



**NTA**  
East Indonesia Aid

<b>NTA – Press Clippings on NTT</b>	<b>Edition No. 24</b> <b>31 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. Any comments, suggestions or feedback on this clipping service are most welcome and should be sent to [d-dfisher@homemail.com.au](mailto:d-dfisher@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). Back issues of this press clipping service can be found on the NTA website.*

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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>balita</i>	<i>child/ren under five years old</i>
<i>UNDANA</i>	<i>Cendana University Kupang</i>
<i>DPRD</i>	<i>Regional Assembly</i>

### 1. Items of General Interest

### **1.1 Day of the Child Celebrated**

*Kupang Post, 22/7/09 Opinion Piece by Zainal Asikin, Rights of the Child Observer (The author first gives a rather lengthy history of the evolution of the rights of the child culminating in the adoption of the Rights of the Child Convention (CRC) by the UN on 20/11/89) (Ed.)*

Indonesia has, since 1984, celebrated the Day of the Child on 23 July. We ratified the CRC in August 1990 but it was only 12 years later, with the promulgation of Law No.23/2002 on The Protection of Children (UUPA<sup>1</sup>), that Indonesia incorporated the rights enshrined in the CRC into law. Although that law is now almost 7 years old, the realization of its provision has fallen well short of expectations. Many violations of children's rights are still occurring in homes, schools and the community generally and few offenders have been brought to book. The law has not been well publicized and so is not understood by many and is misunderstood by others, e.g. some teachers who shy away from teaching because of it; many parents who continue to regard children as their property to do with what they will; and our community, which still believes that the voice of children does not deserve to be heard.

The Day of the Child is designed to heighten our awareness of the need to ever improve our effort to respect and protect children and their rights. Much has already been done in terms of child nutrition, education and establishing environments friendly to children in schools and cities. But we have a long way to go, as is evidenced by the constant flow of stories about adults abusing children. Let us recommit ourselves to protecting our children and their rights.....(more)...

### **1.2 A New *Kabupaten* (South Kupang) Mooted**

*Kupang Post, 23/7/09*

Nekamese: a community leader from Nekamese *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, has suggested, on behalf of the residents of Nekamese, that a new *kabupaten* named South Kupang be created in an effort to improve the provision of government services to the people there. The deputy *bupati* of Kupang *Kabupaten* has said that, while the *Kabupaten* supports of the idea, it will need the full backing of the people and will have to be progressed according to laid down procedures. *Kecamatans* which might be included in such a *kabupaten* are Amarasi, West Amarasi, Amabi Oefeto, East Amabi Oefeto, Nekamese, West Kupang and Semau...(more)

### **1.3 Proposal to Create New *Kabupaten* Encompassing Andonara**

*Kupang Post, 22/7/09*

Larantuka: The *Bupati* of East Flores *Kabupaten*, Simon Hayon, told *KP* on 18/7 that his government had not yet studied the proposal recently approved by the local DPRD that a new *kabupaten* be created to accommodate the people of Adonara's wish to be an autonomous region. A DPRD spokesman commented that there was no reason to delay the processing of this proposal, as it was the wish of the people. Adonara, with 8 *kecamatan*, 102 villages and more than 102 000 people was ideally suited to become a separate *kabupaten*. ...(more)...

### **1.4 Luxuriousness of New Manggarai *Kabupaten* Offices Criticised**

*Kupang Post, 31/7/09*

The new Manggarai *kabupaten* office building was officially opened on 29/7. When its construction was first mooted, it was criticized as being too luxurious. Now that is in

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<sup>1</sup> =Undang Undang Perlindungan Anak

place at a cost of Rp 21 billion ( $\pm$ US\$2.1 m), people are saying that it is too ornate and the money spent on it could have been used to address Manggarai's many problems. The obvious question is why do we need such a lavish structure? Let's hope that the quality of service to the people coming out of the building is as splendid as the building itself and that everyone working there cooperates to overcome Manggarai's backwardness and develop it to a level on a par with other areas in NTT.

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

### **2.1 Indonesia-East Timor Maritime Borders Not Yet Agreed**

*Kupang Post*, 23/7/09

Kupang: The Deputy Governor of NTT, Esthon Foenay, said in Kupang on 23/7 that bilateral maritime delimitation talks with East Timor, in which the NTT government would be involved, could not be held until bilateral discussions reached agreement on 5 crucial points along the land border which were still in dispute. Three of those points were within Indonesian territory in the *kabupatens* of Belu, North Central Timor and Kupang. Once the land border was agreed, the issue of maritime delimitation could be addressed. The Indonesian base points for that delimitation process had already been set out in Government Regulation No. 37/2008 on The Geographic Coordinates Marking the Base Points of the Indonesian Archipelago. The provincial government was paying close attention to the handling of these border issues with East Timor in the hope of hastening their resolution in the interests of NTT's economic development...(more)...

