



NTA
East Indonesia Aid

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Note: All the items from the Pos Kupang and Timor Express 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 item from the Jakarta Post is a substantially edited version of the original. Any comments, suggestions or feedback on this clipping service are most welcome and should be sent to 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. 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

balita
Undana
RSUD
Bappenas
KIA

child/ren under five years old
Cendana University Kupang
Regional Base Hospital
National Development Planning Agency
deaths of birthing mothers and newborns

1. Items of General Interest

1.1 Earthquake in NTT

Kupang Post, 7/9/09

An earthquake measuring 5 on the Richter scale struck 17 kms below sea level 426 km northeast of Kupang mid morning on 7/9. The quake was not large enough to cause a tsunami...*(more)*.....

2. General Economic and Development Issues

2.1 Declining Poverty Numbers in NTT

Kupang Post, 21/8/09 Editorial

One of the points made by President Yudhyono to Parliament was that NTT was among several provinces which had reduced its level of poverty by more than 4% in the past 5 years. Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) figures indicate that 1.01m people in NTT, or 23.31% of the population (4.6m), are poor. That number is down on the 2008 figure of 25% (or more than 1.1m people). The national government has put in place a number of programs to eradicate poverty. One such program is the PKH¹, under which Rp90 billion (±US\$9 m) are available to NTT in 2009 for assistance to some 60 000 very poor households.² One concern in respect of poverty is the inconsistency between BPS data on poverty and other figures such as those of the National Family Planning Agency. These inconsistencies, which result from differing criteria used to measure poverty, can result in incongruities. Thus a family without electricity is classed as poor, but not if it possesses a motorbike. Another issue is whether changing poverty criteria are leading to a decline in poverty numbers or are government programs having a real effect? In any case, we should not pat ourselves on the back over a statistical decrease in the number of poor. What we should be doing is continuing to keep a watchful eye on existing poverty eradication programs and increasing people's capacity to lift themselves out of poverty. Given that poverty is concentrated in the villages, our main focus into the future should be on villages. If people are classed as poor because of lack of electricity or water, that need should be met. And let not people who are better off claim to be poor just so that they can benefit from programs which are meant for the very poor...*(more)*...

2.2 Government and UNDP to Cooperate in Forest/Watershed Management

The Jakarta Post, 26/8/09. (Following is an abbreviated version of the original – Ed.)

The Forestry Ministry, together with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), is working on a pilot project to improve the management of forests and watersheds in six provinces. Director general for Rehabilitation and Social Forestry, Indriastuti, said in Jakarta on 25/8 that the project, scheduled to run from mid 2009 to 2014, would focus on strengthening environmental management at the community level. Six watershed areas had been designated as pilot locations for the project, which was co-funded by the Global

¹ *Program Keluarga Harapan* (Program of Hope for Families), a national program, in place since 2007 and administered by the Department of Social Affairs, comprising a conditional cash transfer (CCT) system, under which cash is paid to very poor families whose members include pregnant women or *balita* and/or school age children. To receive the cash payments recipients must either access health facilities (in the case of pregnant women and pre-school age children) or be attending school (in the case of school age children) (*Ed.*).

² See *Press Clippings No. 25 item 2.2(Ed)*.

Environment Facility contributing US\$7.8 million, and the government donating \$41 million. All of the chosen watersheds are rich in biodiversity, but are in critical environmental conditions. Indiatuti said that from around 3,000 watersheds in the country, more than 300 were in a critical condition. The six selected watersheds are located in Toba Samosir regency, North Sumatra, West Lampung regency in Lampung, Wonosobo regency in Central Java, Lombok Barat regency in West Nusa Tenggara, South Central Timor regency in East Nusa Tenggara and Sigi regency in Central Sulawesi.... (more).....

