



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. All items from the Jakarta Post are abridged and edited versions of the original. Any comments, suggestions or feedback on this clipping service are most welcome and should be sent to d-dfisher@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. Back issues of this press clipping service can be found on the NTA website.

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Glossary of Acronyms in This Edition

BKP
puskesmas

Badan Ketahanan Pangan: Food Security Agency
pusat kesehatan masyarakat: community health centre (usually at *kecamatan* or *kabupaten* level)

pustu
SMP
Undana

pusat kesehatan masyarakat pembantu: auxiliary *puskesmas* (mostly at village level).
Sekolah Menengah Pertama: Junior High School
Universitas Nusa Cendana: University of Nusa Cendana, Kupang.

1. **Items of General Interest** (Nil this edition)

2. **General Economic and Development Issues**

2.1 **17 *Kabupatens* Facing Danger of Food Shortages**

Kupang Post, 1/5/10 (Tables inserted by editor)

Kupang: The head of NTT's Food Security Agency (BKP), Nico B Nuhan, told the press on 30 April that 17 out of NTT's 21 *kabupatens*/Municipalities were facing various degrees of risk of food shortages this year. The remaining four areas, i.e. the Municipality of Kupang and the *Kabupatens* of Kupang, Ende and East Manggarai, were still being assessed as at the end of April.

The information provided by Nuhan was as follows:

HIGH RISK AREAS			
KABUPATEN	VILLAGES AFFECTED	HOUSEHOLDS AFFECTED	NUMBERS OF PEOPLE INVOLVED
East Sumba	152	45 842	
Sikka (central Flores)	85	21 592	
Rote Ndao (SW of Kupang)	78	16 843	

MODERATE RISK AREAS			
KABUPATEN	VILLAGES AFFECTED	HOUSEHOLDS AFFECTED	NUMBERS OF PEOPLE INVOLVED
NTT as a whole	274	32 117	143 999
SPECIFIC MODERATE RISK AREAS			
Belu (west Timor)	74		
Lembata (east Flores)	36		
North Central Timor	35	6 413	26 917
Sikka (central Flores)	15	2 639	

LOW RISK AREAS			
KABUPATEN	VILLAGES AFFECTED	HOUSEHOLDS AFFECTED	NUMBERS OF PEOPLE INVOLVED
Belu (west Timor)	53		
North Central Timor	44	9 221	31 181
Lembata	37	2 058	

Nuhan said that *low risk areas* did not need emergency intervention, but rather help to empower local communities in the longer term. In those areas, any shortfalls could be

made good, including by distributing food already available within the *kabupaten* concerned. *...(more)*

2.2 NTT Food Shortages: ±9 000 Extra Tonnes of Rice Needed

Kupang Post, 1/5/10

Kupang: In a report to the Governor, the head of NTT's Food Security Agency, Nic B Nuhan, has stated that, to be ready to respond to food shortages in coming months, NTT needs to top up current province-wide reserves of rice (±2 800 tonnes) with an additional 8 979 tonnes, bringing total reserves to the level estimated to be needed to provide relief in *high risk* areas for 6 months and in *moderate risk* areas for 3 months. Estimates of the reserves needed were worked out thus: in all, 661 villages were at high risk (comprising 126 167 households)¹ and each of those households could require 2 kgs of rice per day for a 180 day period between Sept and Feb 2011 (amounting to ±10 450 tonnes of rice). In addition, a further 274 villages (with 32 177 households) at moderate risk could need relief for 3 months (from Dec to Feb 2011) again with 2 kgs per family per day (another ±1 300 tonnes of rice).

In areas of low risk (119 villages with 22 300 households), relief efforts would take the form of empowering communities to optimize local potential via increasing crop and livestock productivity levels. *...(more)*

2.3 NTT to Benefit Again from World Bank Funded Program

Kupang Post, 29/4/10

Kupang: NTT could receive up to Rp.601 billion (±US\$66.7 m) this year under the World Bank-sponsored National Program for Community Empowerment (PNPM Mandiri)², according to an PNPM spokesman in NTT, Jehalu Andreas. It was now up to each recipient *kabupaten* to allocate their share of the cost of what were joint central-regional projects. Andreas went on to say that a World Bank/Central Government review of PNPM had concluded that NTT was a success story: the program had strengthened the grassroots economy. The funds available to NTT had, accordingly, been increased for this year. But there were still problem areas, e.g. West Manggarai (west Flores), though problems areas in NTT were fewer than in other provinces. He hoped that the 20 *kabupatens* to receive PNPM funds this year would organize themselves to receive their PNPM funding on time. The problems of 2009 should not be repeated. *...(more)...*

