



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 slightly 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. 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

BMKG
BKP
ISPA
puskesmas
musrenbang
Undana
translok

Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi dan Geofisika: Bureau of Meteorology, Climate and Geophysics
Badan Ketahanan Pangan: Food Security Agency
Infeksi Saluran Pernafasan Akut: acute respiratory tract infection
community health centre (usually at kecamatan or kabupaten level).
discussions with people (down to village level) on development priorities
University of Nusa Cendana, Kupang
transmigrasi/transmigran lokal: local transmigration/transmigrants

1. Items of General Interest

1.1 Outcry Over Pollution Resulting from Montara Oil Leak

Timor Express, 12/10/09

A spokesman for those with customary rights in West Timor, Rote Ndao, Sawu and Alor, Ferdi Tanoni, has called for the formation of an independent Australia-Indonesia commission of inquiry into the Montara oil leak, which has been spilling some 500 000 litres of crude oil per day into the Timor sea since 21/9/09. Tanoni told the press he believed that the Indonesian Government could not simply say that the problem was one for Australia to solve, given that pollution from the leak was already affecting the people of NTT, especially fishermen. He also criticized the NTT government for devolving responsibility for the problem on to Jakarta. He did not accept the assertion by the Australian Embassy public affairs spokesman that the type and quantity of oil observed in Indonesia's EEZ so far were assessed as not posing a significant threat to the ocean environment. According to Tanoni, Indonesian (and Australian) fishermen had already seen hundreds of fish lying dead in the water and Indonesian boats had picked up lumps of crude oil at points between 20 and 30 miles from the West Timor coast....*(more)*...

1.2 Government Should Seriously Address Montara Oil Leak

Kupang Post, 28/10/09

Kupang: *Undana* law lecturer Wilhelmus Wetan Songa said in Kupang on 28/10 that the Indonesian government, at the central and provincial level, should pay serious attention to the Montara oil leak because it was already impacting on local fishermen and farmers of edible seaweed. Indonesia should hold Australia responsible for the pollution occurring in the Timor Sea and seek compensation, if the evidence warranted.*(more)*....

1.3 A Second Oil Leak in Timor Sea

Kupang Post, 31/10/09

Kupang: Local community leader Ferdi Tanoni has said that an email from Australian Greens Senator Rachel Siewert indicated that an oil rig (owned by China's Sinopec Corporation), located 50 km from the leaking Montara site, had also been leaking for some time, but that the leak had been hushed up by the Australian government. Siewert said that details of the leak were only beginning to emerge. Her email adverted to reports of environmental damage occurring within Indonesian waters. Tanoni called on the Indonesian government to catalogue the damage done to Indonesia's marine environment....*(more)*....

1.4 Oil Leaks Threaten Marine Life

Kupang Post, 20/10/09

(This report quotes extensively from remarks made by a WWF-Indonesia spokesman relating to the threat to the Indonesian marine environment from the Montara oil leak. Particular reference is made to the danger of damage to the "Coral Triangle" (encompassing 6 m km² of ocean), which is the habitat for a wide variety of fish and marine life such as whales, dolphins, tuna and turtles; and on the likely impact on the Sawu Sea National Conservation Area. The damage bill could be very high for

Indonesia: 7 000 fishermen operate off the NTT southern coastline and NTT produces around 130 000 tonnes of fish and seaweed products annually –Ed)...(more).

2 General Economic and Development Issues

2.1 Villagers of Wekokak (Central Flores) Cry for Help

Kupang Post, 30/9/09

Mbay: 13 years ago a group of people who, in search of a better life, readily moved home as “local transmigrants” (*translok*) to Wekokak village, Asesa *Kecamatan*, Nagekeo *Kabupaten* (central Flores) were promised a family home and 3 hectares of arable land to live off, but up to now their dreams of a better life have not been realized. Indeed the situation of the villagers, who now number around 2 000, is parlous. *Inter alia*, they have to fetch drinking water from the Aesesa stream/river located ± 5 km away along a jungle path and, unable to fully cultivate their own land through lack of water, they have to eke out a living by working for a pittance as farm labourers in an adjoining village. Promised titles to the land on which they were settled have also not materialized. Indeed there have been rumblings that the traditional owners of the *translok* land want to reclaim it, making the community feel even more insecure. The poor quality drinking water has caused health problems like diarrhoea, skin problems such as scabies (affecting their goats as well) and acute respiratory tract infections. The villagers are appealing to the government for help. *(more...Report by John Taena based largely on interviews of two residents of Wekokak and the village secretary).*

2.2 NTT to Experience Lengthy Period of Food Shortages

Kupang Post, 26/10/09

Kupang: The period of pressure on food supplies in NTT is expected to last 5-6 months this year, compared to the normal 3-4 months. This situation has arisen, says the head of NTT’s Food Security Agency (BKP), Petrus Longaday, because of the need to put back this year’s planting of crops from end Oct-Nov to Jan-Feb. The delayed planting would result in a later harvest, now expected in April-May. Longaday said that, although some rain has started falling in parts of Flores, the falls were not solid and so farmers had been urged to delay the planting of crops. The best time for planting would be determined in consultation with the weather bureau (BMKG). In anticipation of the longer period of pressure on food supplies and the need for early intervention in areas of need, BKP was working on identifying the areas likely to be under most pressure, taking into account existing local stocks of food. Overall, NTT’s food supplies (exclusive of stocks held at the village level) were enough for the next three months. The government had also set aside 600 tonnes of rice for distribution to areas of shortage, if needed...*(more)...*

