



**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. 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-fisher@homemail.com.au](mailto:d-fisher@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](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>Undana</i>	<i>University of Nusa Cendana, Kupang</i>
<i>KIA</i>	<i>Kematian Ibu dan Anak (Deaths of Birthing Mothers and Newborns)</i>
<i>puskesmas</i>	<i>Community health centre (usually at kecamatan or kabupaten level).</i>
<i>puskesmas pembantu:</i>	<i>Auxiliary community health centre</i>
<i>RSU(D)</i>	<i>(Regional) Base Hospital</i>

## **1. Items of General Interest**

### **1.1 Rainfall Becoming Less Intense**

*Kupang Post, 5/2/10*

Kupang: According to a spokesman of the meteorological office in Kupang, there need be no undue concern about the lack of rainfall in some areas of NTT so far this rainy season. He admitted that some areas had had sufficient rain, while others had had very little because of the adverse effect of El Nino and of a tropical cyclone to the south. He said that farmers, particularly in North Central Timor and Belu *kabupatens* (where farmers were particularly worried), should not to be unduly concerned, as rain would continue to fall, albeit with less intensity.

### **1.2 Indonesia Demands Compensation over Aussie oil leak**

*The Jakarta Post, 5/2/10 (edited version of original)*

Indonesia will ask Australia for compensation after the latter's oil rig leaked in Indonesian territory in the Timor Sea, says Indonesian Ambassador to Australia Primo Alui Joelianto. Primo said the demand would be submitted Feb. 22 when a team led by the Foreign Ministry visited Canberra. "We are still finalizing details to ensure the amount accurately compensates for the destruction we have encountered," Primo told *JP* on 4/2. "We have strong legal standing, given the extent of damage the spill has caused, and may continue to cause, to our country," Primo said. "The compensation demand has a basis in international law and it will not affect our relations with Australia." The Australian government said last year it would respond to the incident according to international law, including launching an inquiry into the accident. The inquiry will conclude its report in April. "To ensure that the environmental impact from the oil spill is understood and appropriately addressed in the long-term, a robust, scientific monitoring plan has been agreed between the Australian government and the company responsible for the wellhead platform," it said.

### **1.3 Minister & Military Chief to Hand over 1,000 More Houses for E. Timorese**

*The Jakarta Post, 1/2/10 (edited version of original)*

National Social Affairs Minister Salim Segaf Al-Jufri and Indonesian Military (TNI) commander Djoko Santoso are scheduled to officially hand over an additional 1,000 houses for former East Timor refugees in Kupang on 1/2. Of the 1,000 houses, 620 units are located in Kupang and the remaining 320 units are in Belu *Kabupaten* (West Timor). The houses were constructed last year under a program of cooperation between the Social Affairs Ministry and the military. Previously the government has handed over a total of 7,000 houses for the former refugees.

Tens of thousands people are reportedly still living in emergency barracks, and thousands of families still have no access to government assistance after the independence of East Timor in the 1999 referendum.

### **1.4 Naming Islands Not a Simple Issue**

*The Jakarta Post, 5/2/10 (edited version of original)*

No less than 300 unnamed islands in NTT may soon be wiped from maps due to conflicts regarding their names, officials say. An NTT provincial spokesman, Ricard Djami, said residents disagreed on the right names for unnamed islands. "Some residents want islands named after their ancestors but others want them named after certain animals," he said on 5/2. "These differences slow down the process of naming the islands." He said

the government would take the residents' wishes into account and would work hard to meet the central government's target to name all unnamed islands. In the coming months, a team from the provincial and *kabupaten* administrations will start encouraging people to agree on names for the unnamed islands, he added. "Once the islands are given names the list will be sent to the UN to ensure legal recognition and to make sure no conflict occurs regarding the naming," Ricard said.