3. Health Issues

3.1 Ngada: 28 Babies Die, 26 Others Stillborn in 6 Months

Kupang Post, 22/8/09

Bajawa: The head of the Health Service, Ngada *Kabupaten* (on Flores), H F Bhoki, told *KP* on 22/8 that between January and June 2009 28 infants had died within Ngada *Kabupaten* from apnea, birth defects, infections and pneumonia. 26 other babies had been stillborn in the same period. In response to this situation, a joint strategy had been developed by relevant agencies aimed specifically at controlling the death rate among infants...(more)...

3.2 50 Children Treated for Diarrhoea in Ruteng Hospital in August

Timor Express Daily 25/8/09

Ruteng: The Director of the Ruteng Base Hospital (RSUD), Dupe Nababan, told *Timor Express* on 24/8 that his hospital had treated 50 *balita* (children under 5) for diarrhoea during August. Although *balita* were being brought in every day for treatment, only 7 of the 50 were still in hospital. Nababan said that the number of cases this year was not above the normal for this period of changing weather (from the wet to the dry season) and thus an emergency situation had not been declared. Nababan urged parents to be vigilant about the cleanliness of food given to children who should wash their hands before eating..... (more)....

3.3 Factors Contributing to Deaths of Mothers and Babies

Kupang Post, 7/9/09

Kupang: Speaking at an information session on KIA³ (the death of birthing mothers and newborns) in Kupang, a health worker from Bakunese *Kelurahan*, Helena Ahab, said that information obtained from four *kelurahans* (Bukanase, Belo, Naioni and Lasiana) in the Municipality of Kupang had identified the following as factors contributing to KIA: health workers often lived beyond the boundaries of a *kelurahan* because the government did not always make provision of fresh water at the *kelurahan* level; the government did not provide health centres with the means of transportation to transfer emergency cases to health facilities; there was still a lack of cooperation between traditional healers (*dukun*) and health workers in respect of childbirths; mothers were still too beholden to old habits and customs and had a poor understanding of issues relating to good health and childbirth; and the various levels of government still did accord sufficient priority to issues relating to KIA....(more).....

4. Education Issues

³ =kematian ibu dan anak

4.1 East Manggarai Primary School Short of Desks and Chairs

Kupang Post, 24/8/09

The situation at Peot *Inpres*⁴ Primary School in Borong *Kecamatan*, East Manggarai *Kabupaten*, is of great concern. The headmaster has told *KP* that because of the influx of new enrolments this school year (bringing the total number to 212), there are not enough desks and chairs to accommodate all students. Up to 5 pupils are at desks which were designed for 2. Even some of the existing desks are in a poor state of repair. The situation is adversely impacting on the pupils' education, especially those learning how to write....(more).....

4.2 NTT Short of Veterinarians

Timor Express, 5/9/09

Kupang: According to the head of NTT's Livestock Service, Marthinus Jawa, each *kecamatan* in NTT should ideally have its own veterinarian, but in fact instead of the 600 needed in that scenario the province was serviced by just 85 vets. This shortage of vets, he argued, was due to the low number of Indonesian universities, including Kupang's Cendana University (Undana), which offered veterinary studies. The provincial government would fully support any move by Undana to offer such a degree course. Jawa made these comments while attending the official launch of a new veterinary hospital in Kupang on 4/9. The hospital's director, Dr Hartati, said that the facility would be able to accommodate only small animals (dogs, cats and pigs). She hoped that it would nonetheless become a source of information on all animal diseases in NTT and would provide hands-on experience for students. NTT's deputy governor, Esthon Foenay, who officiated at the opening, expressed the hope that Jakarta would provide financial assistance to students from NTT who wanted to pursue veterinary studies....(more)....

4.3 National Goal of 9 Years Compulsory Education Not Yet Achieved in NTT

Timor Express, 4/9/09

Kupang: NTT is still short of the national goal of having school age children spend 9 years in compulsory education, having reached 87% (of this year's target of 95%). The head of NTT's Education Youth and Sports Service, Thobias Uly, told *Timor Express* that factors contributing to this situation were (i) the inability of some parents to meet even incidental education costs (uniforms, books and other requirements); (ii) the geography of NTT which meant that children in remote areas did not all have access to schools (though this was now a minor problem with schools being located all over NTT); and (iii) cultural factors such as the attitude of some that education was for boys not girls and of others that attending high school was of little value as many high schools graduates could not get a job..... (more).....

