



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. Items from the Jakarta Post are abridged 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. 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>puskesmas:</i>	<i>community health centre (usually at kecamatan or kabupaten level).</i>
<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>PDAM</i>	<i>Perusahaan Daerah Air Minim: Local Water Authority</i>

1. Items of General Interest

1.1 Australian Oil Spill Approaching Rote

The Jakarta Post, 5/10/09 by Yemris Fointuna (abridged version – Ed.)

Huge volumes of what is thought to be crude oil, discharged from the Montara well head platform in Australian waters are currently approaching NTT, especially Rote Island and the southern part of Timor Island.

The West Timor Care Foundation Director, Ferdi Tanoni, told a news conference in Kupang on 3/10 that at end September the position of the oil spill was less than 51 nautical miles from Rote Island. "I believe the oil slick is getting nearer because the wind is blowing eastward and it is heading west so an estimated 500,000 liters of crude oil are likely getting closer to Rote and Timor islands," said Tanoni.

Director-General of Sea Transportation, Sunaryo, has asked the Tenau Port administration in Kupang and the Kupang Navigation Agency to immediately form a command post to closely monitor the spillage in the Timor Sea. A ship from the Directorate General of Sea Transportation is currently on its way to Kupang. The vessel will observe activities in the Timor Sea and determine the movement of the oil slick and impacts caused by it.

NTT Deputy Governor Esthon Foennay said in Kupang on 2/9 that the oil spill had raised grave concern among NTT residents, especially traditional fishermen who depend on the Timor Sea to earn their livelihood. According to Esthon, the provincial administration is responding to the problem seriously because the Timor Sea is rich in biological resources and abundant with marine life. The oil spill is expected to reach the shores of West Timor in the next two weeks. The Indonesian Navy dispatched a naval vessel on 1/9 to investigate the pollution as a follow up measure to the reports from traditional fishermen and the West Timor Care Foundation.....(more)..

1.2 Demarcation of Border with East Timor an Ongoing Process

Kupang Post, 22/9/09

Kupang: NTT Governor, Lebu Raya, said on 19/9 that work was continuing on settling outstanding border issues with East Timor, but there was no deadline for its completion. Issues in five areas (Imbate, Sumkaen, Haumeniana, Nilulat and Tubana (between Oecusse and North Central Timor *Kabupaten*)) remained to be settled. The NTT government was doing its best to ensure that a settlement was reached as quickly as possible to obviate the danger of future conflict along the border. Lebu Raya said that Jakarta must involve residents of the border area in the settlement process – and he called on Jakarta to do so – , as they best understood border-related issues. He acknowledged the particular problems currently besetting Naktuka village, Kupang *Kabupaten*, where 41 families of East Timorese origin had taken over and settled upon territory belonging to Indonesia. This was a difficult issue to resolve because of the cross-border marriages that had occurred when East Timor was part of Indonesia. The East Timor Government had even situated a border inspection post on the Indonesian side of a point where an Indonesian border security unit was positioned. Lebu Raya called on residents along the border to conduct themselves with restraint...(more)...

1.3 Indonesia, East Timor to settle border disputes

The Jakarta Post, 5/10/09 (slightly edited version – Ed.)

Kupang: A team from the National Survey and Charting Coordination Agency (Bakorsutanal) has arrived in Kupang for a joint survey with its East Timor counterpart in five disputed border areas of the two neighboring countries. A provincial government official, Yoseph Mamulak, said on 2/10 that the joint team would work until 28/11. The results of their joint survey, if approved by the two governments, would then help determine the new demarcation line that would conclusively define the border between the two countries. "We do not expect the joint team to encounter difficulties in the field. So we can put an end to the longstanding border dispute. But if the team fails to reach an agreement, the dispute will be settled through diplomacy," Mamulak said. The dispute concerns five border zones in the regencies of Kupang and North Timor Tengah. Mamulak predicted a tough debate over the Naktuka-Citrana area in East Amfoang district in Kupang regency. East Timor has, since 1999, built a new resettlement area on about 1,019 hectares of land that was previously used as agricultural land belonging to West Timor people.

