



**NTA**  
East Indonesia Aid

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*Note: All the items from the Pos Kupang and Antara 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](mailto: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](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

BMKG	<i>Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi dan Geofisika</i> : Bureau of Meteorology, Climate and Geophysics
<i>balita</i>	<i>bawah lima tahun</i> : (child/ren) under five years old
DPRD	<i>Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah</i> : Regional Assembly
<i>puskesmas</i>	<i>pusat kesehatan masyarakat</i> : community health centre (usually at <i>kecamatan</i> or <i>kabupaten</i> level)
<i>pustu</i>	<i>pusat kesehatan masyarakat pembantu</i> : auxiliary <i>puskesmas</i> (mostly at village level).
Undana	<i>Universitas Nusa Cendana</i> : University of Nusa Cendana, Kupang

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

### **1.1 Earthquake Hits NTT**

*Jakarta Post*, Jakarta 17/5/10 (*Edited version of original*)

An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale hit NTT at 1651 hours local time on 17/5. The epicenter of the quake was 101 kilometers northwest of Labuanbajo, west Flores at a depth of 10 kilometers, the BMKG said on its official website. It did not have the potential to trigger a tsunami.

### **1.2 Australian/Indonesian to Conduct Joint Naval Exercise in Timor Sea**

*Antara*, 4/5/10 (*an abridged version of the original*)

Surabaya: Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) and Australian Navy (RAN) elements, grouped in the Cassoex-10 Task Force, left for NTT on 4/5 to conduct a joint exercise. TNI-AL's ships KRI Kerapu-812 and KRI Untung Suropati-872 and RAN warships HMAS Bathurst and HMAS Pirie are to be involved in the exercise, to start on 12/5. The Chief of Cassoex-10 Task Force, Lt Col Rudhi Aviantara, said that the ships would conduct joint exercises in the Timor Sea and later in Australian waters, eventually docking in Darwin. He noted that the two navies had already held several exercises under the codename Cassoex. Both navies considered the exercises mutually beneficial in terms of technical and tactical capabilities. (*more*)

### **1.3 Indonesia-Australia Naval Cooperation Important**

*Kupang Post*, 15/5/10 *Editorial*

Let's hope that joint Indonesia-Australia naval exercises like that currently underway continue into the future. Such cooperation will not only help preserve security but will improve lines of communication between the navies as well as friendship between the two countries. We all know that the waters between Indonesia and Australia remain sensitive because of continuing issues relating to boat people and illegal fishing which Australia frequently claims is taking place, especially around Ashmore Reef. Cooperation and bilateral exercises will hopefully help reduce violations of the joint sea border to a minimum. Such activity also provides an opportunity for naval personnel to visit each other's country. Thus crew members of the Australian ships have this time visited several schools in Nitneo Village, West Kupang *Kecamatan*, Kupang *Kabupaten*. All this is indeed something out of the ordinary because of the positive response it is receiving from the TNI-AL, the NTT government and Kupang *Kabupaten* which is already benefitting from Australian educational and other assistance. (*more*)

### **1.4 Dispute Sees East Flores *Kabupaten* Election Postponed**

*Jakarta Post*, 18/5/10 (*abridged and edited version of the original*)

East Flores (Flotim) *kabupaten* elections (scheduled for 3/6) have been postponed indefinitely because incumbent *bupati* Simon Hayon has refused to disburse the Rp 5 billion [US\$550,000] election budget after his candidacy was disqualified. A Flotim Election Commission (KPU) spokesman stated this, adding that the postponement was an administrative issue.... The conflict over the election began when the local KPU office agreed to a request from the provincial and central KPU offices to reinstate Hayon as a candidate after his earlier disqualification. Protestors accused the provincial and central KPU offices of interfering with local elections. Mass protests about the decision forced KPU to cancel the planned ballot that would have assigned candidates numbers for the election. NTT's provincial KPU has said that security conditions also contributed to the

decision to postpone the poll.

