



NTA
East Indonesia Aid

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@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 Acronyms in This Edition

UMKM	<i>Usaha Micro, Kecil dan Menengah</i> : Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
<i>puskesmas</i>	<i>pusat kesehatan masyarakat posyandu</i> : community health centre
<i>posyandu</i>	<i>Pos Pelayanan Terpadu</i> : integrated (pre- and post natal health) service post
pustu	<i>pusat kesehatan masyarakat pembantu</i> : auxiliary community health centre
<i>balita</i>	<i>bawah lima tahun</i> : (child/ren) under five years old
AIP MNH	Australia Indonesia Partnership for Maternal and Neonatal Health
Bappenas	<i>Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Nasional</i> : National Development Planning Agency
BMKG	<i>Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi dan Geofisika</i> : Bureau of Meteorology, Climate and Geophysics
<i>raskin</i>	<i>beras untuk rakyat miskin</i> : rice for the poor
DPRD	<i>Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah</i> : Regional Assembly

1. Items of General Interest

1.1 Mild Earthquakes Hit Eastern Indonesia

Jakarta Post 6/4/10 (edited version of original)

Moderate quakes jolted Saumlaki, Maluku and Kupang in the early hours of 6/4. No casualties or damage have been reported. The BMKG reported that a ...5.1-magnitude quake struck at a depth of 88 kms at a distance of 88 kms from Kupang...(more)..

1.2 Mount Egon on heightened alert status

Jakarta Post, 10/4/10 (edited version of original)

Kupang: The Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation Center (PVMBG) has raised the status of Mount Egon in Sikka *Kabupaten* to the second-highest alert due to increasing volcanic activity. "We can visually observe ash being spewed to a height of 25 meters from the crater surface," a PVMBG official said on 9/4. "We have informed the *Kabupaten* administration and requested they inform the public." Despite the new alert status residents were still going about their activities as usual. "Maybe the residents are used to this situation since the mountain has erupted twice in five years," he said. The 1,703-meter high volcano is located 55 kilometers from Sikka's capital Maumere. "In the past week, there have been 26-28 small quakes," Suryanto said.

2. General Economic and Development Issues

2.1 Extent of Crop Failure in NTT

Kupang Post, 8/4/10

On 7/4 NTT's Agency for Food Security (BKPP) gave the following overall assessment of the extent of crop failure currently being experienced in NTT. The percentage of estimated total acreage planted which had failed was 2.5% in the case of rice, 1.4% for edible tubers and 1.9% in the case of nuts. So far as maize was concerned, harvesting (which normally occurred in January) had been delayed this year until March/April but the hope was that production levels would be adequate. The BKPP official said that the crop failures were directly attributable to the weather. Normally NTT's wet season started in mid-December, but in some areas (northern parts of Sumba, the coastal areas of Flores and the southern part of West Timor) rain did not fall this year until January and

the rain that fell was of low intensity and frequency, leading to crop failure. The official said that NTT's governments had food in reserve to address food shortages. Apart from 352 tonnes held in store by the provincial government, each *kabupaten* or municipality had food stocks of 100 tonnes. ...*(more)*..

2.2 Drought Already Affecting Parts of West Timor

Kupang Post, 29/3/10

Soe: Lack of rain over the past 3 weeks in the south of South Central Timor *Kabupaten* has dashed farmers' hopes of planting corn to feed themselves and supplement their income. The lack of rain has also seen several rivers in the area run dry. Residents of the villages of Kiufatu and Toineke (Kualin *Kecamatan*) and Oebelo and Bena (Amanuban Selatan *Kecamatan*) have been particularly affected. Several villagers told *KP* that they were surviving on food from their storerooms, though some depended on *raskin* deliveries. A Kualin village official informed *KP* that 724 households in Kualin had suffered crop failure. To get by, those who had animals were selling them, while others had sought work elsewhere. The village chief of Bena told *KP* that of the village's 816 households only 20 had reaped a harvest because their plots were near a river. The crop failures are affecting school children, with some being sent home early and others being given food by teachers because they had not had food at home *(more)*.

2.3 Food shortages threaten thousands in East Sumba

Jakarta Post, 10/4/10 (*edited version of original*) (*similar report carried in KP on 12/4/10 Ed.*)

More than 30,000 families in East Sumba *Kabupaten* were awaiting government intervention to deal with the food crisis, with families consuming only banana and tubers over the past week, an official said on 9/4. East Sumba *Bupati* Gidion Mbilijora said that families would need around 700 tons of rice to deal with the food shortage. "I've written to the governor and the central government asking for rice assistance but have received no response," Gidion said. "In the meantime, the *Kabupaten* will use Rp 1.2 billion [US\$133,000] from the administration budget to deal with this problem." He said the 34,400 families experiencing a food shortage were in 121 villages. He also hoped that the provincial administration and central government would immediately assist in providing 100 water pumps for farms in 141 districts and 50 villages or subdistricts.