## 2 General Economic and Development Issues

### 2.1 **Monkey Business**

*Kupang Post, 28/1/10 Opinion Piece by Ermi Ndoen, staff member of the NTT Provincial Health Service and member of FAN (Forum Academia of NTT)*

*(This op ed piece begins with a fable told by Pro W I M Poli (originally from NTT (born in Alor) and now a professor of economics at Hasanuddin University, Makassar) in a paper on development issues called "Monkey Business" at a conference in Brisbane some time ago. Underlining how apparently small facts can often highlight big issues, Pro Poli related how a well-intentioned monkey once messed things up totally by not understanding the basic facts of life for a fish. The said monkey lived in a tree beside a river and was close friends with two fish in the river below. One day a flood threatened to carry his friends downstream, perhaps to their deaths. The monkey could not stand the thought of losing his friends, so he fetched them from the river and placed them for safe keeping in his shelter high up in the tree. When the flood subsided, he went in triumph to his shelter to take his friends back to the water, and was stunned and saddened to find them both dead.....)*

*The author notes that Prof Poli argued that those responsible for development often act no better than the monkey. Well-intentioned actions do not always produce good results. Those responsible for development so often regard the people as knowing very little and as requiring help from others. They often forget to examine the life situation of those to be helped and overlook asking the people what their needs are. In the process, mostly unwittingly, (like the monkey) they stifle the people. He cites numerous development programs that have turned out to be white elephants. One such program saw toilets installed, at great expense, in villagers' homes. But it turned out that the villagers never used the toilets, as they were more splendid than the shacks they lived in and, more importantly, the villagers did not believe they needed the toilets, as they already had a time-honoured and entirely natural way of relieving themselves (in nearby streams of running water).*

*The op ed piece concludes by noting how often people's views are not taken into account in top-down development. However good their intentions are, those responsible for development must avoid treating ordinary people in the same way the monkey treated those two fish that he loved so dearly. (more)....)*

### 2.2 **The Role of Local NGOs in NTT**

*The Kupang Post, 2/2/10 Op Ed piece by Charles Beraf<sup>1</sup>, Lecturer, University of Flores-*

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Beraf is a catholic priest and a member the Society of The Divine Word (SVD). He is also a journalist and business director of the Flores Post. (Ed.)

*Ende and Pastoral/Business agent for PT Arnoldus Nusa Indah, Ende.*  
 (This long article of over 1 000 words gives a somewhat scathing critique of the role currently being played by local NGOs in NTT. What follows is a brief summary. Beraf gives a short history of NGO activity in Indonesia, underlining the independent (but restricted) role NGOs generally tried to take on sensitive issues during the New Order. On the theoretical basis of NGOs, he quotes T C Lindsey (Asian Law Centre, University of Melbourne) who argues that (i) NGOs' independence of government gives them more freedom to criticize both government and the commercial sector; and (ii) NGOs do not rely on government or the commercial sector for either their funding or their authority.

*Beraf then goes on to argue that the reality of NGOs in Indonesia, including NTT, is a pale reflection of that ideal. Despite the mushrooming of NGOs in NTT since the 1990's, NTT's development is stalled, facing as it does huge problems in such areas as nutrition, sanitation, beyond-school education, cultural preservation etc.. Worse still, in some instances, NGOs have become part of the problem of stalled development. Beraf then cites two cases of former NGO luminaries in NTT who were caught up in criminal proceedings in 2005 and 2007. Such cases, Beraf argues, should lead us to look more critically at NGOs, as it is quite possible that "empowerment of the people" could at times be a smoke screen for the pursuit of subjective interests, not least deriving personal benefit from donors. Beraf then gives a philosophical exposé on the meaning of empowerment. If an NGO is transparent and has clearly stated goals, all should be well and empowerment of the people should occur. But there is room for obfuscation and trickery as well, if goals are not clearly spelt out. Beraf concludes with a sort of proverb, which freely translated reads: "We have already slumped into poverty; let's not trip ourselves up further on the problematic NGO (escape) ladder"...(more))*