### **1.5 Sumba: a Surfer's Dream**

*Jakarta Post*, 16/5/10 Article by Agustina Wayansari, Waingapu, capital of East Sumba *Kabupaten*. (An abridged, edited version of the original).

I am not a surfer. I can't even swim. Therefore, joining a surfing trip to Sumba, the backwater island of NTT may seem a bad decision. But I had not been to the island and was in the mood for adventure, when in early April some Australian friends invited me to join a trip to Tarimbang, in the eastern part of Sumba. I could not help but say yes....

Sumba has all the right features to lure surfers. Tarimbang is only one of a few surfing spots on Sumba. Nihiwatu (in West Sumba), made famous by the movie *The Drifter*, has lost its charm and has become unaffordable for most surfers. Tarimbang's remoteness (three hours drive over a bumpy road from Waingapu) is a big draw card. It has a consistent swells and pristine white sandy beaches, a perfect getaway from overcrowded Bali beaches, though commercial accommodation is very limited and there are few things to do other than surf. But when I visited a group of Portuguese was shooting a documentary on the place. ..

The absence of any semblance of progress on Sumba can make a week-long stay seem like an eternity. Call me a city girl, I don't mind, but too many times I missed my Internet connection. The government of West Sumba is increasing tourism by developing cultural events such as Pasola (the war ritual festival) and other tourist attractions. More choices, other than surfing, would invite more visitors to East Sumba, especially those who are not surfers... (*more*).

## **2. General Economic and Development Issues**

### **2.1 Sabu Raijua Suffering Effect of Timor Sea Oil Pollution**

*Kupang Post*, 9 May 2010

The residents of Sabu Raijua *Kabupaten* are being hit by a double whammy this year: a long hot period with little rain (resulting in crop failure) and oil pollution suspected of reaching their shores from the Montara oil rig explosion off Australia in August 2009 (ruining hundreds of hectares (almost all) of their edible seaweed crops). Sabu Raijuans are well used to lack of rain. It was mainly that situation which led them to start growing edible seaweed a few years back, with pleasing results. The income they received from seaweed production helped them to meet their daily needs and educate their children. But this year they face particular hardship with all round crop failure. Their situation has been drawn to the provincial government's attention and help has been promised. But the people hope that their waters can be made clean of oil residue so that they can resume seaweed production.(*more*)..

### **2.2 Indonesian Cabinet Wives Assist NTT**

*Kupang Post*, 18/5/10

Kupang: A team from Cicendo Eye Hospital Bandung conducted free cataract operations on 213 patients in Kupang on 17/5, thanks to a program sponsored by the Association of Indonesian Cabinet Ministers Wives (SIKIB<sup>1</sup>), a group of whose members was visiting NTT. Another 55 patients underwent other surgical procedures – also gratis. A SIKIB spokesperson explained to *KP* that SIKIB's overall aim was to enhance community welfare in various parts of Indonesia in the context of a healthy, clever, caring, creative

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<sup>1</sup> =Solidaritas Istri Kabinet Indonesia Bersatu

and green Indonesia. Thus, apart from its efforts in the health sector, SIKIB was also sponsoring activities in and around Kupang in the areas of education, safe drinking water and the environment (the planting of trees)...*(more)*..

### **2.3 Social Solidarity and Empowerment**

*Kupang Post*, 19/5/10 Editorial

As a natural disaster prone area NTT has often benefitted from Indonesians' sense of solidarity. This was the case when an earthquake and tsunami hit Flores in December 1992, killing 2 000 people. And, of course, Aceh had the same experience in one of the world's worst recent disasters in Dec 2004. Solidarity is one our national assets – one we treasure and are grateful for. Our history is replete with examples of how solidarity has helped our people cope with horrible situations. It seems that the wives of our central government ministers (SIKIB) were following in that tradition when they came to Kupang on 17-18 May, helping many people by sponsoring a range of free surgical procedures. In doing this, they certainly set a good example for our leaders and all people in senior positions to follow. But our leaders have another, no less important role to play: they have to empower the people. In the longer term playing Santa Claus runs the distinct risk of lulling people to sleep and making them used to waiting for the helping hand of other people. This is not what we want. The main role and responsibility of government are to shape communities which feel empowered and self-supporting. Unfortunately, we see no evidence of programs like that being seriously implemented....*(more)*...