## **3. Health Issues**

### **3.1 Children in West Timor Struck with Diarrhoea**

*Kupang Post*, 21/7/09

Atambua and Kefamenanu : Information gained by *KP* from the regional hospitals (RSUD<sup>2</sup>) in the capitals of Belu and North Central Timor *Kabupatens* (both in West Timor) indicates that 71 people from those areas, mainly *balita* (children under 5), have been struck by diarrhoea during June and July – the “diarrhoea season” – , more than for the same period last year. Many are still being treated, but none of those affected has died. The Director of RSUD Atambua told *KP* that the diarrhoea had been caused not only by Rotavirus (RV) but also by poor diet, impure water and unhealthy living conditions. Unless these issues were attended to, diarrhoea among *balita* especially would persist. Parents were being urged to take all due precautions...(more)...

### **3.2 Hundreds of Children in Manggarai Undernourished**

*Kupang Post*, 24/7/09

Ruteng: Data obtained by *KP* from the Health Service of Manggarai *Kabupaten* (on Flores) indicates that, between January and July '09, Manggarai's numerous *puskesmas* listed 1 767 *balita* (children under 5) as being undernourished with a further 109 recorded as being malnourished (though it was thought that there could be many more cases that had not been brought to the *puskesmas*' attention). The data indicated that *puskesmas* medical staff had intervened to treat all the malnourished children and had also attended to those undernourished children who were ill. The Service told *KP* that there were not enough funds, however, to take adequate care of all undernourished *balita*. Additional

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<sup>2</sup> = rumah sakit umum daerah (*Ed.*)

assistance would be sought from the National Community Empowerment Program (PNPM<sup>3</sup>). Commenting on this situation, a member of the local DPRD stressed the importance of knowing precisely how many *balita* were affected by nutritional problems. Only then would the DPRD be apprised of the scope of the problem and be able to allocate the funds needed to address it...(more)..

### **3.3 Media to Cooperate in Trying to Reduce Childbirth Death Rate**

*Kupang Post*, 3/7/09

Kupang: In an effort to educate the public about health issues affecting birthing mothers and newborn babies, the NTT's provincial Health Service and the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Maternal and Neonatal Health (AIP-MNH)<sup>4</sup>(also termed "*revolusi KIA*"<sup>5</sup>) will cooperate closely with the *Kupang Post* and the weekly *SPIRIT* in the implementation of the AIP-MNH project. A contract setting the framework for such cooperation was signed by both sides on 30/7. Speaking after the signing, the head of NTT's Health Service, Dr Stef Bria, said he hoped the cooperative arrangement would see the *KP* and *SPIRIT* disseminate information on the health issues involved in *revolusi KIA* to the community at large, especially women. He noted that NTT's annual death rate among birthing mothers was 306 per 100 000 births. The Director of AIP-MNH, John McComb, underlined the importance of united effort, including with the media, if that death rate was to be reduced...(more)....

### **3.4 Two Children Die from Diarrhoea in West Timor**

*Kupang Post*, 28 & 31/7/09

Soe: According to the head of the Health Service of South Central Timor (TTS) *Kabupaten*, Dr Markus Ng Righuta, information received from 7 of the *kabupaten's puskesmas* indicated that 198 people had contracted diarrhoea up to the end of July '09, two of whom (both *balita* – one 10 months old, the other 13 months) had died. The two *balita* died in Soe hospital while undergoing treatment. Dr Markus said that the exact number of those suffering from diarrhoea in TTS was not yet known as reports from other *puskesmas* were still to come in. Only then would it be known whether a medical alert needed to be declared. Dr Markus said that TTS's mountainous terrain made it difficult to manage the diarrhoea outbreak. He urged that any child suffering from diarrhoea be taken immediately to the nearest health facility...(more)..

### **3.5 Undernourished Children Being Treated in Ende**

*Kupang Post*, 27/7/09

Ende: A spokesperson for Ndetundora *puskesmas*, Nangapanda *Kecamatan*, Ende *Kabupaten* (on Flores), told *KP* on 25/7 that the *puskesmas* was currently treating one malnourished *balita* (aged 2 yrs) and 18 others suffering the effects of undernourishment.