### **3 Health Issues**

#### **3.1 Many Dengue Fever Victims Treated in Kupang Hospital**

*Kupang Post, 29.1.10*

*Kupang: A spokesman for RSUD Kupang told KP on 27/1 that during January 145 patients (mainly children aged between 3 months and 10 years) had received treatment in the hospital: 81 for dengue fever, 60 for diarrhoea and 4 for malnutrition. 27 of those were still undergoing treatment (13 for dengue, 11 for diarrhoea and 4 for malnutrition). A hospital doctor commented to KP that there was an increase in dengue sufferers this year, compared to years gone by. She called on people to keep their living environments clean to deprive mosquitoes of places to multiply.....(more).....*

#### **3.2 WFP Biscuits Still Hard to Swallow, Probe Continues**

*The Jakarta Post, 3/2/10 (an abridged version of the original)*

*The Kabupaten of South Central Timor (TTS) has deployed a team to investigate strange objects reportedly found in biscuit packages donated by the World Food Program (WFP) to malnourished school children in the region. A number of primary school students in the area reportedly found sharp objects, such as broken glass, soft wires and threads, inside the biscuits last week. A similar situation occurred in Belu Kabupaten (West*

Timor) last year, which led WFP Indonesia to stop the aid and call for an investigation. The team looking in the latest reports comprises representatives from the Suara Sanggar Perempuan Soe Foundation, the distributor of the biscuits, and a number of related institutions. A *Kabupaten* spokesman said he hoped that the incident would not stop the aid, as a survey conducted by his administration showed the program to be beneficial to the students' growth....*(more)*..

### **3.3 2010 Work Program of Revolusi KIA Launched**

*Kupang Post*, 19/1/10

Kupang: At a ceremony in Kupang on 19/1, launching the 2010 work program of the Australian-sponsored Healthy Mother and Baby Program (Revolusi KIA), NTT Governor Lebu Raya said that up to December 2009, 14 of NTT's 21 district governments (*kabupaten/kotamadya*) had committed themselves to the KIA program. He called on every district to come on board. He stressed the importance of the program for reducing NTT's continuing high death rate among birthing mothers and newborns. He went over the figures again. Although the situation was improving slightly, NTT's death rates were still above the national average: in 2007 the death rate among birthing mothers nationally was 228 per 100 000 live births (compared to NTT's 306 per 100 000); between 2004 and 2007 the number of newborn deaths fell, at the national level, from 52 to 34 per 1 000 live births (the corresponding drop in NTT was from 62 in 2004 to 57 in 2007). Other figures from 2007 indicated that, although 88% of pregnant women in NTT received pre-natal care in health facilities, 77% of childbirths took place in the home (and 46% of those were attended by a *dukun* (traditional healer) and just 36% by a midwife). Lebu Raya said the goal was that within 5 years deaths associated with childbirth in NTT would be reduced to zero. An essential element of the strategy was that all mothers deliver their babies under the eye of medical staff in *puskesmas*. To help achieve that the government would develop a program to upgrade every *puskesmas* in NTT (to enable them to have in-patients) and *pembantu puskesmas* in villages (equipping them with better facilities and medical staff). *(more)*

## **4 Education Issues**

### **4.1 Undana and Charles Darwin University Sign MOU**

*Kupang Post*, 18/1/10

Kupang: Charles Darwin University (CDU) in Northern Australia and Undana signed an MOU on 15/1 aimed at fostering cooperation to enhance their respective academic and research capabilities. An Undana spokesman told *KP* on 16/1 that cooperation would take the form of exchanges of teaching staff and students, joint research projects, various degree programs (PhD, sandwich PhD, masters) and community service. Details of these programs were yet to be spelled out in an action memorandum. He said that CDU would shortly be hosting a 3 month joint research venture, involving researchers from Undana. CDU would also be offering English language training for Undana staff who needed it and who intended to do a higher degree at CDU....*(more)*

