



**NTA**  
East Indonesia Aid

<b>NTA – Press Clippings on NTT</b>	<b>Edition No. 36</b> <b>24 April 2010</b>
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*Note: All the items from the Pos Kupang and Kompas 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 Acronyms in This Edition

DPRD	<i>Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah</i> : Regional Assembly
<i>raskin</i>	<b><i>beras untuk rakyat miskin</i>: rice for the poor</b>
BMKG	<i>Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi dan Geofisika</i> : Bureau of Meteorology, Climate and Geophysics
<i>musrenbang</i>	<i>musyawarah perencanaan pembangunan</i> : community discussions on development priorities.
UMKM	<i>Usaha Micro, Kecil dan Menengah</i> : Micro, Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
BKP	<i>Badan Ketahanan Pangan</i> : Food Security Agency

### 1. Items of General Interest

#### 1.1 **Atambua Bishop Rejects Military Battalions**

*Jakarta Post*, 23/4/10 (*slightly edited version of original*)

Atambua: Atambua Bishop Mgr. Dominikus Saku has rejected a plan to establish two military battalions in 2011 in North Central Timor and Belu *Kabupatens*. His objection is based on the fact that Timor Leste is a small country with a population of only 1 million which poses no serious threat to Indonesia. “The people are traumatized by the Indonesian military,” Dominikus said on 22/4, referring to human rights violations in the former province. On behalf of local catholic churches he has sent a letter to President Yudhoyono and the House of Representatives (DPR) to consider the cancellation of the plan. What local people needed, he said, was development in education, health, agriculture and other sectors to improve their lives. “Military officials have been insisting that the presence of two battalions will help promote economic growth in the area. In my view, nowhere in Indonesia would thrive in the presence of a large number of military members,” he said.

### 2. General Economic and Development Issues

#### 2.1 **Twelve *Kabupatens* Hit By Drought in NTT**

*Jakarta Post*, 21/4/10 (*edited version of the original*)

Hundreds of people in nine *kabupatens* in NTT have been hit by a severe food shortage following drought and harvest failure, the head of NTT’s Food Security Agency (BKP) said in Kupang on 18/4. “We have received drought reports from 12 *kabupatens* (East Sumba, West Sumba, Central Sumba, South Central Timor, Lembata, Ngada, Sikka, North Central Timor and East Flores), in about nine of which were in very poor condition.”

#### 2.2 **Speedy Drought Assistance Needed for Affected Villages**

*Kupang Post*, 16/4/10

Kupang: The Speaker of NTT’s DPRD (Ibrahim A Medah) told a press conference on 15/4 that he had urged the governor to render speedy assistance to villages hit by drought and food shortages. Help needed to be long-term, as the effects of the drought could last a year. The government needed to consider how to enable affected villagers to earn income to meet their daily needs, say, by enabling them to work or providing them with quick income earning animals to raise and sell. Medah also urged that special food stocks of 100 tonnes of rice per *kabupaten*/municipality provided by Jakarta be distributed immediately to those in most need.

According to a provincial official, provisional data indicates that 152 villages in East

Sumba *Kabupaten* and a further 31 in South Central Timor (TTS) *Kabupaten* are in a high risk situation and need help immediately. The governor was visiting both areas. Meanwhile the deputy *Bupati* of Nagekeo (central Flores) has indicated that around 1 400 ha in various parts of the *kabupaten* are facing possible crop failure....(*more*)..

### **2.3 Governor visits Sumba: Personally Checks Food Situation**

*Kompas*, 13/4/10

Kupang: NTT At the start of a visit to East Sumba *Kabupaten* in the evening of 12/4, NTT Governor Lebu Raya personally dropped into homes in villages along his route to check on households' food supplies. He visited further homes on 13/4. A spokesman told *Kompas* that the Governor could not personally visit every village, but in those he did visit he found people who no longer had any rice, though most had other food sources (chicken, pigs, or even cattle or buffalo). The Governor had sent teams to almost all *kabupatens* in NTT in response to reports that some areas were facing serious food shortages. The reports of those teams would determine what steps the provincial government would take, including approaching Jakarta for additional assistance...(*more*).

