



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. Any comments, suggestions or feedback on this clipping service are most welcome and should be sent to 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. 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>balita</i>	<i>(anak) di bawah lima tahun: child/ren under five years old</i>
<i>Undana</i>	<i>Cendana University Kupang</i>
<i>RSUD</i>	<i>Ruman Sakit Umum Daerah: Regional Base Hospital</i>
<i>Bulog</i>	<i>The Bureau of Logistics (responsible for the distribution and price of basic foodstuffs)</i>
<i>BLT</i>	<i>Bantuan Langsung Tunai: direct cash grants (for the poor affected by high fuel prices)</i>
<i>raskin</i>	<i>masyarakat miskin: (rice for) the poor</i>
<i>RTSM</i>	<i>Rumah tangga sangat miskin: very poor households</i>
<i>DPRD</i>	<i>Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah: Regional Assembly</i>
<i>PLN</i>	<i>Perusahaan Listrik Negara: State Electricity Authority</i>
<i>PDAM</i>	<i>Perusahaan Daerah Air Minum: Local Water Authority</i>
<i>KUR</i>	<i>Kredit Usaha Rakyat: Grassroots Enterprises Credit</i>

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

2 **General Economic and Development Issues**

2.1 **We Are Failing to Preserve Our Forests**

Kupang Post, 7/9/09 Editorial

Forest fires are a regular occurrence in NTT and indeed have become part of our way of life. It is as if we have not two but three seasons: the wet, the dry and the fire season (with the last two coinciding). Thus we have to recognize that we are failing to preserve our forests. There is a general state of apathy on the issue, within government, on the part of the security forces and in the community. The occurrence of fires gives rise to mutual recriminations but little else. What we all have to realize is that any wooded area, however small, has value. Firstly, preservation of our wooded areas helps protect water supplies. In addition, our forests are worth billions of rupiahs, given that the Forestry Service invests so much in its effort to develop NTT's forest – unfortunately with little effect, because of our penchant for burning off. If we could make a success of our Forestry Service's efforts, NTT would certainly be less barren than it is and would be as green as we all want it to be. As it is, NTT is one of the most desolate areas of Indonesia. To correct this situation there has to be a commitment at all levels to prevent the burning of wooded areas. In that way we be able to work together more effectively to fight fires when they occur and will gradually reduce the incidence of fires in out forested areas...(more)...

2.2 **Raskin Program No Solution to Poverty**

Kupang Post, 12/9/09 Editorial

Figures issued by the local Bulog office indicate that for the year 2009 103 975 tonnes of rice are available for distribution, under the *raskin* program, to 577 640 very poor households (RTSM) (down 7% on the number of recipients in 2008 and hopefully that number will decline in future years). Up to 16 April only 18% of that amount had been distributed (there being bottlenecks particularly in the *kabupatens* of East and West Manggarai and Nagekeo (all on Flores), as well as South Central Timor). A lot of government money is spent on this program, so we hope that *raskin* rice is distributed on time and only to those households which meet the criteria. Upon deeper reflection, programs like *raskin* and *BLT* cannot really be solutions to poverty. Such programs can lull people into a state of torpor, diminishing their desire to make an effort to improve their situation. Thus we can see the sense in the move of the *bupati* of Ende (on Flores), John Bosco Wangge, to exclude Ende from the *raskin* program from 2010, on the grounds that it does not motivate people to improve their life situation. Of course he will need to carefully prepare the people of Ende to dispel the effects of the hand out mentality induced by the *raskin* program. But we agree that these programs do not solve poverty. It would be much better to address of issues of employment, increase productivity and stimulate the grassroots economy by providing affordable credit to the lower echelons of society under the KUR¹ program...(more)...

¹ The KUR program, established in 2008 under Presidential Decree (Inpres) No. 6/2007, aims to provide affordable credit to stimulate the primary sector as well as micro, small and medium business ventures. (Ed.)

2.3 Economist: NTT Government Lacks Grand Strategy

Kupang Post, 18/9/09

UNDANA-based economist, Dr Fred Benu, told *KP* on 17/9 that he believed that NTT's government lacked a grand strategy enabling it to use the funds it allocates to the development of the grassroots economy (expected to amount to Rp86.9 billion (±US\$9 m) in 2010) to full effect in promoting the interests of the people. It was not enough, he said, merely to divvy up the money between the 13 provincial level agencies responsible for development. What was needed was a well implemented cross-sectoral, cross-institutional strategy, involving discussion with all stakeholders, so that agreement could be reached on the projects most deserving of support. Programs with a transformative effect should be given priority. "It is now no longer appropriate to hand out cash to people, as doing so has no educational value", he said. The government should work more closely with the banks to provide ordinary people with unsecured credit (rather than cash) – along with advice and extension services. In this way there would accountability and funds could have a real effect developmentally and later be re-cycled as credit to others. Another economist, Fritz Fanggidae, claimed that NTT's government lacked clear ideas on its development objectives. Their slogans relating to maize production, livestock, sandalwood and cooperatives were just that – slogans. The same applied to the acronym *Anggur Merah*²: it was just a slogan. In his view economic development that would work in NTT had to meet four conditions: be compatible with NTT's weather/climate; (in the case of commodities) already be familiar to NTT's farmers; be supported by technology and management techniques; and have economies of scale....(more)...