2.4 Saibu Raijua Facing Food Shortages

Kupang Post, 29/3/10

Kupang: The acting *Bupati* of Sabu Raijua told the press on 29/3 that the islands would face serious food shortages this year, as this season's rice and maize crops had almost universally failed through the *Kabupaten*. In the light of the situation faced, he was urging people to be frugal. His government had 2 000 tonnes of rice in stock, but this was not enough.. *(more)*

2.5 Yusuf Kalla: Red Cross to Play Social Role in NTT

Kupang Post, 27/3/10

Kupang: Visiting Kupang on 27/3 the CEO of the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), Yusuf Kalla, said that, in addition to its traditional role in disaster situations, the PMI should routinely play a social role. Absent a disaster, the PMI should busy itself helping communities overcome problems confronting them. In NTT malnutrition and health problems were recurrent issues and so PMI's NTT branch would be supplying plants (e.g. cashews and breadfruit) for communities to grow as a food source and would assist in

keeping living environments clean to reduce the number of malarial mosquitoes. .. *(more)*

2.6 Land Disputes Should be Resolved

Kupang Post, 30/3/10 Editorial

Fighting over land ownership continues to occur to a worrying degree in NTT. Most recently residents of the villages of Bondo Bela and Weetana in West South West Sumba *Kabupaten*, did battle, as they do almost every year, over disputed land boundaries. Some 500 people from Bondo attacked Weetana over the issue, with the ensuing conflict causing loss of life, injuries and damage to property. Although the issues involved are sensitive and not easy to resolve, the *kabupatens* in west Sumba need to work together and with the people concerned to settle the dispute. Local community leaders, both secular and religious, need to be involved in that process, as they best understand the psyche of the local people.

But conflict over land is also occurring in other areas of NTT, including on Andora Island (east of Flores), on Flores Island (in the *Kabupatens* of East Flores, East Manggarai and Ngada) and in west Timor (in South Central Timor and Belu *Kabupatens*). The length of time it is taking to resolve the cause of these various conflicts shows NTT's governments up as being slow to act. People must also be made to understand that taking the law into their own hands is not an option, as it basically amounts to vandalism. The rule of law must be respected by all. *(more)...*

2.7 Banks to Help Develop Small Business in West Timor

Kupang Post, 31/4/10

An MOU was signed in Atambua on 30/3 between the *Kabupaten* of Belu (West Timor) on the one hand and the Kupang Branch of Bank Indonesia and the Bank of NTT on the other, covering the extension of bank credit to micro, small and medium scale enterprises (UMKM) in the Belu area. Bank NTT CEO Adrianus Ceme said he was confident the proposed credit facilities would be effective, as Bank NTT already had 80 micro enterprises service units comprising around 3 000 people, including in the Belu area. The credit would be provided for cattle-raising and milkfish production, both regarded as areas of great potential in the Belu area. Describing the MOU as a positive step, Belu *Bupati* Joachim Lopez said that under the MOU his government would devise pilot cluster programs, with the banks helping with capital and the upgrading of the skills of those involved. He regarded the MOU as evidence that the banking sector was becoming more open. It was now up to the people to change their way of thinking by becoming more industrious and more "bank-minded". *(more)*.

2.8 Credit Flows to Small Enterprises on Increase

Kupang Post, 31/3/10 Report by Obby Lewanmeru

Kupang: Credit being made available to micro, small and medium scale enterprises (UMKMs) in NTT is showing a positive trend in 2010, according to the deputy head of the NTT Branch of Bank Indonesia, Ocky Ganesia. The BI official told the press on 30/3 that in February 2010 the amount of bank credit advanced to productive sectors of NTT's economy had increased significantly to Rp.6.57 trillion (\pm US\$730 m), \pm 22% up on the February 2009 figure. Around 75% of that amount, or Rp. 5.06 trillion (\pm US\$560 m), had been advanced to UMKMs. In line with growth in the economy, savings deposited in NTT's banking system had also reached Rp.9.3 trillion (\pm US 1 billion) by end February 2010, \pm 15% more than last February's figure. Total assets of NTT's banks had similarly grown to Rp.12.02 trillion (\pm US\$1.34 billion), a \pm 25% increase on their value a year ago.

