



**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. The items from the Jakarta Post are edited versions of the originals. Any comments, suggestions or feedback on this clipping service are most welcome and should be sent to [d-dfisher@home.com.au](mailto:d-dfisher@home.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>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>RSUD</i>	<i>Regional Base Hospital</i>

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

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

### 2.1 **NTT braces for El Nino**

*Jakarta Post*, 14/8/09 by Yemris Foituna (*slightly edited version of the original – Ed.*)

NTT is bracing for the impact of an approaching El Nino weather pattern which may prolong the drought in this largely barren province. Governor Frans Lebu Raya said on 14/8 that farmers across the province had been advised to plant short-lived but highly profitable crops to anticipate the weather phenomenon. “Almost certainly El Nino will prolong the drought, which will make the province prone to harvest failure and bring on a food crisis. Planting crops that could produce in a short period of time would be an alternative,” he said. The provincial government had taken precautionary measures to deal with the impact of El Nino, he said, including increasing rice stocks, preparing an emergency disaster-handling team and initiating labour intensive projects. “We are used to facing drought on an annual basis. The government pays serious attention to any problems that may arise as a result of El Nino,” he said. The impact of El Nino has been felt in the regencies of Kupang, South Timor Tengah, North Timor Tengah and Belu. People in those areas have been forced to walk kilometers to obtain clean water. In Kupang the price of clean water jumped to Rp 75,000 (US\$7.5) per tank from Rp 50,000, while in Manggarai hundreds of hectares of rice fields have experienced harvest failure.

### 2.2 **Kupang Health Polytechnic Holds Seminar on Malnutrition**

*Kupang Post*, 10/8/09

To mark the graduation of the first crop of graduates from its Nutritional Studies Program in September, the Kupang Health Polyclinic<sup>1</sup> held a seminar on child malnutrition in NTT in Kupang on 8/8. Chairperson of the seminar’s organizing committee, Beatrix Soi, told *KP* that, apart from publicizing the existence and import of the Kupang Polyclinic’s Nutritional Studies Program, the main purpose of the seminar was to examine and seek specific solutions to NTT’s nutritional problems by application of the science and expertise that underpinned the nutritional sciences. Billed as a national seminar with the title “Overcoming Problems Relating to Nutrition in NTT”, speakers included: Dr Stefanus B Seran (Head of the NTT Health Service); Petrus Langoday (Head, Food Security Agency, Kupang); Otte Santika (SEAMEO-TROPMED<sup>2</sup> Regional Centre for Community Nutrition, University of Indonesia); Hamam Hadi (Faculty of Medicine, Gajah Mada University); and Annasari Mutafa (nutritional expert and Lecturer, Health Polyclinic Malang)...(*more; but the report does not summarize the conclusions of the seminar. Ed.*)

### 2.3 **Poverty a Root Cause of Nutritional Problems in NTT**

*Kupang Post*, 9/10/09

Kupang: The chairperson of the NTT branch of the Indonesian Association of Community Health Experts<sup>3</sup>, who is also a lecturer at the Kupang Health Polyclinic, Ina D R Ludji, said in Kupang on 9/8 that poverty was a major factor contributing to the nutritional problems of *balita* (children under 5) in NTT, in addition to issues related to

<sup>1</sup> or *Politeknik Depkes* (Politeknik Kesehatan Departemen Kesehatan)

<sup>2</sup> =South East Asia Ministers of Education Organization-Tropical Medicine and Public Health (*Ed.*)

<sup>3</sup> or Ikatan Ahli Kesehatan Masyarakat Indonesia (IAKMI) .

education, food security and lifestyle. Around 24% of NTT's current population of  $\pm 4.6$  m were classed as poor. There were now some 504 900 *balita* in NTT, of whom around 9% suffered from undernourishment or malnutrition, with 11 cases ending in death.

..(more)...

#### **2.4 Foster Business Sector Jobs to Reduce Unemployment**

*Kupang Post, Editorial 8/8/09*

The welfare of a community can be measured by its level of unemployment. On 4/8 the governor of NTT publicly acknowledged that NTT's unemployment rate remained high and that steps needed to be taken to address the problem.

In fact, 2.78%, or 122 320, of our 4.4 m people are unemployed. Steps to reduce unemployment should not amount to merely talking about the problem, but should consist of concrete and timely measures, given that unemployment is set to rise each year. NTT's 38 tertiary institutions turn out around 10 000 graduates each year, but only between 1 000 and 3 000 of them can obtain work with the public sector (which recruits annually), with the remainder having to take their chances in the private sector. And these figures do not include university drop-outs and high school leavers who choose to work rather than continue studying.

It is up to the government sector in NTT to solve the unemployment problem by helping to provide the people with a wide range of work opportunities. Tertiary institutions like Nusa Cendana University (Undana) are setting an example by running special programs on entrepreneurial skills for final year students, with the aim of equipping them, upon graduation, to create their own work opportunities rather than depend on others.