2 General Economic and Development Issues

2.1 Anticipating the Threat of Food Shortages

Kupang Post, 10/9/09 Editorial

The Indonesian Bureau of Meteorology (BMKG¹) has announced that eastern Indonesia is about to be beset with an *el Niño* weather pattern. The Bureau predicts that this year's rainy season in NTT will slip to December (instead of beginning in November as normal). Indeed a rainy season starting only in January is not ruled out. Not all parts of NTT will suffer equally serious effects, but areas prone to drought (Timor, Rote Ndao and Sumba in particular) are likely to be badly hit. In fact, many villages in Pantai Baru and West Southwest Rote (RBD) *Kecamatans*, Rote Ndao *Kabupaten*, are even now experiencing the effects of drought, with 253 households in RBD already threatened by food shortages. To anticipate the effects of these weather patterns, all relevant government agencies and agricultural extension workers should avoid acting like firemen, i.e. hitting the road only when fires are flaring. They need to be proactive now, giving farmers the best possible advice they can on emerging weather patterns, what to plant and when, and how to avoid crop failure. Farmers must not be left to cope alone, as has often happened in the past. NTT is dubbed the "dry province", so we should have drought prone areas clearly mapped out so that, when drought hits, we can move quickly to help areas most in need....(*more*)...

2.2 Investment in NTT Up 1.85% in 2009

Kupang Post, 23/9/09 Report by Obby Lewanmeru

Kupang: Investment in NTT increased by 1.85% in 2009, markedly down on last year's increase of 5.11%. Prof Fedrick Lukas Benu (Undana) told *KP* on 21/9 that this decline could be attributed to a number of factors: the limitations of NTT's basic infrastructure and the facilities it can provide; issues relating to legal certainty; and the cost of

¹=Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi and Geofisika.

transportation within NTT and between NTT and other areas. Also relevant were issues related to the right to own and use resources (land, forests and water). These rights were frequently tied up with customary rights (*hak ulayat*), which tended to be a dampener on NTT's rate of economic development. But, Benu stressed, that need not be the case: there need not be a dichotomy between *hak ulayat* and increasing levels of investment. They must be made to work together and to both contribute to the welfare of the people. Another important issue, Benu said, were the continued existence of some local government regulations which impeded efforts to increase productivity and the flow of goods and services. The legal language in these regulations was not always identical, but its net effect was the same and, sadly, was often inconsistent with conventions which had been ratified at the national level. Correcting these internal problems was a pre-condition for increasing levels of investment in NTT...(more).....

2.3 Pertamina Donates Two Water Tankers

Kupang Post, 13/9/09

Maumere: On 7/9 Pertamina donated two 5 000 litre water tankers (valued at Rp600 m (±US62 500)) to be used to deliver water to needy people in the *kabupatens* of Sikka and East Flores. The vehicles were handed over to a local NGO called *Forum Komunikasi Generasi Muda Sikka* (FK-GMS) who was entrusted with their operation on a non-profit basis for the benefit of those in need. A Pertamina representative said the vehicles formed part of a broader effort by the company to contribute to the well-being of the poor in NTT. Other contributions this year were in the form of computer training for 400 teachers and support for programs for the health of mothers and newborns...(more)...

3 Health Issues

3.1 64 Children in One Area Identified as Undernourished

Kupang Post, 22/9/09

Mbay: The head of the *puskesmas* in Boawae *Kecamatan*, Nagekeo *Kabupaten* (on Flores) has told *KP* that as many as 65 *balita* (children under 5) have been diagnosed as undernourished in the *kecamatan*. In addition 13 of 60 pregnant women examined in September were assessed to be calorie deficient or anemic, because of dietary deficiencies. The children concerned all came from peasant families and had been neglected by their parents. 4 of the pregnant women were still being treated in the *puskesmas*...(more)....

3.2 Beware of The Changing Seasons

Kupang Post, 29/9/09 Editorial

We are now at the height of the dry season, when NTT is vulnerable to infectious diseases largely because of unhealthy living environments and lack of clean water in many areas, both urban and rural. But it is the period of transition from one season to the next which is of most concern from the health perspective. At those times not only our people but also the animals they raise are most vulnerable to disease. During the transition from the wet to the dry season, such illnesses as diarrhoea, skin irritations, flu, and respiratory infections threaten, while the onset of the wet season sees mosquito-borne diseases (malaria and dengue in particular) become more prevalent.