2.4 Governor: Development Carefully Planned and Coordinated

Kupang Post, 19/9/09

Asked to comment on the views of Fred Benu and Fritz Fanggidae reported in the *KP* on 18/9(see immediately preceding item) , NTT Governor Lebu Raya said that NTT's developments programs were based on the province's Medium Term Development Plan (RJPMD) which had been fully discussed across all relevant agencies and with the provincial DPRD. That plan accommodated the views of those who supported the eight areas of activity which formed its strategic program. Everything done by the NTT government was in accord with the RJPMD and nothing was done on a whim. He said he took great care to ensure that programs related to such areas as maize production, livestock, cooperatives and sandalwood were fully coordinated with the *bupati* whom he met regularly in various venues other than in Kupang....(more)...

3 Health Issues

3.1 HIV/AIDS Takes 195 Lives in NTT

Kupang Post, 9/9/09

The Executive Secretary of the local branch of the Commission for the Control of HIV/AIDS, Dr. Husein Pancratius, said on 9/9 that of the 646 people who had so far been recorded as contracting HIV/AIDS in NTT 195 had died. The *kabupatens* of Sikka (on Flores) and Belu (on Timor) were most affected by the disease with 40 and 39 deaths

²Translates literally as "red wine" but not in NTT! There it is an acronym of *Anggaran Untuk Rakyat Menuju Sejahtera* (budget allocations to promote public welfare).

respectively. Kupang Municipality was next with 31 deaths. Many *kabupatens* had scarcely been touched by the virus, viz. East Sumba and Kupang (each with 1 death from 3 cases); and West Sumba, Central Sumba, South West Sumba, Rote Ndao and East Manggarai (which together only two recorded cases (in West Sumba) and no deaths).
.....(more)...

3.2 Child Dies of Rabies on Flores

Kupang Post, 17/9/09

Ruteng: A 5 year old boy has died in Ruteng RSUD (hospital) after being bitten by a rabid dog in the village of Ka, Wali *Kecamatan*, Manggarai *Kabupaten* (on Flores). According to the *lurah* of Wali, the boy had fallen ill after being bitten on 13/6, but was transferred to hospital only until 7/9, when his condition was already critical. Efforts to save him had failed. Local officials told *KP* that an anti-rabies program was in place in the form of vaccination and the elimination of rabid animals. The mindset of some dog owners complicated the vaccination program as they hid their dogs to prevent their vaccination. The *Bupati* of Manggarai made the point that the elimination of rabies in Manggarai required an effective anti-rabies program throughout the whole of Flores....(more)....

3.3 Nine Cases of Severe Diarrhoea in Sikka

Timor Express, 16/9/09 Nine people with severe diarrhoea, including 6 children, are undergoing treatment in the RSUD (hospital) in Maumere. Hospital director, Dr Asep Purnama, said that a further 6 cases had been successfully treated and discharged. The incidence of diarrhoea indicated that a low level of awareness of the need for cleanliness persisted in the community, even though people continued to be apprised of its importance. He was concerned that more cases could occur in the coming period.(more)

3.4 Belgian Medical Team in Ngada

Timor Express 15/9/09

Belgian medical experts, comprising generalists, anaesthetists, eye specialists and dentists and arriving in four separate waves, in collaboration with the *Kabupaten* of Ngada (on Flores) and the Jakarta NGO *Yayasan VZW Bimesa*, will provide free medical service to some 200 patients (from throughout the *kabupaten*) at the Bajawa RSUD (hospital) from 18-25/9, 22-29/9; 11-18/10; and 16-25/10. The teams will treat tumors and various conditions affecting the teeth, the mouth and the jaw and will also perform plastic and aesthetic surgery on problems affecting the face such as hair lips...(more)...