### **2.4 East Sumba: Bulog Brings in Extra Rice**

*Kupang Post*, 15/4/10

Waingapu: The head of the local office of Bulog in Waingapu, Immanuel Louk, told the press on 13/4 that the Bulog branch in West Nusa Tenggara was shipping 2 500 tonnes of rice to Waingapu to help meet food shortages in East Sumba. The shipment would supplement Bulog (Waingapu)'s current stocks of 1 000 tonnes (estimated to be enough to last one month). So Bulog was ready to meet any demand that was made. At present Bulog was busy distributing the 100 tonnes of rice (East Sumba's share of special rice stocks supplied by Jakarta).... (*more*)...

### **2.5 East Sumba: Rice Being Distributed to Drought Stricken Villages**

*Kupang Post*, 12/4/10

The *Bupati* of East Sumba, Gidion Bilijora, told ANTARA on 12/4 that rice (from the 100 tonnes provided by Jakarta) was being distributed, as a short term measure, to 56 villages in the *kabupaten* which had already asked for help. Each household would receive 14 kgs (only enough, he admitted, for about a week). He said he had made a request to the governor for more rice, as well as water pumps. Authorities in Jakarta had also been approached with a request for 2 000 tonnes of rice and 250 water pumps, the latter being needed for longer term development in the affected areas.... (*more*)...

### **2.6 Bupati: East Sumba Food Crisis Genuine and Very Serious**

*Kompas*, 13/4/10

Kupang: Responding to those who have alleged that talk about food shortages in East Sumba was part of the re-election strategy of the *Bupati* and deputy *Bupati* for the 3 June *kabupaten*-level election in East Sumba, *Bupati* Gidion Bilijora told *Kompas* on 13/4 that the food situation in his area was a humanitarian issue and it was unseemly to make a link between it and politics. The adversity being faced was beyond human control, he argued, and those politicizing the issue were playing games with people's suffering. People were clever enough to make their own choice at election time and were not swayed by such cheap swipes. Hard times had truly struck 150 villages in his area and they were now running out of food. The provincial Food Security Agency had assessed the situation and concluded there was a situation of serious need....(*more*)

## 2.7 Drought Situation Should Not be Politicized

*Kupang Post*, 19/4/10

A member of NTT's DPRD, Antonius Landi, has called on all concerned not to use the drought situation in NTT to advance political interests in elections to be held in 6 NTT *kabupatens*<sup>1</sup> on 3 June. He argued that drought in NTT was no new thing, but a regular occurrence. As soon as the BMKG had forecast problems with the wet season late last year, local governments should have been ready to act when things went bad and should not have waited until a month before a poll before moving into action. Jakarta and the provincial government should review what is being done to ensure that candidates for election do not make drought relief a campaign issue. If necessary, help for the drought affected should be brought together, to be distributed only after the 3 June elections...(more)

## 2.8 Further Areas in West Timor Facing Crop Failure

*Kupang Post*, 14/4/10

Kupang: The head of the Agriculture Service of Kupang *Kabupaten* told the press on 12/4 that information had been received indicating that around 4 200 ha in 5 *kecamatan* (Amarasi, Fatuleu, NW Amfoang, East Amabi Oefeto and Central Kupang) in the *kabupaten* were facing possible crop failure.... (more)..

## 2.9 Food Problems Looming in Belu Area

*Kupang Post*, 12/4/10

Atambua: Farmers in the village of Fatueti, Kakulukmesak *Kecamatan*, Belu *Kabupaten* (west Timor) are for now better off for food than many, as they have stocks of maize which will last until June. But their crops (both maize and rice) have failed, so they will face serious food problems between June and the next harvest (early 2011). The village head told *KP* that the villagers only hope was that they would receive *raskin* rice.