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

### 5.1 **Maize Production: Let's Not Repeat the Jatropha Fiasco**

*Kupang Post, 29/1/10 Editorial*

*(This editorial starts from the premise that Governor Lebu Raya's "jagungisasi"<sup>2</sup> program deserves support, but argues that it has been a mixed bag so far. It notes that provincial and kabupaten funding for the program in 2009 was as follows: (provincial level) Rp9.98 billion (±US\$1.1m), used in part for the intensive cultivation of composite maize in 1 690 ha in 10 kabupatens; supplemented by Rp.4.8 billion (±US\$0.5m) at kabupaten level, used mainly for the provision of tractors. The program's budget for 2010 has fallen to just Rp.1 billion (±US\$0.1m), given that equipment supplied in 2009 will be re-usable in 2010. The editorial notes that government reports on progress made do not always square with facts on the ground. In addition the program's "Gema Agung"<sup>3</sup> groups, which visit focus areas at the start of the planting season to ensure that all is well, have been largely ineffective. More broadly, at the village level, the program seems to have had minimal impact, as small farmers have not yet been taught to think beyond producing maize for personal consumption. But, above all, the editorial argues, there does not appear to be a ready (and profitable) market for maize produced in excess of consumption needs. That key issue has to be addressed, if the program is to succeed. "Let's hope", the editorial concludes, "that jagungisasi does not turn out to be another jatropha tragedy." In the latter case, people were urged to plant jatropha, with financial support from the government, only to find that there was no market for what they produced. That fiasco should be a lesson to the government in respect of jagungisasi.)*

### 5.2 **18 Villages in Central Flores Facing Crop Failure**

*Kupang Post, 4/2/10*

Ende: The late arrival of rainfall as well as insufficient rain have caused crop failure in several parts of Ende *Kabupaten* (Central Flores), particularly in the *Kecamatans* of Ende and Mauroleice. Maize farmers in 18 villages planted their crops at what seemed to be the right time, but lack of rain caused the crops to wither. The villages concerned were so far not facing food shortages as they are drawing on reserves. Income from other crops (cocoa, coffee and cloves) is enabling them to buy rice. But if enough rain does not arrive soon a precarious food situation could ensue.

### 5.3 **Lack of Water Threatens Enhanced Maize Production Program**

*Kupang Post, 4/2/10*

Statistical confusion has been something of a dampener on Lebu Raya's "jagungisasi" policy. The people were looking for a big increase in maize production in 2009, but were bewildered by conflicting figures coming out the provincial government and the local of the Bureau of Statistics (BPS). The former claimed that production had increased by 50% (from 600 tons in 2008 to 900 tons in 2009), whereas the BPS reported a 5.4% fall in production for the same period (from 676 770 tons in 2008 down to 676 112 in 2009). What can we expect in 2010? Several issues of concern were apparent during a recent

<sup>2</sup>="cornification": turning NTT into a premier corn production centre. This was one of Lebu Raya's major policy initiatives for NTT when elected governor two years ago.

<sup>3</sup>=Gerakan Masyarakat Agrobisnis Jagung (People's Movement in support of Maize Agribusiness)

visit by *Antara* to maize growing areas in several *kabupatens*: in a number of areas maize plants were clearly wilting from lack of water; in Ende (central Flores) 18 villages were reporting crop failure and on Sumba locusts were again attacking crops (as they have done over several years). In other areas farmers reported receiving inferior or damaged seeds and claimed not have been provided with promised amounts of fertilizer. Is all this a bad sign or is it just normal in NTT, where admittedly rain is still expected to fall until mid-February? In any event the government would be well advised to take action, for example, by looking at alternative crops in certain areas to ensure that people can continue to live....(more)....