Provincial and local governments could take similar measures to train new entrants to the workforce. They could also provide facilities and soft credit for those looking to set up their own businesses. More broadly, government should protect and support entrepreneurial activities, as a strong business sector will lead to a stronger economy capable of absorbing a greater workforce. ....(more)....

#### **2.5 Funding for Former East Timorese Community Allegedly Diverted**

*Kupang Post, 10/8/09*

Kupang: The head of Association of East Timorese Parents and Children of Kupang, Miguel Epifania Amaral, said on 10/8 that, although press reports often indicated that former East Timorese residents in West Timor were benefitting from humanitarian projects, the East Timorese community had not felt the impact of the reported funding. He claimed that his community felt they were being used as a means of attracting humanitarian or donor funding, without any projects being implemented for their benefit. He said this in reaction to a comment by a Kupang City official to the effect that Rp 1.2 billion ( $\pm$ US\$120 000) advanced to community groups under the Empowerment of the Grassroots Economy (PEM<sup>4</sup>) scheme (including to 58 groups of former East Timorese) had not been paid back. Amaral denied that any East Timorese group within the ambit of Kupang City had been advanced funds under the PEM scheme. Let the City identify the groups concerned and bring them to book, he challenged. He went on to claim that in several cases in the past, from 1999 onwards, Rp. tens of billions (US\$ hundreds of thousands) destined for the ex-East Timorese community had been diverted by the Municipality of Kupang .....(more)...

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<sup>4</sup> =Pemberdayaan Ekonomi Masyarakat, a program which provides credit to community groups aimed at the development of people-centred, participatory, people-empowering and sustainable ventures.

## 2.6 Fight Not Yet Over for Ex-Timorese Refugees

*Jakarta Post* 15/8/09 Special Report by ID Nugroho and Yemris Foituna who visited the camps for East Timorese refugees on the border between East Timor and Indonesia 17-24/709. (an abridged version of the original – Ed.)

The events that took place 10 years ago, in September 1999, remain vivid in the mind of Mateus Guedes, a former member of the pro-Indonesia Aitarak militia in Dili. Mateus and tens of thousands of East Timorese citizens in favor of integration with Indonesia left for neighboring NTT province in the wake of an independence referendum, in which an overwhelming majority of people voted for independence from Indonesia. "Our only choice was to flee," Mateus tells *The Jakarta Post*....

At least 100,000 pro-integration refugees fled to NTT. Some of them set up shelters in a number of areas in Belu district, while others sought refuge in North Central Timor and Kupang. They occupied vacant land in those areas, including farmland, public land and hilly areas. Mateus opted to live in Atambua in Belu district with his extended family, who had been living there since 1975.

Living in a new area and starting from scratch was a problem for the former East Timorese then. Their claims to being refugees were overlooked. A high incidence of violence gripped these shelters and the border area, leaving many casualties. In a meeting in December 2000, pro-integration leaders Eurico Guterres, from the Aitarak militia, and Cansio Lopes de Calvalho, from the Mahidi militia, insisted that the government handle the refugee issue more seriously. The government eventually provided the refugees with homes through a resettlement program in a number of areas.

After 10 years, most of the refugees claim to still live in misery. "People from the outside only see that they've been provided with 6-by-6-meter homes," says Eurico, the mastermind of the massacre and destruction of Dili just after the referendum. "The government is being halfhearted about resolving the issue. The resettlement homes are poorly built in a slipshod manner." In Oebelo, Kupang, the refugees live in very modest resettlement homes, with dirt floors and wooden planks as roofs. One water pump is shared among hundreds of people there. The land, some of them claim, was not given to them for free.... Other problems the refugees claim to suffer include land disputes with local residents. The former East Timorese also have to pay for having leased the land for the past 10 years. If they refuse to pay, they say, they face eviction. .... Similar complaints abound in Belu regency, especially in Atambua, where 20,000 refugees currently live, 5,000 of them in shelters.

Former East Timorese have to deal with at least three major issues - land and property disputes, stigma as former East Timor citizens and jealousy. The number of institutions concerned with their plight is very limited. Pro-independence East Timorese will celebrate 10 years of freedom from Indonesia later this month in Dili, while their rivals who opted to remain with Indonesia and fled to neighboring NTT are still camped out in refugee shelters.

## 2.7 Pro-integration refugees tell of hardship

*Jakarta Post*, 15/8/009 Special Report No. 2 (slightly edited version of original – Ed.)