Because these weather patterns are as regular as clockwork, NTT should make sure it is fully prepared for them (forewarned is forearmed). That means that we should have clearly identified in advance areas that are most vulnerable. We should also have the medical teams and medication ready *before* the event, not scramble to get our act together when disease strikes. For example, the recent bout of diarrhoea in Belu, Alor etc should not be regarded as “normal” or localized – such outbreaks should spur other regions to take necessary preventive steps; similarly with recent cases of the chikungunya virus² in Alor. We should not measure the seriousness of a situation merely in terms of numbers infected, with just a few infections being regarded as “normal”. Nor should we regard one or two deaths as “normal” or hold back on declaring “an abnormal situation” in affected. The quality of our living environment is a shared responsibility, but our communities do not give it due attention. The difficulty obtaining supplies of clean water remains a serious issue in many areas. Righting the wrongs in these two areas (the environment and water supply) deserve the closest attention of all stakeholders, given their centrality to disease prevention. And getting the message out to the people about what needs to be done is as urgent as ever.....(more)...

3.3 Many Houses on Rote Lack Toilet Facilities

Kupang Post, 28/9/09

Ba'a: The head of the Ba'a *puskesmas*, Dr Mulat Daruranto, told *KP* on 26/9 that of the ±4 500 houses in Lobalain *Kecamatan*, Rote Ndao *Kabupaten*, almost 50% lacked toilet facilities. Even in Ba'a, the capital, many houses were toilet-less. As a result, people were defecating at will in bushland and undergrowth. Dr Daruranto said that a key factor contributing to this situation was the difficulty people had obtaining clean water. This situation was adversely affecting the health of the overall environment in which people lived. “What are people to do” he said, “if they have difficulty just getting clean water, needed too for flushing toilets?” So it was the supply of water that had to be attended to as a matter of priority. Only then could attention be turned to making good the environment in which people lived.....(more)....

3.4 German Doctors Perform Free Operations in Flores

Kupang Post, 19/9/09

Maumere: A team of German doctors, in collaboration with the local NGO *Yayasan Sosial Pembangunan Masyarakat* (Yaspem) with support from the organization *Smile Train Indonesia*, have performed pro bono surgery on 39 children (38 from Flores and Lembata; 1 from Nusa Tenggara Barat), suffering from cleft palate or cleft lip (harelip). The doctors, all on their first trip to Indonesia, performed the operations in Maumere Base Hospital (RSUD) between 6 and 18 September...(more)....

3.5 Lack of Resident Medical Staff Causes Villagers Health Problems

Kupang Post 24/0/09

According to residents of the village of Ngalupolo, Ndonga *Kecamatan*, Ende *Kabupaten* (on Flores), their *puskesmas* has not been staffed since its construction in 2005/06 and is now in a state of disrepair, as is the accommodation built at the same time to house resident medical staff. For reasons which the village head, Raymundus Ruu, said he could not explain, staff who arrived after the completion of the *puskesmas* complex were not prepared to live in Ngalupolo, despite best efforts to provide them all they needed. As a

² This mosquito-borne virus, also known as CHIKV, has similar symptoms to dengue fever and is endemic in parts of Africa and Asia.

result, Ruu said, although some medication was available and a doctor sometimes visited to provide treatment, the village has been no resident midwife or nurse. Sick villagers as well as pregnant women therefore had to travel 12 kms over a badly maintained road to Ende to receive treatment. In his view the government should simply tell medical staff to come to Ngalupolo and stay there...(more)...