3.5

Baby Dies of Diarrhoea in Bajawa

Kupang Post, 19/9/09

Bajawa: A 9 month old baby died on 18/9 of diarrhoea with complications in the Bajawa RSUD (hospital), Ngada *Kabupaten* (on Flores). The hospital is also treating 3 other children under 13 months old for diarrhoea. According to a doctor working in the Nangaroro *Kecamatan puskesmas*, also in Nagakeo *Kabupaten*, the number of those suffering from diarrhoea in the area increased during August and September and was up on previous years. There had also been a case of diarrhoea made worse by malnutrition. He thought the increase was attributable to problems relating to drinking water such as an increased presence of *E.coli* bacteria.....(more)...

(*separate report: Kupang Post*, 18/9/09) Between August and September 59 *balita* were treated for diarrhoea in the Boawae *Kecamatan puskesmas*, Nagakeo *Kabupaten*,

resulting in the declaration of an emergency situation. (One of the 59 later died in Bajawa hospital – *Ed.(see immediately preceding item)*). According to the head of the *puskesmas*, the outbreak could be attributed to the change of season, water problems, sanitation (including in many cases the lack of toilet facilities) and undernourishment which made children vulnerable to infection. *Puskesmas* staff had fanned out into the villages to provide treatment and educate the people on what to do to avoid infection....(*more*)...

4 Education Issues

4.1 Many West Manggarai Schools Have No Library

Timor Express 18/9/09

Labuan Bajo: Although there are schools in West Manggarai *Kabupaten* (on Flores) which have libraries, the situation is still far from satisfactory because many schools do not have them. Students themselves are becoming vocal on the issue, with one senior high school student submitting an essay on the problem in an interschool science competition in Labuan Bajo. An official has told *TE* that West Manggarai still faced many problems, one of which was the dearth of library facilities. He said the government was trying to equip every school with an adequate library, given a library's importance for stimulating student interest in reading and for making students knowledgeable and skilled members of society. . (*more*)...

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

5.1 Don't Be Ashamed to Eat Tubers

Kupang Post, 19/9/09 Editorial

In his Independence Day address on 17/8 NTT's governor again urged us not to be ashamed of eating edible tubers (*ubi*). Certainly tubers (along with maize and bananas) grow all over NTT: they are our local food. But the reason people in NTT no longer eat *ubi* as their staple food has little to do with shame and everything to do with eating habits and taste buds. Eating habits in NTT have changed so much that, if people do not eat rice, they feel they have not eaten at all, and running out of rice makes people worry about being short of food (*rawan pangan*). Thus campaigns urging people to eat local foodstuffs and emphasizing the nutritional value of those foods should continue, but they need to go beyond speeches and exhortations. Two simple steps could be taken to lift the profile of local foodstuffs: all government functions could be required to serve them and the permits issued to hotels and restaurants could stipulate that local dishes be included on their menus. Family welfare groups throughout NTT also need to become involved in the promotion effort and cooking demonstrations should continue to show people how to prepare appetizing meals using our local foodstuffs....(*more*).....

6 Infrastructure (Water, Communications, Roads, Electricity)

6.1 Kupang City Prioritizing Provision of Water and Power

Timor Express, 9/9/09

At a meeting with the local DPRD on 8/9, the mayor of Kupang, Daniel Adoe, said that, in response to complaints from city residents, the municipal government was now giving priority to the management of supplies of water and electricity to meet the city's needs. In respect of water, a team of PDAM municipal government officials were already

working together, *inter alia*, to keep the price of water down, making it affordable for all Kupang residents, especially the poor. Re electricity, he explained that the supplies currently available to Kupang were 4 MW short of the 27 MW required to meet existing needs. It was that shortfall which resulted in the city's brown outs and led many investors to steer clear of Kupang....(*more*)...

Kupang Post, 7/9/09: To overcome the shortage of electricity in Kupang which he admitted was a major deterrent to investors, Daniel Adoe said on 7/9 that he planned to acquire two electricity generators each of 1 MW capacity for the Kupang branch of PLN to enable it to supply more electricity to Kupang. He hoped that that move, as well as streamlined investment procedures now administered by a one stop shop for investors, would attract investment back Kupang ...(*more*).....

6.2 Water Problems in Numba Village on Flores

Timor Express, 10/9/09

According to an elder of Numba village, Ende *Kabupaten* (Flores), because of the difficulty they face obtaining water, local residents have for years had to rely on liquid extracted from the branches of banana trees to meet their water needs. He told *KP* that the nearest water source was 6 kms away and even its flow was minimal. A Rp250m (\pm US\$26 000) project started in 2007 to pipe water to Numba was never completed. Water initially ran through the pipes only once a week and then stopped altogether. The pipes were still lying exposed on the ground. The elder hoped that the *kabupaten* and the newly elected local DPRD member for Ende (Gabriel Ema) would address the problem (*more*)..