Tears roll down the face of 31-year-old Maria da Corta as she relates the fate of her 13-month-old daughter, Modestina de Araujo, who doctors say is suffering from acute malnutrition. She only has a few more days to live, they say. Maria says she is resigned to her fate. "I have no more money and can only rely on donations while I continue

praying," says Maria, who lives in the home of a local resident in Oebelo, East Kupang, NTT. Since leaving East Timor for Indonesia in 1999, Maria says her family has not been able to rise from poverty, especially since the death of her husband, Domingus da Costa, from a lung disease. At the time, the family was looking for a place to stay. Maria then lodged with one of her relatives. The house in which Maria and her six children live is a modest one, with a thatched-grass roof, rickety wooden walls and dirt flo. There is an outhouse behind it and a porch at the front.

Winston Rondo, director of the Center for Internally Displaced Persons Service (CIS), says the hardship experienced by Maria and her family has gone on for years. "Just from their names, the new citizens or Indonesian citizens of East Timorese descent already face discrimination," Winston says. CIS Timor says the former East Timor refugees have been deprived of their rights and are now barely surviving. The option to return and become East Timorese citizens is no longer possible.

CIS data shows the Indonesian government stopped providing relief aid to them in 2002. The resettlement program, initiated by various parties, including the Indonesian Military (TNI), has not been effective. The construction of resettlement homes has led to land disputes between the refugees and local residents. Winston says the resettlement program in Oebelo, Kupang, is one of the worst examples. The construction project, initially funded by Japanese aid worth Rp 51 billion (US\$5.1 million), complete with a clean water facility and a church, was part of a compensation program for local residents, but sparked problems when the resettlement homes were built too close to local homes. The resettlement site in Weliura, Atambua, revealed 4-by-6-meter homes built in a hilly area. The road to the site was built of limestone, which became slippery when it rained. The resettlement site was not connected to tap water or the power grid. "We built all the facilities ourselves, including a school in the middle of the complex," says local resident Esperanza Lopes, adding elementary school students in Weliura will begin the new school year there. Problems also arise when the former East Timorese seek jobs. In East Timor, they cultivated their own farms, but not in NTT. A few lease farmland from local residents, but many cannot afford it.

They also claim to be discriminated against by the local community, who they say stigmatize them as being "rough and intolerant". "Jealousy also prevails among the local community against the former East Timorese refugees, due to the various types of assistance they received," says Dionato Moriera, a CIS Timor worker in Atambua, citing the UNHCR aid program in the form of fishing boats for refugees in Lospalos, Baukau and Viqueque. "The assistance has fueled inter-group conflict," Winston says. More efforts to aid the former East Timorese require the resolution of underlying issues, the CIS says, adding land negotiations based on traditional approaches to local residents is needed to minimize disputes and end stigmatization. This way, the CIS goes on, stories like those of Maria da Costa and her six children will no longer be repeated.

### **3. Health Issues**

#### **3.1 8 Cases of Malnutrition in Kupang**

*Kupang Post*, 12/8/09

Kupang: The head of Kupang City's Health Service, Dr D Sarambu, told *KP* on 10/8 that 8 cases of malnutrition (from the *kelurahans* of Lasiana, West Oesapa and Oepara) had recently received treatment in the Regional Base Hospital (RSUD) in Kupang. Each had been in a poor condition and, if not hospitalised, could have suffered secondary infections

such as diarrhoea and pneumonia. When their body weight returned to normal they had gone home, but would continue to receive additional food for the next 90 days. Sarambu said that cases of undernourishment (currently around 80 in the Kupang Municipality) were also being monitored as their condition could change at any time.

Asked how poor people not covered by the Community Health Guarantee (*Jamkesmas*<sup>5</sup>) system were dealt with, Sarambu said that Kupang City had set aside Rp 2 billion ( $\pm$ US\$200 000) for the care of people not covered by *Jamkesmas*. The City had reached an agreement with Kupang RSUD (still to be formally signed) on the treatment of poor people without a *Jamkesmas* card, under which it would advance the hospital Rp 900 m ( $\pm$ US\$90 000), in two tranches, to cover treatment of such cases. The agreement would be on a year by year basis.

On the issue health personnel numbers, Sarambu said that 140 staff would be added to the Municipality's health service in 2009. Of these 15 were general practitioners (10 for the hospital and 5 for placement elsewhere)... (*more*)...

### **3.2 Singaporean Doctors Help to Treat Goiter Sufferers on Sumba**

*Kupang Post*, 8/8/09

Waingapu (East Sumba): Doctors from Singapore's Mount Elizabeth Hospital, working with local doctors from Imanuel Hospital, Sumba, provided free surgery to 18 goiter sufferers at Imanuel Hospital in East Sumba *Kabupaten* on 5-6/8. The director of Imanuel Hospital, Dr Dany told *KP* on 6/8 that the Singaporean doctors would also provide medical services to needy groups and to outlying areas such as Tanarara and Tabundung, between 6 and 8 August, when they would leave NTT. Dr Dany said that his hospital would undertake further cooperation with outside doctors to provide more free surgery later this year on goiter (September), cataracts (October) and prostate (date yet to be fixed). The free operations have been very well received by those operated upon, who could not have afforded to meet the cost of the surgery... (*more*)..