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

5.1 Septicemia Killing Livestock on Flores

Kupang Post, 23/9/09 (one report) & 24/9/09 (two reports)

⁴ =*Instruksi Presiden*. *Inpres* primary schools were originally constructed under a program put in place, at the instruction of President Soeharto, in 1973. Over 61 000 *Inpres* primary schools (each catering for around 120 pupils) were constructed throughout the '70s all over Indonesia. One of the aims of the *Inpres* primary school program was to spread the benefits of oil revenues and development more evenly across the country (*Ed.*).

(23/9 report) Ende: The *kecamatans* of Wolowae (Nagekeo *Kabupaten*) and Maukaro (Ende *Kabupaten*), both on Flores, are subject to restrictions on the movement of livestock for two weeks to contain an outbreak of *SE* (*septicemia epizootica*) which has infected cattle, buffalo, horses and pigs, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of animals. Apart from trying to contain the disease officials are treating sick animals and vaccinating healthy ones – processes made difficult by farmers' traditional practice of allowing animals to roam free....(more)...

(24/9 special report by John Taena) Thomas Tuka, a father of 12 children from Tendakinde village, Nagekeo *Kabupaten*, told *KP* on 20/8 that the death from *SE* of his one and only bull, which he had raised for 3 years, at the very time he was about to sell it, had not only deprived him of ±Rp5m (±US\$500) in income but had ruined his plans for the future, as his intention was to buy three more bull calves from the proceeds of the sale. Other residents of Tendakinde have suffered similar fates. For example, Jamaludin, father of 3, lost a bull, a cow and two calves from *SE* in the space of just over a week. In all, his loss amounted to Rp15m (US\$1 500), leaving him no option but to borrow to finance his children's schooling.

(24/9 report) The head of NTT's Livestock Service, Marthinus Jawa, told *KP* on 22/9 that the outbreak of *SE* in Ngada and Nagekeo *Kabupaten*s was largely attributable to the change of seasons and the lack of adequate feed and water for livestock, all of which lowered animals' resistance to disease. He said he had dispatched a team of three vets, headed by Dr Maria Geong, to work with local farmers and Livestock Service officials to manage the problem. He was looking to the governments of the two *kabupaten*s to make an emergency financial contribution to the control of the *SE* outbreak. Following visits to the affected areas, Dr Geong pointed to the free roaming nature of the herd as a factor complicating treatment and vaccination procedures, but indicated that, provided local livestock farmers cooperated, current stocks of antibiotics and vaccine were sufficient to manage the problem.

5.2 Septicemia Outbreak Demands Immediate Action

Kupang Post, 20/9/09 Editorial

The outbreak of *SE* on Flores has resulted in a sizeable financial loss for local farmers (±Rp580m (±US\$58 000)), a real hardship for a group of people already struggling to support their families. The situation – still not under control – is worrying. The people affected have spent years raising livestock, their basic livelihood, for no economic benefit. And, in the midst of it all, the head of the Provincial Livestock Service has said that stocks of vaccine to prevent the spread of *SE* have run out, having already been allocated to Sumba, Timor, Flores and Lembata. To boot, the budgetary committee of the provincial assembly deleted a proposed allocation of funds for the purchase of livestock vaccines. We conclude from all this that NTT's policy framework for the protection of its livestock is very weak, given that the outbreaks of *SE* are annual occurrences, which should be anticipated. (NTT has a similarly haphazard approach to the control of rabies which claims lives every year). The handling of the *SE* outbreak indicates that the government is giving no more than lip service to the idea of re-establishing NTT as a "Stronghold of Livestock Production" (*gudang ternak*). This episode should not be glossed over. With many infected carcasses lying around, *SE* could quickly spread further afield, threatening neighbouring areas. As a matter of urgency vaccine has to be brought in to contain the area infected. In addition, we should learn the following lessons

from this episode: livestock farmers must immediately report any diseases to local authorities; the provincial Livestock Service should provide vaccines not just in response to a situation but as a matter of routine; the tradition of raising livestock by allowing them to roam at will has to be modified; and the issue of how to provide fodder to fenced in livestock has to be thought through. There is something for all us to do here, if NTT's becoming a *gudang ternak* is to be more than a mere dream.. *(more)*....

