the local office of the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) last week<sup>6</sup> differ from those submitted to the DPRD by the provincial government. He said that BPS’s estimate of the 2009 maize crop (636 778 tonnes) was way below the government’s estimate of 900 000 tonnes. The lower BPS figure was very surprising given the provincial governor’s campaign to make NTT a premier maize producing province in Indonesia...(*more*).. (*the article provided no explanation of the discrepancy. Ed.*).

### **5.3 Manganese Mining Permits in West Timor on Hold**

*Kupang Post, 11/7/09*

Soe: The head of the Mining and Energy Service of South Central Timor (TTS) *Kabupaten*, Obed Naitboho, told *KP* on 10/7 that of six applications for permits to conduct exploratory mining for manganese in TTS only one had been granted. Naitboho said that, according to a survey made by experts from Yogyakarta’s Gajah Mada University (UGM) in 2005, there were very considerable reserves of manganese in TTS. The UGM team also identified reserves of gold, silver, nickel and copper, though it did not precisely quantify the extent of any of the reserves. Existing evidence of the reserves has been enough, however, to encourage mining companies to vie with each other to gain exploratory mining permits. But the processing of such permits was on hold pending the issue of new central government regulations...(*more*)....

### **5.4 Gold Mining Venture On Flores Re-Examined**

*Kupang Post, 12/9/09*

Labuan Bajo: The proposed gold mining venture of PT Grand Nusantara at Batu Gosok, Komodo *Kecamatan*, West Manggarai *Kabupaten* (on Flores), which many worry will destroy tourism in the area, has been looked at by a team from the Centre for the

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<sup>6</sup> see *Press Clippings Ed 22 item 5.2 (Ed)*

Management of the Environment (PPLH)<sup>7</sup>. The team, led by the head of the PPLH office covering Bali and Nusa Tenggara, R Sudirman, has surveyed the proposed mining site and will submit a report to the national Environment Minister. Sudirman told *KP* on 11/7 that mining was now an issue of national concern. If a venture observed all the rules and regulations there was no problem. But if not, sanctions would be imposed. There had been cases where the Environment Minister had stopped particular ventures, which infringed the law. In the case of the Batu Gosok venture, the Environment Minister would make a decision and the *bupati* would be informed....(more)..

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

### **6.1 Kupang Residents Start Buying Trucked in Water**

*Kupang Post*, 10/7/09

Kupang: A number of sources of water within the Municipality of Kupang are already running dry before the height of the dry season, forcing residents who can afford it (many cannot) to buy water from water tankers. The area most affected is Air Nona *Kelurahan*, but the *kelurahans* of Liliba and Naimata are also beginning to suffer. And it is not just drinking water that is lacking, but also water for vegetable gardens which as a result are no longer productive. To meet Kupang's water needs, the provincial government has been planning to build a dam in the area of Kali Liliba (between Kolhua and Naimata *Kecamatan*s), but the plan has not yet been implemented. During their election campaign two years ago, Kupang's mayor and deputy mayor promised to make water their first priority, but serious water crises continue to occur.....(more).....

### **6.2 Capital of East Manggarai Kabupaten Short of Water**

*Kupang Post*, 11/7/09

Borong: Residents of Kota Ndora *kelurahan* in the *Kecamatan* of Borong, capital of East Manggarai *kabupaten* (on Flores), told *KP* on 10/7 that the vast majority of people in their *kecamatan*, who could not afford to purchase fresh water at up to Rp 3 000 (±US\$0.30) per jerry can, had to carry water for daily use from the Waebobo river, even though using that water seemed to be unhealthy. A spokesman for the *lurah* confirmed to *KP* that the poor people in the *kelurahan* had been meeting their water needs in this way for 7 years now. Wells sunk locally as alternative sources of water had located only undrinkable water. Many requests to the government for assistance with the problem had so far only resulted in the production of a design for the laying of water pipes. It was hoped that that plan for reticulated water could be implemented quickly.....(more)...

### **6.3 Many South Central Timor Roads in Disrepair**

*Kupang Post*, 13/7/09

Soe: The head of South Central Timor (TTS) *Kabupaten's* Roads and Irrigation Service, Ared Billik, recently told *KP* that 930 km of the ±1 200 km of roads which TTS was responsible for maintaining were in various states of disrepair, due to lack of regular maintenance. 750 km of the roads in question were in either bad or very bad condition. The annual budget needed to maintain the roughly 1 200 km for which TTS was responsible came to around Rp 6 trillion (±US\$ 500 m) (or Rp5 m (±US\$460) per km).

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<sup>7</sup> =Pusat Pengelolaan Lingkungan Hidup: an organization set up by the Indonesian national Minister for the Environment which has offices in various parts of Indonesia and is a sort of watchdog over issues of environmental concern (*Ed.*)

Billik said efforts were being made to correct the problem by first concentrating on the repair of more strategic roads. *(more).....*

#### **6.4 Villagers in Kupang *Kabupaten* Build Road**

*Kupang Post*, 18/7/09

Kupang: 800 residents from four villages in the Amaransi Timur *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten* are taking it upon themselves to lay the foundations for a six km stretch of road to reduce their isolation, according to the *camat* (Daniel Thon) when he spoke to *KP* on 17/7. Thon said that this was a real *gotong royong* effort, as all the materials for the road had been prepared by the villagers and they would do the work themselves over a three day period (21-24 July). The road would give an economic lift to the four villages concerned, as they produced a lot but previously could not easily market their produce. It would be up to the *Kabupaten* to put the finishing touches to the simple 4 m wide track the villagers would build..*(more)*