



**NTA**  
East Indonesia Aid

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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. 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**

TTS	<i>Timor Tengah Selatan Kabupaten</i> : South Central Timor <i>Kabupaten</i> .
TTU	<i>Timor Tengah Utara Kabupaten</i> : North Central Timor <i>Kabupaten</i>
Undana	<i>Universitas Nusa Cendana</i> : University of Nusa Cendana, Kupang
BMKG	<i>Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi dan Geofisika</i> : Bureau of Meteorology, Climate and Geophysics
PDAM	<i>Perusahaan Daerah Air Minum</i> : Local Water Authority
PLN	<i>Perusahaan Listrik Negara</i> : State Electricity Authority
DPRD	<i>Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah</i> : Regional Assembly

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

### **1.1 Thousands of Households Inundated in West Timor**

*Kupang Post*, 5/7/10

Kupang: Despite the commencement of the dry season, some 4 000 households (comprising almost 16 000 people) in southern Belu *Kabupaten* (west Timor) have experienced three days of serious flooding, because of unseasonal heavy rain in south west Timor (affecting the *Kabupatens* of Belu, TTS and TTU). The flooding has damaged crops, livestock and infrastructure including roads and bridges. According to a spokesman, the local government is distributing emergency help to people adversely affected by the flooding, which occurred in low lying areas previously hit by serious flooding (most notably in 2001)...*(more)*..

### **1.2 Take Care in NTT's Topsy-turvy Weather**

*Kupang Post*, 6/7/10

A Bureau of Meteorology official warned NTT-ites on 5/7 to be wary of sporadic anomalous weather in NTT. He said that, due to unusual meteorological factors (high pressure and monsoonal conditions in Australia), NTT was currently experiencing strong winds, rain and high seas. *Inter alia*, the high winds have disrupted ferry services and unusually heavy rain has caused flooding in Belu.... *(more)*..

### **1.3 Boat People Detained in NTT**

*Jakarta Post*, 9/7/10 (*edited version of original. Similar article with more details appeared in KP on 8/7/10. -Ed*)

Kupang: On 6/7 police detained 34 Iranians and 32 Afghanis cast ashore on Rote Ndao by 3 m high waves while on their way to Australia. According to police, four of the stranded boat people were women and five were toddlers. They told police they had left their country because of political turmoil and war. Police statistics show that about 9,000 boat people from the Middle East on their way to Australia have been detained in various areas in Indonesia so far this year.

### **1.4 Illegal Immigrants Relocated to Kupang**

*Jakarta Post*, 11/7/10 (*Edited version of original. Similar more detailed article carried in KP*)

On 27/6 East Sumba police arrested 82 illegal immigrants from Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran who had escaped from a holding centre in Cisarua (West Java) last month. According to police, the arrest occurred when the foreigners' boat became stranded off Sumba, while they were leaving for Australia with help from a local resident. 78 of them

had been relocated to an immigration detention centre in Kupang, to facilitate assessment by UNHCR. The other 4 were still at large.

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

### **2.1 Thai Company to be Asked to Pay Damages for Oil Spill**

*Jakarta Post*, 16/7/10 (edited version of original)

Indonesia and Australia will demand that a Thai oil-rig operator, PTTEP Australasia (a subsidiary of the Thai oil and gas company PTT), be held responsible for an oil spill in the Timor Sea that damaged the environment of nearby Indonesian territory. Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa made this statement after a meeting with his Australian counterpart Stephen Smith on 15/7. The company's oil platform exploded and spilled more than 500,000 liters of crude oil each day into in the Timor Sea in August 2009. Thirty-eight percent of Indonesia's sea territory in the Timor Sea was affected by the spill, local fishermen's catches dropped and thousands of tons of shallow water fish and whales died. The spill also destroyed seaweed farms cultivated by coastal communities in NTT. It will take years to clean up the spill, according to experts.