5.3 Kupang Polytechnic's Pilot Plantation Receives National Recognition

Timor Express, 31/8/09

Kupang: The head of the science and technology/experimental unit of the State Agricultural Polytechnic (Politani) in Kupang, Zainal Arifin, said on 26/8 that several thousand people had now visited a pilot model plantation in Baumata village, Taebanu *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, the manager of which had received a "best practices" award from the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) in December 2008 for efforts to eliminate poverty in NTT. Kupang *Kabupaten* had great potential, Zainal explained, but because land cultivation had not been optimal, poverty had been the result. In May 2009 Kupang Politani had received recognition from the national Department of Education in the form of financial support for the development of other model plantations on unproductive land with potential in Kupang *Kabupaten*. Zainal mentioned Oenusu, Oesao, Oeteta, Oesusu, Sublele, Bipolo, Pariti and Amfoang as potentially very productive areas. *(more)*...

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

6.1 Village in Sikka Faces Drinking Water Crisis

Kupang Post, 29/8/09

Maumere: Benyamin Mirong, the recently installed head of Nelle Urung village, Nelle *Kecamatan*, Sikka *Kabupaten* (on Flores), told *KP* on 28/8 that there was a critical shortage of fresh drinking water in his village. Villagers had to buy water every day from a water tanker from Maumere. Those who could not afford to buy water had no option but to live off rainwater stored in a large water tank since the rainy season. Government assistance programs had so far been of little help. Benyamin said that he would be doing his level best to develop Nelle Urung during his period as village head.....*(more)*....

6.2 Villagers in Sikka Rely on Stream for Water

Kupang Post, 29/8/09

Maumere: Vitalis Julianus, head of Wai Hawa village, Doreng *Kecamatan*, Sikka *Kabupaten* (on Flores), has told *KP* that residents of his village have long since had no alternative but to fetch water from a stream to meet all their water needs, despite a government plan to pipe fresh water from a nearby water source to both Wai Hawa and the neighbouring village Nen Bura. He said the pipe works project was held up because of difficulties building a reservoir at the water source, resulting largely from the fact that the water source was inaccessible by road. Julianus said that, because his people wanted to have a ready source of clean and safe water, they were willing to help the contractor carry in sand and cement from the road to the reservoir site. But, to avoid future misunderstandings, Julianus would insist that the contractor first make the necessary arrangement with him and the people.... *(more)*

6.3

Village Facing Water Crisis in Belu

Timor Express, 31/8/0

Atambua: According to Vinsenius Loe, the head of Lo'onuna village, South Lamaknen

Kecamatan, Belu Kabupaten (in West Timor), the residents of his village are facing severe water problems because of the dry season. He told *Timor Express* that the village had a number of water source in the wet season, but they had run dry. Thus villagers had, for two months now, been fetching water from a nearby stream – the only remaining source of water – to meet their daily needs, but the flow of that stream was declining and it usually ran dry in October, posing a serious problem for villagers. There were in fact a number of sources of water in the area, but lack of pipes meant that water from them could not be reticulated to his or neighbouring villages. In 2007 a project to install pipes from Berewen spring had been started but went wrong. Pipes to a number of villages were installed, but so far no water had flowed through them. Vinsenius had registered his concerns about the water situation to the *camat* and he hoped that the *kabupaten* government could resurrect and complete the Berewen spring project...*(more)*...