## 2.10 Sikka's Schemes to Supply Rice to Drought Stricken

*Kupang Post*, 12/4/10

The *Bupati* of Sikka, Sosimus Mitang, told the press on 10/4 that almost all of Sikka's *kecamatans* had been hit to some extent by the drought. Accordingly his government had set aside 200 tonnes of rice (dubbed *beras kerja*<sup>2</sup>) to be distributed to drought affected farmers in return for government organized work in their village (road repair etc). Those receiving *raskin* would not be eligible for *beras kerja*. Another scheme (called *beras infus*<sup>3</sup>) would be aimed at those who were not farmers, but who faced hardship because of the drought. The aim, Sosimus said, was to avoid having anyone go hungry in Sikka. Meanwhile, members of the provincial DPRD, who have been travelling around NTT during their March recess, have called on Governor Lebu Raya to declare NTT to be a drought zone and have urged disaster relief and technical agencies to get to and gather precise information on the numbers of people affected.... (more)

## 2.11 NTT Governments: Half-Hearted About Managing Disaster Situations

*Kupang Post*, 13/4/10 *Opinion Piece by Julius Nakmofa (Exec. Dir., People's Association for the Management of Disasters (PMPB<sup>4</sup> NTT).*

<sup>1</sup> Viz. East Flores, Manggarai, West Manggarai, Ngada, West Sumba and East Sumba. (Ed.)

<sup>2</sup> =rice for work.

<sup>3</sup> =infusion of rice.

<sup>4</sup> =Perkumpulan Masyarakat Penanganan Bencana.

NTT's governments come across as being half-hearted in their handling of natural disasters such the drought now plaguing NTT. Drought is a constant in NTT, as are landslides and floods. Good plans are needed to manage all of these, and that is what appears to be lacking in the case of NTT governments. For example, when governments came to know last year about the possibility of a foreshortened rainy season in 2009/10, they should have spread the word throughout NTT so that farmers could make adjustments for the planting season, going for more drought resistant secondary crops (*palawija*) or crops with a short maturation period. Priorities have to be getting information out about the weather and managing water resources (building dams or check dams). Our friends in government do a lot, but inter-agency cooperation is still weak. The local office the National Disaster Management Agency (BPBN<sup>5</sup>) comes in here. It should work on the basis that drought is a constant in NTT and develop effective coordination in advance of times of drought. And let's not forget the academics: what they study and research needs to be taken into account and applied..... (*more*).....

## **2.12 2011: A "Visit NTT" Year**

*Kompas*, 6/4/10

Kupang: The government of NTT is aiming to attract a million tourists to NTT in 2011, coinciding with the possible declaration of the Komodo dragon as one of the "seven wonders" of the world. The head of NTT's Tourism, the Arts and Culture Service, Frans Rihi, said in Kupang that, apart from the Komodo dragon, NTT had many other tourist attractions (e.g. the *Pasola* Festival in Sumba, *Caci* (whip fighting) performances in Manggarai and religious events like the Good Friday procession in Larantuka in East Flores). For 2011 each *kabupaten* was to have one special tourist attraction and one special event and many areas were making preparations accordingly. The Visit NTT Year would get a boost from a national "visit tourist attractions and museums year" also in 2011. A longer term hope was that the NTT's tourism sector would become an important stimulus for economic growth and job creation.. (*more*)..

## **3. Health Issues**

### **3.1 Hundreds of Babies Malnourished in West Timor**

*Jakarta Post*, 18/4/10

As many as 541 babies are suffering from malnutrition in the wake of the drought and failed harvests in South Central Timor *Kabupaten*, the head of local Health Service, Yuli Butu said on 16/4. The Health Service would provide the ailing babies with a 30-day program of additional nutritious foods should it have sufficient budget, but if no money was available, it would give health counseling to parents, she added. Yuli explained: "We really depend on the available budget to treat the babies with additional nutritious foods."