3. Health Issues

3.1 Incentives Needed For Village Health Workers

Kupang Posts, 29/4/10 *Editorial*

We are all aware of the shortage of medical and paramedical staff throughout NTT. This situation obtains despite the government's commitment to providing better health services and its emphasis on recruiting health worker in each year's public service intake. A big problem is of course that a medical worker posted to an isolated village does not stay long, because of the difficulty living there. As a result many health facilities at the

¹ But see different numbers referred to in item 2.1 above. The *KP* does not elucidate the discrepancy. See also 5.1 below for yet another figure mentioned by Governor Lebu Raya. (*Ed.*)

² <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/PROJECTS/0,,contentMDK:22523276~menuPK:64282138~pagePK:41367~piPK:279616~theSitePK:40941,00.html> has a World Bank press release on the 2010 PNPM (*Ed.*)

village or *kecamatan* level such as *puskesmas* and *pustu* are always short of staff. Indeed some *pustu* have no medical staff at all.

But a close look at the numbers shows that we would not be too badly off in terms of paramedical staff if the existing personnel were more evenly spread. For example, Ende *Kabupaten* (central Flores) is short of medicos and midwives but, numerically, has enough nurses (308) for its needs. But uneven distribution of nurses leaves certain areas with no nurse. It is critical that governments find ways to distribute existing staff more evenly to make sure every health facility has some staff. Incentives should be offered to health workers (especially nurses and midwives) posted to isolated areas to entice them to stay longer. They should also be provided with the support facilities they need to do their work (e.g. motor bikes to enable them to visit people in remote areas). *(more)...*

3.2 Malaria Cases in Decline, Posing New Challenges

Jakarta Post, 27/4/10 *(abridged version of original)*

In an event marking Malaria Day on 26/4, the D-G for Disease Control and Environmental Health, Tjandra Yoga Aditama, said that Indonesia was making progress in the battle against malaria, but warned against complacency in the face of new challenges including drug resistance and environmental deterioration, contributing to the disease's encroachment into residential areas. Last year, the number of apparent malaria cases in the country was 1.14 million, 199,000 of which were positively identified as malaria. The data, cited during Tjandra's presentation at the event, revealed the number of apparent cases had declined from over 2 million in 2006.

But other data revealed that some drugs previously used in treating the disease were no longer effective.

As many as 80 percent of *kabupatens* in Indonesia are categorized as being malaria endemic. Highly endemic areas include West Papua, North Maluku, and East Nusa Tenggara. *(more)*

4. Education Issues

4.1 NTT Fares Worst in National Exams

Jakarta Post, 7/5/10 *(abridged version of original)*

More than 560 junior high schools (SMP) in Indonesia had a zero pass rate in this year's national examinations (UN), meaning all their students, should they wish to graduate, had to take supplementary exams to be held from 17 to 20 May, National Education Minister Muhammad Nuh said in Jakarta on 6/5. The subject which most students failed was English... Nuh said that around 3.6 m junior high students had sat the exams and 3.2 m or 90.27% of them had passed. The province posting the largest percentage students needing to take the supplementary exam (39.87 percent) was NTT...*(more)*

Mayor Ashamed of Kupang Schools' National Exam Results

Kupang Post, 8/5/10

Kupang: The Mayor of Kupang, Daniel Adoe, told *KP* on 7/5 that he was ashamed that of the 5 700 students who recently sat the National Exam (UN) in Kupang Municipality only 45% had passed (compared to 60% last year). Noting that two of Kupang's schools had had a 100% failure rate this year, he said that any state school with a 0 pass rate for three years in a row would be closed down. He sheeted responsibility back to schools

principals. If, after the supplementary exams from 17 May, a state run school still got less than a 20% pass rate in the UN process, its principal would be sacked....*(more)*...