### **2.2 Climate Change and The Agricultural Cycle in NTT**

*Kupang Post*, 9/7/10

Leta Rafael Levis, a lecturer in agriculture at Undana and head of NTT's Extension Services Commission (KPP<sup>1</sup>), has called for closer cooperation between government and the Bureau of Meteorology (BMKG) in respect of the impact of climate change on the agricultural cycle. He argues that the BMKG should be more active in publicizing information on weather patterns so that farmers can identify the correct time to plant crops. Otherwise, farmers will (often wrongly) continue on the basis of their traditional planting and harvest times. Evidence of climate change's effect on NTT's weather patterns is, for example, the fact that for the first time ever, and much to the confusion of farmers, moderate rain has continued to fall in parts of NTT up to July this year (normally the dry season). Levis says that closer government/BMKG coordination will prevent the reoccurrence of this year's crop failures, which have put 1 481 of NTT's villages at varying degrees of risk of food shortages: with 746 facing high risk, 400 low risk and 335 moderate risk... *(more)*...

### **2.3 Bishop: Beat Food Shortages with Local Foodstuffs**

*Kupang Post*, 6/7/10

Kupang: Speaking to the media on 4/7, the Bishop of Atambua (capital of Belu *Kabupaten*, bordering East Timor), Msgr D Saku, urged people in his area to respond to the threat of food shortages in 2010 by eating locally produced foodstuffs as substitutes for rice and corn. He referred specifically to a range of locally growing edible tubers, nuts and other natural consumables known to local people, which research had shown contained nourishing levels of carbohydrates and protein. *(more)*...

## **3. Health Issues**

### **3.1 20 Birthing Mothers Die in Alor**

*Kupang Post*, 7/7/10

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<sup>1</sup> =Komisi Penyuluhan Propinsi

Kalabahi: A spokesperson for the Health Service of Alor *Kabupaten* (east of Flores island) told *KP* on 6/7 that, between January and June 2010, 20 mothers had died in childbirth in the *kabupaten*, compared to 19 last year (making Alor's record the second worst among NTT's 21 *kabupatens*). Bringing this death rate down was the aim of the province-level program known as Revolusi KIA<sup>2</sup>, which it was hoped would bring all NTT's health facilities up to a satisfactory level. Asked about the death rate among newborns, the spokesperson said 64 had died in 2009, but figures were not yet available for this year...*(more)*..

### **3.2 Malaria: NTT's No 1 Health Problem**

*Kupang Post*, 14/7/10

A workshop has been held in Kupang at which several facilitators of Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) worked with officials from the health services of NTT and the *Kabupatens* of Kupang, Alor and West Sumba in an effort to further reduce the incidence of malaria in NTT. The facilitators included Olivia Silalahi (UNICEF), Dr Ermi Ndoen (BScPH, Airlangga; MScPH, Griffith), Wempi Anggal, Acef Efendy and Oce Boymau (NTT Health Service). NTT Health Service head Bria Seran thanked UNICEF for the help it had given NTT in the area of malaria control. The meeting heard that malaria continued to be NTT's principal health problem, though there had been some improvement. Dr Ndoen noted that before 2005 NTT had had Indonesia's worst record for malaria, but now it was second worst (after Papua). Ms Silalahi said that there had been a decline in NTT's annual malaria incidence (AMI<sup>3</sup>) rate from 145% in 2006 to 83% in 2008. She stressed the importance of a community based approach to the challenge of eradicating malaria.