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

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<sup>5</sup> =Badan Penanggulangan Bencana Nasional.

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

### 5.1 Promising Peanut Project in West Timor.

*Kupang Post*, 10/4/10 Report by Julianus Akoit

The CEO of Bank NTT, Daniel Tagu Dedo, speaking at a get-together in the village of Bijeli on 8/4 to mark the initial harvest of a project financed by the Bank to grow a special variety of peanut (Garuda 2) in Noemuti *kecamatan*, North Central Timor (TTU) *Kabupaten*, has expressed pleasure at the way the project is shaping up. The area harvested this year comprised 40 ha in five *kelurahan*, which had produced 3.8 tonnes/ha (more in some areas), well above the national average of 2.5 tonnes/ha.

The manager of Bank NTT Kefamenanu's branch, Johannes Tadoe told *KP* that the Garuda 2 project was a sequel to a project originally launched in 2007 as the Nekaf Mese Project under of the aegis of Care International (CI), Bank NTT and PT Bina Mekar Tani. That project was showing real promise but came to something of a standstill when CI withdrew in late 2009. At that point Bank NTT offered to keep the Garuda 2 project going – an offer readily accepted by *kabupaten* officials.

At the harvest get-together on 8/4 Daniel Dedo said that he was so impressed with the project's results so far that he was very keen for it to be expanded and for the Bank to remain involved. Indeed further down the track he hoped that a peanut processing factory could be built in TTU and maybe elsewhere in NTT, obviating the need to transport the peanuts produced to Java for processing. Bank NTT stood ready to finance such a project, which would require farmers to work hard.

The *camat* of Noemuti told *KP* that local farmers were very impressed with the yields being obtained and so he expected 250 ha, perhaps even more, to be planted with Garuda 2 next season. ... *(more)*...

### 5.2 Animal Commerce and Disease in NTT

*Kupang Post*, 20/4/10. Opinion piece by Maria Geong, Officer of NTT's provincial Livestock Service and graduate of the School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Murdoch University, Perth.

*(This lengthy article (1 350 words) analyses the increasing incidence of contagious animal diseases throughout the world and their potentially deadly impact on animal industries. These diseases can have a sudden and devastating effect on livestock and can spread quickly from one area to another. The article takes a broad scientific approach to the issues involved, but hones in on the specific situation obtaining in NTT. The basic conclusion of the article is that NTT hasn't really begun to address the need for stricter health standards in the breeding, movement and marketing of animals and animal products. To have a strong, healthy livestock sector it needs to do so, something that will require the allocation of human resources and money. Following is a very brief summary of some of the points relating to NTT. Ed.)*

In NTT livestock is a key commodity and important source of income and can be traded freely in local and inter-island markets. But the majority of the stock involved comes from small scale enterprises which mostly deal in more than one species of animal. As these "back yard" producers do not have access to adequate animal health services, their animals are susceptible to disease. The free movement of these animals from place to place and into and out of NTT, for purposes of trade, cultural practices etc., without due consideration to health, is potentially very risky. If NTT does not put in place regulations

and good management practices (relating to production, movement and marketing of animals and animal products) based on sound animal health standards, it runs a high risk of its livestock being plagued by disease. These issues have to be given serious consideration by the government and the community as a whole...*(more)*..

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

### **6.1 Shortage of Water Reservoirs in Kupang Municipality**

*Kupang Post*, 13/4/10

Kupang: According to the *lurah* of Alak *Kelurahan*, Kupang Municipality, two of five water reservoirs built in his area in 2008, for the benefit of residents with long term water problems, are not yet operational. The issue was raised by affected villagers in recent *musrenbang* . Several DPRD members present at the discussions undertook to refer the matter to Municipal authorities. A DPRD member later commented to *KP* that DPRD members had found that reservoirs were also lacking elsewhere in the Municipality (specifically Lasiana, Fatuloa, Liliba and Kelapa Lima). ...*(more)*....