## **3. Health Issues**

### **3.1 Woman Gives Birth on a Bus**

*Kupang Post*, 15/5/10

Kupang: On 13/5 an expectant mother from the village of Oepoli, Ampfoang Timur *Kecamatan*, North Central Timor *Kabupaten*, gave birth on a bus en route to hospital in Kefamenanu (20 kms from Oepoli). She had to take the bus because the *puskesmas* in Oepoli, where she wanted to give birth, was closed because its staff were absent. But *KP* has been informed that, even if the couple could have used the Oepoli *puskesmas*, the woman would have had to deliver on the floor as the facility has not a single bed. The situation which led to this occurrence is being looked into by local DPRD members....*(more)*

### **3.2 Child Health: The Time for Disregard is Over**

*Jakarta Post*, 16/5/10 Op-ed piece by Amanda Stek, a political science graduate of Calvin College (Michigan, USA) and a World Vision Indonesia volunteer (*an abridged, edited version of the original*)

We live in a century that is quickly being defined by people's incredible ability to connect with other people and share information across distance and medium. ... Today, we rightly focus on public concerns such as climate change, rising food prices, disease pandemics, and regional turmoil. .... However, we seem to be missing the biggest health emergency of our time: the stark reality is that 9 million children are dying worldwide each year (i.e. one every 3.5 seconds). Many women are also dying because of complications with pregnancy. When you combine *balita* and maternal fatalities in ASEAN countries alone, they account for double the number deaths caused by the 2004 tsunami..., yet these deaths are not making headlines.

In Indonesia, over 500 *balita* die every day. There are wide geographical and socioeconomic variations. While the child mortality ratio in Indonesia is 44/1,000 live births, among the poorest 20% of Indonesians, the rate is 109/1,000 live births. In comparison, for the richest 20%, it is 29/1,000 live births. In NTT, dire poverty and lack of clean water, sanitation, and health facilities result in a high level of malnutrition among children (32 percent). In North Central Timor *Kabupaten*, 37.5% of children are underweight and more than half are stunted.

In 2005, the WHO reported that an estimated 536,000 maternal deaths occur each year worldwide (232,000 in South and East Asia and the Pacific alone). i.e. one every 2.3 minutes. The maternal death rate in Indonesia is still one of the highest among ASEAN member states. *(the author then makes an impassioned appeal for governments and society to take all possible measures to overcome these problems, an important item in Indonesia's Millennium Development Goals. (Ed.))*

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

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

##### 5.1 East Sumba Residents Demand Closure of Gold Mine

*Jakarta Post*, 11/5/10 by Yemris Foituna

East Sumba residents have asked that the local government revoke PT Fathi Resources' gold mining permit, claiming the company's mining exploitation is threatening the area's ecosystem and people's access to safe water. The protesters, who staged a rally in front of the *kabupaten* office on 9/5, urging the *Bupati* (Gidion) and the NTT Governor to stop the mining. They threatened to take the law into their own hands, if authorities failed to heed their demand. "We have given the provincial administration and the company a week to cease activities. If our demands are not met, we will continue to occupy the *kabupaten* office," said rally spokesman Yohanes Hamaduna in Waingapu on 10/5. The protesters threatened to forcefully stop all activities carried out by PT Fathi Resources, which began mining operations early this year in the Laiwanggi Wanggameti National Park in the Pinu Pahar district of East Sumba... Separately, Gidion said he had asked the protesters to convey their aspirations peacefully without having to stay the night at the office. He promised he would revise the mining permit if he found irregularities.

...(more)..