4.2 School Principal with 0% Pass Rate in UN Speaks Out

Kupang Post, 8/5/10 Report by Apolonia Matilde Dhiu

Ratna B Saudale is the principal of Teladan Kupang SMP, a private school whose 9 candidates for the recent National Exam (UN) all failed. So she well understood why journalists targeted her when they came to her school on 7/5. She told them that she just wanted to close the school, but could not bring herself to do so, as her students (all from poor families) would have nowhere else to go. She said she had great difficulty finding funds for the school because students could not pay the fees charged by other schools. Her pupils' families struggled with feeding themselves, so how could they meet school associated costs (fees, books etc.)? She took issue with the education policies of the Municipal Government. Instead of using up spare capacity in existing private schools like Teladan to accommodate new students, it established new state schools or made existing state schools carry the extra burden. But Teladan was not a Johnny-come-lately – it had been functioning since 1969. She hoped that the government would not entirely overlook helping schools like hers which were really struggling to make ends meet..*(more)*.....

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

5.1 Agriculture Minister: NTT Should Establish Cattle Ranches

Kupang Post, 4/5/10

Kupang: On 3/5, during a visit to the *kecamatans* of East Kupang and Amarasi, Kupang *Kabupaten*, national Minister for Agriculture Siswono urged the people of NTT to establish as many cattle ranches as possible in NTT to help Indonesia to become a net meat exporter. Along with West Nusa Tenggara, Jakarta viewed NTT as an important area for cattle raising and was ready to help. Livestock farmers could obtain credit from the banks working in cooperation with the government in this area (Bank NTT had available credit to the tune of Rp. 60 billion (±US\$6.6 m), for example). Areas of particular promise for cattle raising in NTT were west Timor and Sumba. He argued that NTT should be more circumspect with its herd, avoiding the slaughtering of cows and the export of live animals. The aim should be to maximize the breeding potential of the heard and to export frozen meat. People needed to work hard to achieve these objectives. During a visit to the drought affected village of Oebolo, South Amanuhan *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, The minister handed over Rp9.2 m (±US\$1 m) (along with maize and green bean seeds) to the Governor Lebu Raya to support agricultural and village development in NTT. Just under half of the money (Rp4.5 billion (±US\$0.5 m)) was for the livestock industry, while Rp.530 m (±US\$58 000) was to help overcome food shortages.

On recent crop failures, the minister commented that what had happened was unexpected. It was important for the NTT government, at every level, to be honest about the situation and not cover anything up. Anyone in need should be helped quickly. The governor told the minister that reports indicated that 1 431 villages in 20 *kabupatens* had been affected. The situation was worst in East Sumba, followed by the *Kabupatens* of Kupang and Belu. There were 746 villages in the high risk category. 152 of those were in East Sumba, with

the others spread between the *Kabupatens* of Sikka, East Flores, Rote Ndao, and South Central Timor. (*more...*)

5.2 80% of NTT's Slaughtered Cattle are Cows

Kupang Post, 12/5/10

Kupang: Information from NTT's abattoirs indicates that 80% of cattle slaughtered for meat in NTT are female. NTT Governor Lebu Raya has stated that the government continues to do all it can to enforce the ban on slaughtering cows that are still productive. The ban is in effect in abattoirs, but slaughtering of cows and sale of their meat continue throughout the community. The governor acknowledged that people had various reasons for slaughtering cows, e.g. raising money to pay school bills, and in cases like that there was little the government could do. But it would continue to look for ways to protect NTT's cows during their productive years, so that they could be used for breeding, thereby augmenting NTT's herd.

Asked about the Agriculture Minister's call for NTT to establish as many cattle ranches as possible, the governor said that the initial focus would be on making existing ranches more productive (in the North Central Timor *Kabupaten*, Kupang *Kabupaten*, on Sumba and at Besipae (South Central Timor *Kabupaten*)). (*more...*)

5.3 NTT Seeks Compensation from Australia

Jakarta Post, 5/5/10 (*abridged version of original. Ed*) *Similar article carried in KP on 5/5.*