3 Health Issues

3.1 More Children Die of Malnutrition in NTT

The Jakarta Post, 9/10/09 (slightly edited version of original)

Seven more children have reportedly died from malnutrition in the past two months in NTT, bringing the total number of children who died from the same cause to 13 in the past eight months. With limited funding support, thousands of children in the province

are suffering from malnutrition and have been deprived of adequate medical care. Isbandria, nutritionist at the rehabilitation division at the local health agency, said that at least 5,287 children under five years old, out of a total of 404,900 in the province are suffering from malnutrition. "Most are in South Timor Tengah with 959 malnourished children, and 8,265 children are suffering inadequate nutrition consumption," he said on 9/10.

The central government had stopped providing food supplements for children since 2007, he said. The provincial administration had asked for Rp 57 billion (\pm US\$6m) from the Office of the Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare in 2008, but was not answered, which further impacted on thousands of malnourished children. The provincial administration had set aside Rp 2 billion (\pm US\$210 000) in 2008, comprising of Rp 1.5 billion (\pm US\$150 000) for nutrition intervention for malnourished children, especially those below five years old and Rp 500 million (\pm US\$50 000) for expecting mothers.

3.2 Child Dies of Malnutrition

Kupang: A 2 year old from Tarus *Kelurahan*, Kupang *Kabupaten* died of malnutrition in a Kupang hospital on 4/10. Another malnourished child (18 months old) from West Amarasi *Kecamatan* is continuing to receive treatment...*(more)*...

3.3 10 East Sumba Puskesmas Now Fitted With Delivery Wards

Kupang Post, 30/10/09

Waingapu: Over the past two years 10 *puskesmas* (7 in 2008, 3 this year) in East Sumba *Kabupaten* have been equipped with delivery wards thanks to the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Maternal and Neonatal Health (AIP-MNH). In 2010 a further 4 East Sumba *puskesmas* are scheduled to be similarly equipped. The hope is that these delivery wards, accessible to villagers who cannot hope for the services available in a town or city, will help reduce deaths of birthing mothers and newborns. East Sumba *bupati*, Gidion Mbilijora, commenting on the completion of 3 more wards this year said he hoped the AIP-MNH program would continue so that each *puskesmas* in his area would have a delivery ward staffed by at least a nurse, enabling villagers to give birth there...*(more)*...

3.4 East Flores Doctor: Controlling Disease - a Community Responsibility

Kupang Post, 6/10/09

Larantuka: According to the head of the East Flores Health Service, Dr Yosep Usen Aman, acute respiratory tract infection (ISPA), with over 30 000 sufferers (mainly adults), remains the most serious of the 10 diseases most prevalent in East Flores *Kabupaten*. Dr Aman said that to control this and other diseases all stakeholders and the entire community must be involved – health officials could not do the job alone. Diarrhoea mainly affected children because they loved eating bought snacks made from unhealthy ingredients (such snacks contributed to the death of one child in January 2009). Dr Aman said that East Flores would not be well placed to meet the indicators set down under the Healthy Indonesia 2010 Program, given the *kabupaten's* continuing poor record in respect of the health of birthing mothers and newborns as well as malnutrition...*(more)*

3.5 Controlling Malaria in Sikka

Timor Express, 17/10/09

Maumere: The Japanese Government has donated some 4 000 mosquito nets to the *Kabupaten* of Sikka (eastern Flores) in support of efforts to control the incidence of malaria in this malarial area. The nets were provided specifically for pregnant women,

mothers and babies in the villages of Egon, Nanga and Wairterang in Waigete *Kecamatan*. A local regional assembly member present at the handover ceremony stressed the importance of people being taught how to use the nets properly. *...(more)...*

3.6 Child Dies of Rabies

Timor Express 16/10/09

Ruteng: An 8 year old boy died in Ruteng, Manggarai *Kabupaten* (west Flores) on 14/10 after being bitten on the head by his pet dog in August. The family of the boy told *KP* that they had no idea that the dog was rabid. The boy, diagnosed as having rabies, was admitted to Ruteng district hospital (RSUD) only on 11/10 but the following day his parents asked that he return home to be cared for there. He received only one anti-rabies injection (less than the course of 4 injections normally required). The hospital director told *TE* that supplies of anti-rabies vaccine had run out, though pending the arrival of another consignment ordered in from Bandung, some vaccine had been borrowed from West Manggarai *Kabupaten*...*(more)....*

4 Education Issues (Nil this issue)

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

5.1 NTT Set to Export Cassava and Bio-fuel to South Korea

The Jakarta Post, 29/10/09, Report by Theresia Sufa (slightly edited version of original)