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<sup>3</sup> = Program Nasional Pemberdayaan Masyarakat, which is an important national program with the broad aim of removing barriers to gender equality and thereby reducing poverty levels. *Inter alia*, the program responds to women's practical needs by providing funds for such areas as water supply, health and education. (*Ed.*)

<sup>4</sup> See *News Clippings Ed. No. 18, item 1*. The aim of this AusAID-funded partnership/program is to reduce the death rate among birthing mothers and newborns in NTT (the highest in Indonesia). A crucial element of the program will be to have mothers deliver their babies in one of NTT's health service facilities, where they can receive treatment if needed, rather than in their own homes. (*Ed.*)

<sup>5</sup> =Revolusi Kematian Ibu Anak (a mother and baby death rate revolution) (*Ed.*)

The malnourished child had responded to treatment and was now gaining weight...(more)...

#### 4. Education Issues (Nil this issue)

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

##### 5.1 The Predicament of Commodities in NTT

*Kupang Post, 17/7/09 Opinion piece by Wilson MA Therik*

One of NTT's problems is that small commodity farmers are suffering because of the low commodity prices while being in debt to various middlemen and no one takes responsibility. Thus what are presented to farmers, in speeches, ceremonies and election campaigns, as dream commodities are leaving a bitter taste in farmers' mouths.

Increased production of commodities is being heralded as a "prime mover" of economic development and job creation. But we do not use the strategies needed to produce commodities successfully. Such strategies should comprise a systematic and holistic study of the commodity to be produced, the establishment of a comprehensive and sustainable framework for its development, and the use of a "industry cluster" approach facilitate production of seeds/seedlings, growing, harvesting, processing and marketing (including lowering barriers to marketing such as taxes/tariffs).

Take, for example, Malaysia. The success of their efforts in commodity production has not been the result of grandiose slogans but because of the strategies they have pursued. Recently Indonesia has had difficulty vying with Malaysia in Pakistan's palm oil market, because Malaysia has duty free access to that market but Indonesia has to pay 6% duty. The story in respect of other commodities is similar.

Our ears are ringing with the many high sounding slogans being trumpeted around in NTT these days in respect of maize, jatropha, sandalwood, cattle and what have you. But in the face of international competition, we cannot leave it to simple farmers to develop these various areas of our economy. We need to re-invent government and enlist the support of all components of our society (institutes of higher learning, NGOs, professional experts from home and abroad etc.) to carry out research and develop a "cluster industry" approach to the production of our commodities. In respect of the cattle industry, for example, the important question is not whether NTT can become a "cattle ranch" but rather whether the income of NTT farmers will be increased through the raising of cattle. Ditto in respect of sandalwood, jatropha etc.

My suggestion is simple: what we need in respect of a particular commodity is (i) a thoroughly researched cross sector master plan; (ii) an appropriately staffed authority (reaching down to the *kecamatan* level) responsible for implementation of that plan; (iii) effective advocacy in order to attract necessary resources from government, donors etc to implement the plan.

This article is not written as a criticism of anyone. Rather it comes out of the most abundant "commodity" in NTT: the tears of NTT's farmers and poor – tears which have so far gone unanswered. How much longer will it be before they are?...*(more)*...

##### 5.2 East Sumba: a Contributor to National Meat Supply

*Kupang Post 22/7/09*

Waingapu: The head of East Sumba (Sumtim) *Kabupaten*'s Livestock Service, Robert Gana, told *KP* on 22/7 that East Sumba had been designated as a part of the national meat supply structure and as such would receive special attention from the central government including by way of funding for development of livestock by natural means as well as through artificial insemination. Livestock supplied by Sumtim to meet national meat demands included animals both large (buffalos, cattle and horses) and small (goats), with the large animals mainly being sent to Java and Sulawesi and the small ones to Sulawesi. While taking care not to export too many livestock (thereby weakening its herd's breeding capacity), Sumtim was providing more than its quota (e.g. between Jan and May 2009 it shipped out 3 789 large animals). Gana commented that, although Sumtim's livestock farmers had been urged to adopt the more intensive fattening method termed "paronisasi"<sup>6</sup>, they were reluctant to change, and continued to prefer the free roaming approach, because of the amount of open grassland available to them...*(more)*...

### **5.3 Long Dry Season Expected to Hit East Sumba**

*Kupang Post, 29/7/09*

Waingapu: An East Sumba (Sumtim) *Kabupaten* spokesman told *KP* on 27/7 that a longer than usual dry season was expected in Sumtim this year. The areas likely to be hardest hit were Hahar, Pandawai, Kambata, Mapambuhang, Rindi and Melolo. But as of now there was an overall surplus of food reserves in Sumtim. Farmers would need to make early preparations in order to benefit from the next rainy season which was expected to be shorter than usual.