##### 5.2 Oil and Gas Reserves Off West Timor Being Explored

*Kupang Post*, 26/5/10

Kupang: A delegation from the oil company Eni West Timor<sup>2</sup> met with Deputy Governor Esthon Foenay on 25/5 to discuss issues relating to its exploration of hydrocarbon reserves off the south coast of West Timor (at Kolbano), South Central Timor (TTS) *Kabupaten*. Foenay told *KP* that the company had won a central government tender covering the reserves. The exploration period could be as long as three years before exploitation began. Exploration activities would affect three *kecamatan*s in TTS: Kolbano, South Amanuban and Boking. The reserves were estimated to be located just

<sup>2</sup> *KP* first reported on this company's activities in NTT on 15/7/09 (see item 5.1 in *NTT Press Clipping Service, Edit. No. 23*). In that report Eni West Timor, described as a subsidiary of the Italian-based Eni Spa (a large oil company with activities spanning 70 countries), was said to be actively surveying areas of interest in the *kabupatens* of Kupang and South Central Timor.

20 meters off-shore and to stretch 20 miles into the Timor Sea. Foenay noted that the company had already been involved in community welfare activities, facilitating a number of cleft lip operations and evacuating several patients to Italy for surgical procedures...*(more)*..

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

### **6.1 Fixing NTT's Transportation Sector: a Serious Issue**

*Kupang Post, 12/5/10 Editorial*

Development of NTT's transportation sector, be it land, sea or air, can only be described as minimal or poor. The problem is very noticeable to people from outside, particularly investors, no matter what area they visit. But the shortcomings are most obvious in new *kabupatens* like Central Sumba, Southwest Sumba, Lembata and Nagakeo (both on Flores), and Sabu Raijua. We NTT-ites give the impression of still living in the 1970's. And indeed we do, as transporting both goods and people – be it by road, sea or air – often involves delays of weeks, even months. But lack of physical access *ipso facto* means that economic development is hamstrung or non-existent. It follows that the full potential of NTT (crops, livestock, seaweed etc), which we constantly crow about, cannot be realized, if we do not have a transportation system which can move goods and people quickly and on time.

To overcome this problem NTT's governments, particularly *kabupatens*, have to allocate funds each year for transportation programs. Priority should be given to land transportation, focusing on infrastructure (roads, bridges etc) reaching out to areas with economic potential which are now isolated. Ditto with sea transportation, which is essential for a province of islands like ours. Although reasonable infrastructure (ports and wharves) has been developed in almost all *kabupatens*, it is not supported by comprehensive or evenly-spread facilities – a problem deserving serious governmental attention. Admittedly a good start has been made in conjunction with PT Feri Indonesia, but people are still irritated by the limited capacity (for both goods and passengers) of available services. Much also needs to be done to improve air transportation. We are grateful to TransNusa Air for the outreach is now provides and hope that Lion Air and Wings Air will shortly supplement their efforts. *(more)*

### **6.2 100 Households near Kupang Finally have Drinking Water on Tap**

*Kupang Post, 17/5/10*

Kupang: 100 households in Oebobo *Kelurahan*, Kupang Municipality, now finally have water on tap thanks to the Pamsimas<sup>3</sup> program. Up to now the villagers have been plagued with water problems, having to fetch water from a nearby water source or buy tanked-in water. Villagers told *KP* that the local water authority (PDAM) had never run pipes to their area, even though a large reservoir was not far away. In fact not so long ago the dam had broken its banks and flooded the villagers' homes. Pamsimas had enabled the residents to pump water from a nearby water source via an elevated tank to

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<sup>3</sup> =*Penyediaan Air Minum dan Sanitasi Berbasis Masyarakat: Supply of Water and Sanitation for Low Income Communities*: a joint central/provincial government program, supported by the World Bank, which aims to empower low income communities to improve the quality of their drinking water and sanitation, thereby enhancing community welfare by reducing the incidence of diarrhoea and other water borne diseases. *(Ed)*

three communal taps in the village. The residents were really feeling the difference, though they had not yet worked out how to defray the ongoing costs of pumping the water and maintaining the system....(*more*)..