



UNDP - UN-HABITAT
Aceh-Nias Settlements Support Program (ANSSP)
(RE)BUILDING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER



A NEW DAWN IN NIAS **COMMUNITIES REBUILD THEIR OWN HOUSES**

Hilimbosi, Nias, 21 June 2006

Today was an especially festive day which brought happiness and tears of joy in the eyes of the people of Hilimbosi. There was signing and dancing to celebrate the happy occasion.

Representing the Governor of North Sumatra, Professor Syamsul Arifin presided over the special ceremony to hand over the first 30 houses in Hilimbosi in Nias on 21 June 2006. Prof Arifin expressed his appreciation to the people of Fukuoka and to UN-HABITAT for reconstructing the houses which had been destroyed by the devastating earthquake on 28 March 2005.

The generous contribution of the people of Fukuoka made it possible to construct these 30 houses in Hilimbosi which is one hour drive north from the district headquarters of Gunung Sitoli. During her visit to the island in May 2005, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, the United Nations Human Settlements Program, Anna Tibaijuka, had announced to the North Sumatra provincial government this contribution from the Japanese people.

Speaking at the occasion Mr Ian Hamilton, Program Manager, UN-HABITAT stated that this is also a good opportunity for UN-HABITAT and other organizations working in the area to help the people to rebuild their communities. He thanked the local government for the support provided in the implementation of the program. Earlier Ms Keiko Sokoda representing the Japanese community conveyed her appreciation to the people of Hilimbosi.



Owners of the new houses holding their keys. Also in the picture (from right): Mr Temazaro Harefa, Deputy Bupati, Nias; Keiko Sokoda; Prof Syamsul Arifin, Head of Environmental Impact Management Agency; Ms Nurlisa Ginting, Deputy Chief, North Sumatra Investment Board; Mr Ian Hamilton, Program Manager, UN-HABITAT; and, Mr Fakri Karim, Program Officer, UNDP.

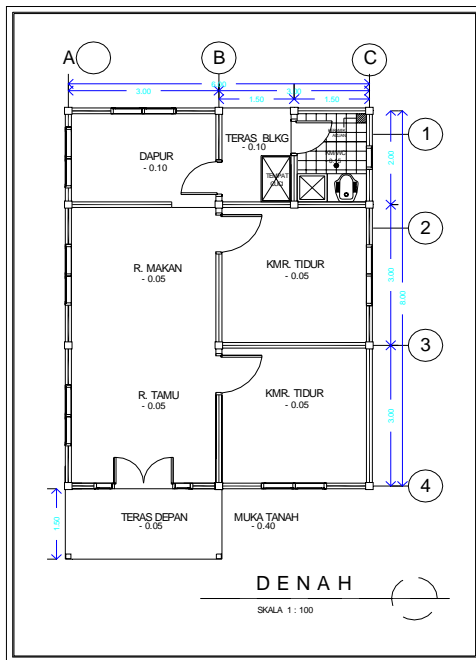


Signing of the hand-over documents





On behalf of the people of Nias the Deputy Bupati Mr Temazaro Harefa mentioned that the people and the local government are aware that the destruction from such powerful forces of nature like the earthquake and the Tsunami will take time because of the complexities on one hand and limitations on the other. He assured cooperation of the local government to continue the work and expressed gratitude for the support. As if to reinforce the need to continue the work, the ceremony included an impromptu earthquake measuring 4.9 which shook the stage but caused no damage.



Earlier representing the people of Hilimbosi Mr Faigizi Sokai Zeba, an elder citizen, welcomed the guests and thanked the people of Fukuoka for their generous support and to UN-HABITAT for managing the program. He also emphasized that the reconstruction process must continue. He also mentioned that UN-HABITAT is not only building houses but also providing support in community mapping, identification of priorities, formation of cluster groups and providing support for reconstruction of other basic infrastructure.

The UN-HABITAT District Manager for Nias Program Mr. Bambang outlined the process of the reconstruction and stressed that these houses could be completed only because of the enthusiastic participation by community in the entire management process. He continued that the communities felt right from the beginning that they were building their own houses and not someone else like a contractor.



Traditional Nias Welcome

Depending on the size of the land owned by the beneficiary, each house is 40 sq.m+. It has one living area, two bed rooms, kitchen and one bathroom. The cost of each house is US\$4,468. The generous contribution of US\$171,000 was received by UN-HABITAT from the donations raised under the aegis of Fukuoka Prefecture Government, Fukuoka City and civil society organizations.



UN-HABITAT,
Banda Aceh, Indonesia
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