### **5.4 Manganese Mining Company Wins Court Case**

*Kupang Post, 29/7/09*

Kupang: In its session on 28/7 Kupang's State Administrative Court (PTUN) ruled in favour of PT Sumber Jaya Asia in its suit against the *bupati* or Manggarai, quashing the *bupati*'s decision to stop PT Sumber Jaya Asia's manganese mining operation in Reok on the grounds that it was a protected forest area<sup>7</sup>. The *bupati* was also ordered to pay court costs amounting to ±Rp 13 m (±US\$1 300).....*(more)*...

### **5.5 Mining in Manggarai**

*Kupang Post, 24 & 25/7/09 Opinion pieces by Kanis Lina Bana*

*(In two long articles the writer reviews the history of mining in Manggarai and summaries both sides of the current debate between those who support mining for developmental purposes and those who oppose it because of its destructive side effects, especially on the environment. He notes that Manggarai has attracted a lot of interest from big mining companies since 1997 and provides details of the 21 mining operations currently being carried out (in the areas of Reok and Ciba). Because it has been so controversial the author re-tells the story of PT Sumber Jaya Asia's manganese mine in*

<sup>6</sup> also known as the "Amarasi System" (after the *kecamatan* in Kupang *Kabupaten* where it was first used in NTT), "paronisasi" fattens cattle by confining them in pens and feeding them with special locally grown fodder. *(Ed.)*

<sup>7</sup> See *News Clippings Ed. No. 18, item 5 and Ed. No.17, item 18*, which report the background to this dispute between PT Sumber Jaya Asia and the *bupati* of Manggarai. In brief, the *bupati* originally approved the mining venture but when the national Minister for Forests stepped in to stop it, the *bupati* was forced to go back on his original decision and placed a temporary halt on the mining venture, pending further clarification. The company ignored that ban and kept mining the site. It also decided to take legal action against the *bupati* in the Kupang PTUN – a case it has now won. *(Ed)*

the Soga-Bonewangka area (see item 5.3 above). He speaks to a wide range of people for and against mining and summarises their views, concluding that the debate will go on.) (Ed.)

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

### 6.1 Hydroelectricity Potential in Southwest Sumba

*Kupang Post*, 17/7/09

Tambolaka: According to the general manager for NTT of the State Electricity Authority (PLN), S Januarsono, three sites in Southwest Sumba (SBD) *Kabupaten* have potential for micro hydroelectric power stations (PLTMH<sup>8</sup>), to supplement the existing 800 kW PLTMH station at Lokomboro. He recently told journalists that the capacity of two of three new sites, located in Wanokaka and projected to come on stream in 2010, would be around 750 kW each, while a third site in Pabeti Lakera needed further study. The eventual aim, he added, was that SBD, which also had potential for solar and wind power, be self-sufficient in electricity...*(more)*...

### 6.2 West Kupang Village To Get Water Pumped by Solar Power

*Kupang Post*, 22/7/09

Kupang: The residents of Oemolo village, Amabi Oefeto *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, are to benefit from the “solar power clean water” program run by the central government’s State Department for the Development of Underdeveloped Areas (KNPDT<sup>9</sup>). According to a *kecamatan* official, Oemolo was chosen for this program because it met certain conditions, viz. remoteness and isolation; lack of access to electricity supplied by PLN; a constant source of water (well, spring etc) which does not run out in the dry season; and a topography which prevents water being piped by gravitation. He said that the project (costing Rp.1 billion (±US\$98 000)) would be implemented by a contractor engaged by KNPDT and would see the installation of the solar power unit and pipes needed to transport the water to public hydrants throughout the village. It would not include reticulation of water to every household. *(more)*..

### 6.3 5 000 Villagers Lack Readily Available Water

*Kupang Post*, 24/7/09

Ende: About 5 000 villagers living on the Nuabosi plane in the villages Ndetundora I, II and III and Rando Tonda, Nangapanda *Kecamatan*, Ende *Kabupaten* (on Flores) have, since way back, had to walk considerable distances to fetch their daily supply of fresh water for household use from two water sources with minimal flows. Information gained by *KP* from officials from the four villages indicates that the distance people have to walk on a daily basis varies from 300 meters for some, to 2.5 km for others and even up to 3.5 km for Rando Tonda residents. Water used for agriculture comes only from rain which means that residents’ gardens are without water in dry periods.....*(more)*.....

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<sup>8</sup> = pembangkit listrik tenaga mikro hidro (Ed.)

<sup>9</sup> = *Kementerian Negara Pembangunan Daerah Tertinggal*. One of the principal concerns of KNPDT is to assist the more than 7 500 isolated villages throughout Indonesia which are still not connected to a PLN power grid, by providing electricity to them by way of solar powered and micro hydro plants. (Ed.)