Ganesia noted that there were now 214 bank branches throughout NTT, indicating banks' preparedness to reach all areas of the province and to play their role in stimulating the economy. ..(more)...

3. Health Issues

3.1 Nine Malnourished Infants in Kupang

Kupang Post, 27/3/10

Kupang: The deputy mayor of Kupang (Daniel Hurek) spoke at some length about malnutrition when he visited Kenari *posyandu*, Oebobo *Kecamatan*, on 26/3 which was treating 9 malnourished *balita* (one suffering marasmus). Factors contributing to malnutrition, Hurek said, included large families, poverty and clinical abnormalities. In addition, mothers were not adept at preparing healthy meals from local foods containing protein and vitamins. They more often opted for prominently advertised instant foods which were not nourishing. The saying "if you haven't eaten rice, you haven't eaten" was also unfortunate, he argued, as edible tubers, bananas and maize were rich in carbohydrates and good substitutes for rice. In handing over assistance to the malnourished *balita* and others in the community, Hurek said he hoped that his gift would increase their purchasing power and would be used to buy healthy food....(more)

3.2 NTT Way Down on Health Sector Workers

Kupang Post, 24/3/10

Kupang: In comments to *KP* on 22/3, the Director of NTT's Provincial Health Service, Dr Bria Seran, said that ideally NTT should have one doctor per 2 500 residents, with each *puskesmas* having its own medico. As for Sabu Raijua *Kabupaten* having no doctor at all¹, he and the acting *bupati* were looking into the situation. He added that ideally Kupang *Kabupaten*, which encompassed Sabu Raijua before the islands became a *kabupaten* in their own right in October 2008, should have provided medical staff for the new *kabupaten*. But Kupang *Kabupaten* itself had very few doctors (just 27). There was no doubt that, to fill the required complement of doctors and to entice doctors to stay in NTT, a special policy approach was needed to be developed, in conjunction with the national Ministry of Health. The approach being used was to have a mix of permanent civil service doctors and others. Some areas were offering special incentives for doctors. Dr Bria went on to say that NTT was also way down on the number of midwives and nurses it needed, leaving many health centres such as *pustu* without medical staff.(more)

3.3 Message on Neonatal Health Being Spread

Kupang Post, 25/3/10

A seminar in Maumere on 23/3, attended by 60 *kabupaten* officials, NGOs, community leaders and womens groups was told by deputy *Bupati* Wera Damianus that health service staff played an essential role in addressing *Kabupaten Sikka*'s three main problems: the health of birthing mothers and newborns, nutrition and infectious diseases (particularly HIV/AIDS, dengue fever and rabies). The seminar, funded under AusAID's AIP-MNH program, was put on by local representatives of the Association for the Empowerment of Women and Family Planning (BPPKB), guided by a presenter expert in neonatal health from Yayasan Melati Jakarta....(more)

¹ See *KP* 23/2/10 (summarized in *NTT Press Clippings* Ed. No. 34 item 2.6 (Ed.))

3.4 ECOSOC Study Queries Effectiveness of Nutrition Programs

Jakarta Post 27/3/10 (edited version of the original)

A study by an NGO shows that a number of the government's programs to combat malnutrition, as part of the millennium development goals (MDGs), have failed to produce significant results. Sri Palupi from the Institute for Ecosoc Rights said at a workshop in Jakarta on the MDGs relating to poverty eradication, infant mortality and maternal health that the government should improve the programs, as Ecosoc's studies of several regions revealed that, despite the programs, malnutrition persisted in some areas. One of the problems, she said, was that improving nutrition was too often regarded as a problem to be handled by the Health Ministry. "When nutrition is placed upon the health sector, the programs will be more towards curative matters, but the health approach does not address the living standards of poor families." Speaking at the same workshop Bappenas' head of Health and Community Nutrition said that Indonesia had seen improvements in the eradication of poverty and reducing death rates of newborns and birthing mothers. In 2007 Indonesia had reduced the rate of child malnutrition to 18.4%, but was making less headway on maternal health. There was, however, a problem with disparity among regions, as for example the child malnutrition rate in NTT in 2007 was still 33.6%. *(more)*

4. Education Issues (Nil this issue)

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

5.1 Australia to Help NTT's Cattle Industry

Kupang Post, 29/3/10

Kupang: NTT Governor Lebu Raya told the press on 29/3 that the Northern Territory Cattlemens Association (NTCA) had undertaken to provide breeding stock to NTT to help develop its cattle industry. The governor had just returned from Darwin where he had travelled with Agriculture Minister Suswono to take part in the NTCA's national industry conference. The governor had briefed the conference on NTT's cattle industry and his hopes for it and it was in response to that presentation that the offer of assistance had been made. NTCA representatives would visit NTT in June to work details of the proposed cooperation. The Governor noted that this had been his second visit to Australia this year, as he had been a member of the delegation accompanying President Yudiyono to Australia in early March... *(more)*...