### **3.3 Undana's Faculty of Community Health 8 Years Old**

*Kupang Post*, 15/8/09

Kupang: A celebration by UNDANA's Faculty of Community Health (FKM<sup>6</sup>) on 14/8 of its 8<sup>th</sup> birthday was heralded as an occasion for reflection by all those interested NTT health issues. Speakers at the event noted that when FKM was set up 8 years ago – a time when NTT was plagued by a shortage of health workers – the Faculty was like an oasis in a desert. It had achieved much since then, but needed to work even harder at what it did. The Faculty was fully supportive of the recently launched NTT Health of Mother and Baby Revolution (*Revolusi KIA*<sup>7</sup>) (one of its staff, Pius Weraman, being a member of the *Revolusi KIA* team). An appeal was made for help in efforts to improve the Faculty's performance into the future.... (*more*)....

### **3.4 Agnes Parera: A Dedicated Midwife in Sikka**

Maumere: "Wholehearted service" is Agnes Parera's motto when attending to her duties

<sup>5</sup> = Jaminan Kesehatan Masyarakat. This is a national program designed to provide free access to health services for the very poor.

<sup>6</sup> = Fakultas Kesehatan Masyarakat

<sup>7</sup> = *Revolusi Kesehatan Ibu dan Anak*, a joint AusAID-NTT program aimed at reducing the birth death rate among birthing mothers and newborns. For earlier reports, see *Press Clippings Ed 25, 3.2, Ed 24, 3.3 and Ed 21, 3.5. (Ed.)*

as a midwife the town of Ueng, Alok *Kacamatan*, Sikka *Kabupaten* (Flores). Known as Nety, she is Uleng's sole midwife and has been practicing for over 5 years. She told *KP* that her main pre-occupations were nutritional issues, pregnancy and childbirth and her aims were to prevent cases of child malnourishment and deaths during childbirth. Each month she examined between 10 and 20 pregnant woman and assisted at 10 or 11 births. She commented that there was a widespread lack of understanding of nutrition and a community-wide effort was needed to improve the situation. In addition to herself, Ueng had 35 health other workers attached to the 7 *posyandu*....(more)...

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

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

##### 5.1 Rice Farmers Suffer Localised Effects of Drought

*Kupang Post*, 11/8/09

Oefeto: For over a year now, a drought situation and the lack of water from sources other than rain around Oefeto village, Amabi Oefeto *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten* have made it impossible for 100 local farmers to cultivate  $\pm 60$  ha. of rain-fed rice fields (which normally produce one reasonable crop a year). They have therefore had to turn to make-shift or labouring jobs to eke out a living. The villagers are looking to the *kabupaten* to sink a number of bore holes for them to draw on to cultivate their crops during times of drought...(more)...

##### 5.2 60 Mining Permits Issued in NTT since 2008

*Kupang Post*, 11/8/09

Kupang: NTT Governor Lebu Raya said on 8/8 that from the last quarter of 2008 to the first quarter of 2009 60 mining permits had been issued in NTT (5 by the provincial government and 55 at *kabupaten/city* level). In an effort to attract investors, the provincial government was giving special attention to the upgrading of infrastructure and services throughout NTT, particularly water (upgrading irrigation and land water systems as well the development/rehabilitation of dams) and roads (whether they be classed as "national", "provincial" or '*kabupaten*')....(more)...

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

##### 6.1 Solar Power for Village in West Timor

*Kupang Post*, 10/9/09

Oefeto: Power lines do not reach Oefeto village, Amabi Oefeto *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, but the villagers are benefiting from a program of the provincial Mining and Energy Service to install simple solar power units in villagers' homes. From its start date in 2007, the program has seen 130 units installed so far, and the hope is to cover the entire village by fitting units in the remaining 87 homes during 2009. Previously the villagers relied on kerosene lamps, but for many the regular expenditure on kerosene was unaffordable...(more)..

##### 6.2 West Timor Village with No Ready Source of Water

*Kupang Post*, 11/8/09

Atambua: The residents of the Oenana area of Rafae village, Raimanuk *Kecamatan*, Belu *Kabupaten* (West Timor), collect water for all their daily needs by digging holes in the banks of a muddy stream, waiting (sometime for hours) for water to seep into the holes

and then scooping the trapped water into jerry cans. The villagers say that they don't know for sure whether or not the water they collect is safe – they have no other readily available source of water anyway. They have never had a well or piped water in their area. It is hoped that the village administration can work with the *kecamatan* to resolve the problem...(more)..