## **4. Education Issues**

### **4.1 ADB Assists Development of Vocational Schools**

*Kupang Post*, 22/7/10

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is helping 90 secondary vocational schools (SMK<sup>4</sup>) throughout Indonesia, as part of its Vocational Educational Strengthening Project<sup>5</sup>. According to the principal of SMKN2 Ende (on Flores) (Mohammed Nasir), two of the target schools are located in NTT: his own school and SMKN3 in Kupang. Nasir told *KP* that the aim of ADB's assistance was to improve the quality of study programs by strengthening the link between school and industry with the main focus on enhanced entrepreneurship. Expenditure of money under the program at his school was governed by an MOU between SKMN2 and the national Education Department in Jakarta...*(more)*

### **4.2 Korean Churches Propose Setting up International School**

*Kupang Post*, 2/7/10

The regional secretary of Kupang *Kabupaten*, Hendrik Paut, told *KP* on 1/7 that his government welcomed a proposal from a group of Christian churches in Korea to

<sup>2</sup> =Revolusi Kematian Ibu Anak (a mother and baby death rate revolution), a joint (Australian) AusAID-NTT Government program aimed a reducing the death rate among birthing mothers and newborns (*Ed.*)

<sup>3</sup> The article does not explain the precise meaning of AMI, nor how it is calculated (*Ed.*)

<sup>4</sup> =sekolah menengah kejuruan negeri.

<sup>5</sup> See <http://pid.adb.org/pid/LoanView.htm?projNo=33409&seqNo=01&typeCd=3> for more detail

establish an international school in Fatuleu *Kecamatan*. When asked to comment on reported DPRD opposition to the idea, Hendrik said that the situation was rather that the DPRD had not yet agreed to the proposal. The *kabupaten* government, which took the view that an additional school, if of good quality, could only help the development process, would work with the DPRD to reach a common view on the school. The Korean churches would help set up the school, but its operation would be in the hands of local people. Furthermore, if established, it would accord with the normal range of Indonesian requirements....(*more*).

#### **4.3 Primary School in Belu in Disrepair**

*Kupang Post*, 12/7/10 (report by Ferdy Hayong)

Atambua: The Weliurai State Primary School in the village of Kabuna, Kakulukmesak *Kecamatan*, Belu *Kabupaten* (bordering East Timor), is in a state of disrepair and basically unfit for use. But it continues to be used anyway. The school's principal explained to *KP* that the simple school structures were built, as an emergency measure on a self-help basis, in 2008 for ex-East Timorese refugee children who could not go to school elsewhere. The school's parlous condition had led Bank Indonesia Kupang to provide some limited assistance in April 2010 in the form of teaching materials...(*more*).

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

#### **5.1 Disaster Looms over West Timor's Scarred Terrain**

*Kupang Post*, 3/7/10 Editorial

Rocks, once viewed as useless, now have economic value and bring in millions of rupiahs for ordinary people in NTT. Anyone – child, adult, male, female – can easily collect and sell them for Rp.1 550 per kg, the price of a kg of quality rice. Making money in this way is much easier than back-breaking farming which risks crop failure because of the weather.

Such is the story of manganese in NTT. It is found almost everywhere on the island of Timor, in backyards, gardens, grazing areas and on hilltops. Everyone is into collecting it. Now that the lumps of manganese lying on top of the ground are exhausted, people are digging up the ground all over the place to find this easy source of money. But at what cost to the community, the environment and future generations? Up to July 2010, 21 people have lost their lives in their search for manganese. Also, our land is no longer pristine, but is being disembowelled, cudgeled and scarred in ways that could have disastrous effects on the balance of nature (floods, landslides and the drying up of water sources). All of this is very un-Timorese, as the local people have traditionally been in synch with nature, very respectful of it and its inherent balance. Need and economic pressure are now driving such people to turn on nature and damage the environment. This is potentially catastrophic. We call on traditional leaders in west Timor to think carefully about what is happening and to take action before disaster strikes. The government alone can no longer be expected to stop the rot. .. (*more*)

#### **5.2 West Timor: Rich in Manganese**

*Kupang Post*, 6/7/10

70% of South Central Timor (TTS) *Kabupaten* contains manganese deposits, which if properly exploited could contribute considerably to local income. But, according to the head of the *kabupaten* mining service, the present situation is that local regulations on the collection of revenue from manganese mining do not exist, though such regulations are in

the planning. Currently the 8 companies mining manganese in TTS pay royalties to the central government which shares that revenue with the local government.... *(more)*..