5.2 Cattle Population to be Boosted by 5% by 2013

Kupang Post, 25/3/10

Kupang: NTT Governor Lebu Raya said on 25/3 that the NTT government was aiming to lift NTT's cattle population from the current 577 552 head to 722 823 by 2013. To achieve that target, the government would concentrate on lowering cattle death rates and augmenting calving, by reducing the number of productive cows being slaughtered and controlling the numbers being exported from NTT. Local governments would be encouraged to allocate funds to enable people to increase their cattle holdings by purchasing more stock or by artificial insemination, depending on the situation. He

committed the provincial government to providing funds for an additional 500 head p.a. over the next 4 years..... (*more*)

5.3 Livestock Dying Mysteriously in West Timor

Kupang Post, 26/3/10

Atambua: Between December '09 and February '10, hundreds of pigs and other animals (chickens, goats and cattle) have died suddenly and for so far unexplained reasons in the village of Tukuneno, Tasifeto Barat *Kecamatan*, Belu *Kabupaten* (West Timor).

Villagers told *KP* that they had really felt the loss because the deceased animals were about to be marketed. They felt uneasy because, up to now, *Kabupaten* officials had not come to immunize remaining healthy animals. The village head of Tukeneno confirmed to *KP* that he was aware of the problem and would very shortly be making a report to the Health Service so that it could come to look at the situation. One factor might be that all the affected animals were unyarded, but villagers had not previously experienced such problems with free roaming animals. (*more*).

5.4 NTT Needs to Regulate Manganese Exploitation

Kupang Post, 31/3/10 *Editorial*

In 2009 the Indonesian Parliament passed a new comprehensive law on mining (Law No 4/2009), replacing Law No.11/1967, precisely at the time investors were focusing on the exploitation of NTT's rich manganese reserves. The NTT governments managing manganese mining (in particular, the Provincial Government, Kupang Municipality and the West Timor *Kabupatens* of Kupang, Belu, South Central Timor (TTS) and North Central Timor (TTU)) have not exercised due care in the oversight of this process. Many NTT-ites have turned away from farming and fishing to become mine labourers, sometimes with disastrous results. Not a few people have lost their lives in the mines, without any apparent reaction on the part of officialdom. It seems that our governments are more interested in the royalties they receive from mining than the contribution mining can make to the welfare of the people. TTU's government, for example, openly boasts about the mining royalties it receives and does not shrink from granting permits, provided the royalties are there. And in all of this, the people's representatives in local DPRDs have been largely silent and have not spoken up in support of the importance of exploiting our manganese for the welfare of the people. Of late, students have been putting pressure on the provincial DPRD, which says it now drafting regulations on mining in NTT. Let's hope they give priority of place to the welfare of NTT's people. We endorse the idea that, if NTT is to derive maximum benefit from its reserves of high grade manganese, NTT needs to have its own steel plant which uses NTT's manganese as its basic input. We shouldn't allow our raw product to be shipped to Surabaya and exported from there. We acknowledge that the provincial government has already signed an MOU with a Korean company² to build a manganese smelting and purification plant. But if our governments were smart they would be talking to investors about setting up a steel plant and readying themselves to put in place the necessary facilities and infrastructure.

² Reported in the *KP* on 6/8/09 (report summarized in *NTT Press Clippings Ed. No. 25 item 5.2 (Ed.)*)

6. Infrastructure (Water, Roads, Electricity)

6.1 West Timor Village Short of Water

Kupang Post, 29/3/10

Residents of some parts of the village of Baumata Utara, Taebenu *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, have to collect their daily water needs from either a nearby spring or a stream two kms away. The village head, Piet Aome, told *KP* on 27/3 that a water reticulation system including a number of water tanks installed in 1992 had unfortunately never worked now purely ornamental. In the dry season, when the spring ran dry, villagers with household tanks had to buy tanked in water (paying Rp.70 000 (\pm US\$8) for 5 000 liters), while those without tanks had to keep going to the stream. The situation was having an adverse impact on health. Most of the villagers had toilets in their homes but they lacked water to flush them. Many also suffered regularly from dysentery.

..(more)