Fishermen in (NTT), facilitated by Care for West Timor Foundation (YPTB³), are pushing for compensation for business losses incurred because of an oil spill in the Timor Sea. YPTB handed over data on the slick to the Australian Investigation Commission (AIC) through its legal advisor in Canberra on April 30, according to YPTB director Ferdi Tanoni speaking in Kupang on 4/5. ...Ferdie said around 38 percent of Indonesian waters in the Timor Sea were affected by a spill at West Atlas oil rig from Aug. 21, 2009....The submission of complaints enclosed with the data on the spill had been sent to the Australian authorities as YPTB believed the Indonesian government was not so interested in resolving the issue, affecting more than 200,000 fishermen and hundreds of coastal communities in NTT. "The YPTB decided to file a suit because the central government, the provincial administration and the national mitigation team assigned to the oil spill were at loggerheads," Ferdi said. He added that YPTB had also submitted a complete investigative report on the ecological and economic damage suffered by residents in West Timor, Rote Ndao, Sumba, Flores, Lembata and Alor *kabupatens*. The catches of traditional fishermen had drastically dropped and thousands of tons of shallow water fish and whales had been reported dead. The crude oil spill has also destroyed seaweed farms cultivated by coastal communities in NTT.

5.4 Changing Future Food Security System: a Challenge for NTT

Kupang Post, 6/5/10 *Op-ed piece by Paulus Bhuja, lecturer in Biology, Faculty of Science & Technology, Undana. Following is a very brief resume of this 1 500 word article. (Ed.)*

Starting from the present situation of drought and crop failure, Bhuja asks whether NTT is prepared to try to avoid even worse situations in the future by confronting from right now the challenges involved in managing future food security issues. He refers to studies

³ =Yayasan Peduli Timor Barat

of NTT done in 2007 by the FAO and Care International⁴, both of which basically concluded that NTT's food and nutritional problems were due not just to drought but also to years of indifferent food security planning. Quoting from proceedings of a Global Conference on Food Security in Amman (1-4 Feb 2010), Bhuja refers to the potentially severe impact of global warming on the future productivity of primary industries (especially food production (wheat, rice and corn in particular), livestock and fisheries), particularly in tropical and sub-tropical areas. He concludes that, in the coming decades, NTT (more hard pressed to produce food and with less food available for import) could face worse food shortages and higher levels of malnutrition, unless forward-looking steps are taken right now. Such steps could include: decentralization of the management of primary industry production; development of more independent local groups of primary producers; harmonizing latest technology with traditional knowledge and skills; and maximizing the production of crops best suited to NTT's dry conditions (maize, root crops, nuts etc, but also sorghum, millet and Job's tears (locally known as *jali* or *sojeli*). The last three have been neglected for the past 30 years, whereas the WHO has called *sojeli* "food for health and plant for the future".

The wherewithal to meet these challenges is, for the most part, already in NTT. NTT has great crop variety. It has crops that can cope with hot, dry conditions. And it has farmers with a lot of traditional savvy. What is needed is a strong commitment to develop a sound strategy for the future (along the lines outlined in the article) and to not just talk about enhancing people's capabilities but actually do it.....(*more*)

6. Infrastructure (Water, Roads, Electricity)

6.1 Water Absorption Wells Being Installed in Kupang Area

Kupang Post, 30/4/10

Kupang: The Municipality of Kupang is to install 45 rainwater absorption wells (SRAH⁵) in three *kelurahan* (Naimata, Belo and Manulai II), according to Deputy Mayor Daniel Hurek. He said this on a visit to Belo *Kelurahan*, Maulafa *Kecamatan*, on 29/4 to observe the installation of a SRAH. Hurek explained to the locals that, by helping more water to be absorbed by the soil, Belo's SRAH would help the wells owned by villagers not to run dry of water. (*The article describes at some length how to construct SRAHs and points out that the wherewithal to build one such well is Rp3m (±US\$335.00). Ed)...(more)..*

⁴ Kieft and Sukarjo (2007) "Food and nutritional security assessment March 2007: Initial impact analysis of the 2006/2007 crop season in comparison to 1997/1998 and 2002/2003 El Nino events for the Eastern NTT Region" Assessment Report Care International. (*Ed*)

⁵ =Sumur Resapan Air Hujan. The basic purpose of SRAH is to reduce the rate of run-off of rain by trapping it in wells designed to help the surrounding soil absorb it. SRAHs serve the dual purpose of reducing flooding and increasing water table levels, thereby increasing water available (in times of no rain) in nearby drinking water wells. www.esp.or.id/2009/01/06/batukarut refers to a USAID-sponsored SRAH project on Java (*Ed.*)