Bogor: NTT is set to export dried cassava and bio-ethanol to South Korea next year, with a predicted value of US\$1 million, a Korean businessman said in Bogor on 28/10. The value of the exports was expected to increase to \$101 million in 2012. Samyang IDB, a joint venture between South Korea's Samyang and national company IDB, has allocated \$40 million to establish 30,000 hectares of cassava plantations in West Manggarai *Kabupaten*. The company will also build a bio-ethanol factory costing \$10 million....The methanol bio-fuel and the cassava raw products, like dried cassava will be exported to South Korea, where the latter will meet demand for human and cattle food, glue, cosmetics, and pharmacy products. The company has opened 300 hectares of plantation this year to create seed-beds to supply 3,000 hectares in 2010 and 30,000 hectares in 2011. It has also opened 50 hectares of seed plantations in West Java. The company uses a cassava variety called IDB Superior Cassava (ISC). Each hectare will produce up to 100 tons, or three times higher than the present national average.

Last year Indonesia produced 21.8 million tons of cassava. Major producing areas include Lampung and North Sumatra. "We chose East Nusa Tenggara because it has major potential for cassava cultivation. And it is also very easy to obtain 30,000 hectares of land there compared to other provinces," said company director David Baek Wednesday.

According to Baek, the price of Indonesian cassava is very competitive compared to agricultural feed-stock from countries like Brazil and this would help to make Indonesian ethanol production lower cost than the sugar cane methanol method widely used in Brazil. The company is expected to hire at least 1,200 workers, at this stage.

On Friday, Baek signed an MoU with the Bogor Institute of Agriculture (IPB) covering fieldwork on a land survey, evaluation of the agricultural environment, and the formulation of a strategic plan for cassava cultivation in NTT. Lala Kolopaking, the head of IPB's Center for Development and Rural Areas Studies, said his office had suggested

that the Korean company should introduce cassava as an alternative staple food in the impoverished province, in addition to its export purposes.

5.2 Farmers Should Plant Drought Resistant Crops This Year

Kupang Post, 5/10/09

Kupang: Local weather bureau (BMKG) chief Haryanto told *KP* on 3/10 that, in view of this year's unusually long dry season, farmers of rain fed rice and other crops requiring lots of water should plant more drought resistant non-staple food crops (*palawija*) this season, in anticipation of dams and rivers drying up in some areas. Such action was very important to safeguard local sources of food. Technical government agencies should get this message out to farmers and in addition take every possible step to shore up local water storage and distribution systems. Areas requiring particular attention were Flores, West Timor, Alor and Sumba...(more)...

6 Infrastructure (Water, Communications, Roads, Electricity)

6.1 West Timor Villagers Face Water Problems

Kupang Post, 5/10/09

Oeana: Some 120 households in parts of Tunfe'u village, Nekamese *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, are facing a shortage of drinking water, because their wells have run dry, forcing them to either buy water from a tanker or fetch it from a stream about a km away (which itself is drying up). The village head, Jonson Taebun, told *KP* on 3/10 that this water shortage recurred every dry season. The poor state of the 3 km access road to the village was a further problem, making it very difficult for villagers to get water, market their produce and transport children to school. Despite repeated requests through the *musrenbang* process the government had not yet resolved these problems. (more)...

6.2 Dutch Provide Water Desalination Unit

Timor Express 22/10/09

Kupang: The Dutch Government has donated a mobile water desalination unit to the NTT Government through the agency of the Dutch company Hatenboer Water. The handover ceremony took place in Schiedam, near Rotterdam. The unit is transportable to wherever it is needed and can be operated by any power source (wind, solar or electricity). Experts from Hatenboer Water are to come to NTT to train people to operate the unit...(more)

6.3 Villagers Walk 3 km To Fetch Water

Timor Express, 20/10/09

Kupang: Some 2 000 residents of Nekamese village, South Amaransi *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten* are facing serious water problems similar to those experienced every dry season. In the absence of reticulated water, they are able to draw limited amounts of water for drinking and cooking from village wells, though the water quality in those is currently very poor. But water for other purposes (washing, bathing etc) has to be collected from a water source 3 kms away. The villagers also face considerable transportation problems given the very poor quality of the road to their village, a situation inhibiting their ability to market their agricultural produce... (more)..

6.4 Over 5 000 Villagers With Serious Water Problems

Kupang Post, 16/10/09

Kupang: Almost 5 500 residents of four villages (Fatumonas, Bitobe, Bonmuti and Binafun) in Central Amfoang *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, are experiencing water

shortages associated with the dry season. They have no reticulated water and their own water sources are almost dry. They therefore have to fetch drinking water from a slightly stronger running source 3 kms away. Water for other purposes (washing, bathing, watering animals) is too inaccessible to obtain, so they have to have to manage without it. The resulting situation seriously handicaps the villages' economies, as land is hard to cultivate and animals are losing condition and becoming thin. Each year the villagers request government assistance to overcome their problem, but so far a solution has not been found....(*more*).....