#### **5.4 Locust Attack Crops in West Flores**

*Kupang Post*, 5.2.10

Labuan Bajo: Some 200 ha of wet rice fields in Watubaja village, Lembor *Kecamatan*, West Manggarai *Kabupaten* (west Flores) are under attack from locusts. They are also attacking nearby nut trees. The head of the local *kelompok* (small group of farmers) told *KP* that the area had often had a locust problem, but never as bad as this year. Farmers were trying to control the plague, but the number of locusts was not decreasing. They were therefore worried that yields would be drastically down this year. The problem had been reported to extension officers, but so far a solution had not been found.

#### **5.5 Locusts Afoot in East Manggarai**

*Kupang Post*, 29/1/10

Borong: 200 hectares of maize have been ruined by locust attacks in Ruan village, Kota Komba *Kecamatan*, East Manggarai (East Flores). The villagers have been able to do little more than stand by and watch, as technical help has not yet arrived. Ruan village head Antonius Sarong told *KP* on 28/1 that the locusts had also caused crop damage in the villages of Pong Ruang and Rana Masak. The head of East Manggarai's Agricultural Service has told *KP* that he has sent staff to investigate and will take appropriate action to eradicate the locusts.

#### **5.6 Locusts Also Active in West Timor**

*Kupang Post*, 4/2/10

Kefamenanu: Locusts are attacking maize, rice and peanuts crops in the *Kecamatans* of Biboki Utara and Ainiut, North Central Timor *Kabupaten*. Some 150 hectares have been affected so far. One village head told *KP* that the local Agriculture Service had not yet sent officials into affected areas to spray the locusts. In other areas where spraying has occurred the locusts have not been eradicated. Some people in the areas concerned are starting to go hungry and are asking the government to help with food...(more)...

#### **5.7 The Challenge of Raising Cattle**

*Kupang Post*, 2/2/10 *Editorial*

One has the impression in these days of regional autonomy (when local leaders (*bupatis* and mayors) are competing with each other to come up with their own unique programs) that, if a local leader is not from the same political party as the governor, he/she will not automatically support a provincial government initiative, irrespective of its merits. Thus the *Bupati* of Belu (in West Timor), Joachim Lopez, is to be commended for the concrete

steps he is planning to take in 2010 in support of Governor Lebu Raya's initiative to strengthen NTT's livestock sector with the aim of re-instating NTT as one of Indonesia's premier beef production centres. In fact Lopez is setting an example for other local leaders: programs of benefit the people such the cattle initiative deserve to be implemented *jointly* across NTT.

Lopez told the governor on 29/1 that as a first step he was aiming to increase Belu's stock of beef cattle to 10 000 head in 2010. Officials down to village level were already making a head count of productive cows, as taking care of those would be a priority.

There is no denying that development of the cattle industry is a real opportunity for NTT. Demand for beef is rising and 2010 has been set by Jakarta as the year when Indonesia should attain beef self-sufficiency. Although NTT has had a stellar cattle industry in years gone by, that is now just a memory. Our stock has been allowed to decline and our herds have dwindled. Considerable challenges (choosing the right breeding stock, water, feed, health issues, to name a few) have to be met to re-develop the sector. Governments at all levels throughout NTT have to address these challenges and allocate the funds necessary to resolve them. They also need to work with relevant livestock institutions and schools of veterinary studies. It is only with such a combined effort that we can.

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

### **6.1 Newly Built World Bank Funded Road Already in Disrepair**

*Kupang Post*, 14/1/10

Kalabahi: Two sectors of a World Bank funded road in Alor *Kabupaten* (East of Flores) completed only in 2009 have already become badly damaged and are now accident prone areas. When asked by *KP* to comment on the situation, a *kabupaten* official confirmed that segments of the road had indeed become degraded and indicated that the contractor who built the road had been asked to make good the damage. Although the contractor had tried to deflect the repair request, the *kabupaten* was insisting that the company do the work, as the warranty period had not yet passed.....(*more*)