4 **Education Issues** (Nil this issue)

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

5.1 **NTT's Sea Resources Seriously Underexploited**

Kupang Post, 11/9/09, Editorial

NTT's maritime zone is far more extensive than its dry land but the sea's potential is, for the most part, not being tapped to promote the welfare of the people, especially those living along the seaboard. Ironically most of the latter engage in agriculture. Thus the provincial government's *Gemala*³ (Let's Go to Sea) Program is spot on, but its implementation requires more than mere slogans. One hurdle – difficult to overcome – is our people's lukewarm feelings towards the sea. The government will need to provide concrete incentives to overcome those feelings and encourage people to embrace the *Gemala* program. In some areas, of course, thanks to incentives (in the form of credit, equipment etc) provided by *kabupaten* governments and private organizations, progress is being made: for example in the *kabupatens* of Sabu Raijua, Kupang and Alor as well as on Flores edible seaweed is being successfully cultivated, with beneficial effects on the welfare of the people involved. But *Gemala* has not yet captured the attention of all key stakeholders which it needs to do to succeed. The dearth of money allocated to the program in NTT's budgets is also of concern. The provincial government needs to lead the way on *Gemala* and be active in attempts to persuade *kabupatens* to implement it....(more)....

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

6.1 **Central Government Funding For Water for Destitute Villagers on Flores**

Timor Express 17/9/09

The Department of State for the Development of Underdeveloped Areas (KNPDT⁴) is providing funds in 2009 to develop water infrastructure for the village of Bangka Kenda (and surrounding hamlets), Wae Rii *Kecamatan*, Manggarai *Kabupaten* (on Flores) – an area with chronic long-term water problems. According to a *kecamatan* spokesman, Manggarai is one of only 12 *kabupatens* throughout Indonesia to receive KNDPT funds for water infrastructure this year. He said the funding (Rp850 m (±US\$88 500)) would be spent on the construction of infrastructure to provide drinking water to the Bangka Kenda area. A local resident told *KP* that the villagers were delighted with the plan as for years

³ =Gerakan Masuk Laut

⁴ = *Kementerian Negara Pembangunan Daerah Tertinggal*, part of the central government in Jakarta.

they had depended solely on rainwater, as the nearest water spring was 4 kms away. Also, past promises to supply water had come to naught – even a water project in 2006, which saw the laying of some pipe work had not carried a drop of water to Bangka Kenda.*(more)*

6.2 Villagers in Sikka Face Water Crisis

Kupang Post, 25/9/09

Maumere: Seven villages in Doreng *Kecamatan*, Sikka *Kabupaten* (on Flores) are in crisis over water. The local *camat*, Hilarius Heling, confirmed that the villages concerned relied on rainwater and that, when that ran out, they had to draw water from a stream some 3 kms away. He attributed the area's water problem to the deforestation which has occurred in recent years and thus he had been urging villagers to rejuvenate nearby forest areas. Heling told *KP* that funds available under the *Pamsimas*⁵ program were gradually resolving water issues in the area and he hoped that by 2010 the current water problems of the seven villages in the Doreng area would be resolved, thanks to that program...*(more)*....

6.3 Queuing All Day to Collect Drinking Water

Kupang Post, 25/9/09

Atambua: Since their well recently ran dry, the residents of the village of Weaituan, South Atambua *Kecamatan*, Belu *Kabupaten* (in West Timor) have faced serious water problems. They have long since had a problem with water, as their village is not connected to the water main of the local water authority (PDAM), even though it passes not far from their houses. But, luckily for them, the main has sprung a leak and they are currently collecting that leaking water to meet their daily needs for drinking and cooking – but sadly the main only carries water even second day. The villagers have dug a hole around the leak to catch the water and take turns to scoop it out and carry it back to their homes. But there are so many of them that they have to be prepared to queue for hours – sometimes all day – before being able to collect their share of the water. The women of the village expressed the hope to *KP* that the government would take pity on them and connect their homes to the water main. “The government urges us to look after our health” one said, “but how can we, if we don't have access to healthy water”... *(more)*...

⁵ =*Penyediaan Air Minum dan Sanitasi Berbasis Masyarakat: Supply of Water and Sanitation for Low Income Communities*: a joint central/provincial government program, supported by the World Bank, which aims to empower low income communities to improve the quality of their drinking water and sanitation, thereby enhancing community welfare by reducing the incidence of diarrhoea and other water borne diseases. *(Ed)*