### **5.3 Walhi: Stop Manganese Mining**

*Jakarta Post*, 12/7/10

Kupang: The NTT chapter of the Indonesian Forum for the Environment (Walhi<sup>6</sup>) has urged the *bupati* of North Central Timor to revoke manganese mining permits of 82 local, national and international companies. The demand was made in the wake of reportedly worsening environmental conditions coupled with fatalities at work sites. According to Walhi, 13 traditional mining workers have died and dozens have been injured. Walhi field monitoring also shows that mining practices have affected thousands of hectares of forests and agricultural areas and destroyed water springs. "The mines have destroyed the ecology of those areas, which creates a risk of a disaster," Walhi spokesperson Winfridus Keupung said.

### **5.4 Iron Ore Mines to be Developed on Sumba**

*Jakarta Post*, 13/7/10 (edited version of original)

Domestic mining company Merukh Enterprises, owned by politician cum businessman Jusuf Merukh, has formed a joint venture with the Indian company Salgaocar Mining Industries Pty Ltd to develop two iron ore mines on Sumba island. Merukh Enterprises' subsidiary PT Sumba Prima Iron (PT SPI) signed the deal with Salgaocar last week. According to the company, the joint venture is being established to accelerate the exploration and exploitation of iron ore, with the mines expected to start operations by end 2011. The two mines are estimated to contain reserves of ±690m tonnes. CEO Rudy Merukh said PT SPI held a controlling stake of 55% in the venture, while Salgaocar owned 20% and the German company ESG Eisenerz-Stahl GmbH the other 25%. Merukh Enterprises is also in talks with several potential partners to develop five other iron ore mines also located on Sumba.

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

### **6.1 Parts of Rote Ndao Crying out for Power**

*Kompas* 4/7/10

Villagers in the most southern *kabupaten* of Indonesia (Rote Ndao), especially those on outlying islands like Dana which border on Australian waters, are clamouring for help to gain access to solar power, given they have little hope of receiving electricity via PLN, according to Somy Pandie, a member of NTT's DPRD who just visited the area. At present the villagers have only simple oil lamps to provide lighting at night – insufficient for children to study or adults to engage in economic activities. That situation would be reversed with good lighting at night. The villagers argue that they deserve better, not only for reasons of social justice, but also because they inhabit a border area, which should receive special attention...*(more)*..

### **6.2 Germany Helps with Development of Local Water Business**

*Kupang Post*, 19/7/10

The German development assistance organization GTZ<sup>7</sup> is providing Rp 250 m (±US\$ 28 000) to the people of *Kelurahan* Naikotan II, Kupang Municipality to help them

<sup>6</sup> =Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia

<sup>7</sup> = Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit. See [www.gtz.de/fr](http://www.gtz.de/fr)

establish, on a self-help basis, a local reticulated water business. The local *lurah*, Ricky R Therik, told *KP* that the idea of establishing such a business had arisen because of the inadequacy of water services provided by the government-owned PDAM and the half-hearted approach of PDAM to overcoming existing shortcomings. PDAM's supplies only ran once a week and at less than full pressure, leaving many with no water at all. The people had thus decided to go it alone and would, with GTZ help, develop a system to meet the people's needs, drawing on water supplies from wells which they would also develop on a self-help basis.. (*more*)..

### **6.3 Villagers Fetch Water from a Km Away**

*Kupang Post*, 18/7/10

Three villages (Tou, Tou Timur and Kota Baru) in Kota Baru *Kecamatan*, Ende *Kabupaten* (on Flores) have to drink water from a stream because piped drinking water is not available in their area. The *camat* says this has always been the situation. There have been efforts to supply piped water (including at one time installation of pipes), but no water has yet reached homes in the three villages. Some people have access to wells, but most have to transport water from a stream about a kilometer away, particularly during the dry season. He told *KP* that, although the water did not meet health standards, the villagers had no alternative but to use it..(*more*)