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(Discussion & Advocacy Papers # 2)

Ritual Ceremony: Grand Opening a New Traditional House in Tamah, Central Pantar, Alor, NTT.



Lego-Lego/ Sohe dance by Novita Lau

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(This Paper is written from local perspectives. Novita Lau is an Alorese/Pantarese but also a professional art dancer; Danny Stamp A. is an Art Worker based in Jogja)

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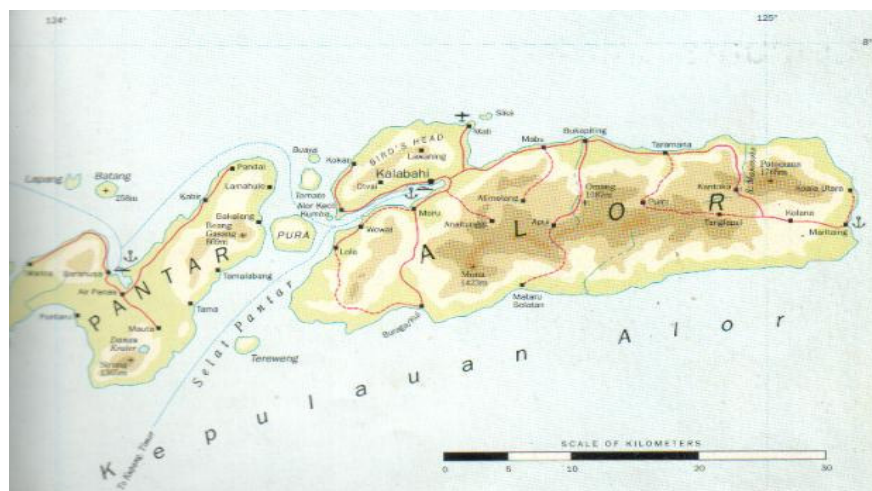
Ritual Ceremony: Grand Opening a New Traditional House in Tamah, Central Pantar, Alor, NTT

Novita Lau

In East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) has many tribes and every tribe has their own culture, language, and believe systems. Of course, we have to be proud about it. As we know that NTT has lack of natural resources, but in contrast it has rich cultures with both beautiful and unique traditions.

Traditional heritage from the ancestors, like traditional dances, weaving ikat, *Moko*, ritual ceremonies etc. In this article, I discuss about one of ritual ceremony to inaugurate a new traditional *Deing* people's house in Tamah, Central Pantar island, Alor. *Dia'ang (Deing)* people lived in *Tamah, Nadar, Lebang Beengada, Mariabang* and *Bagang*. Most of them lived in West Pantar island.

Usually, people in Pantar and Alor, build their house after harvest season around June – October every year. The traditional house of *Deing* people from *Latutung* clan, which already finished called *Tuan Ban*. The materials of this house made from timber and rattans for binding and roof made from special palm leaves or coarse grasses. Before people can get in or stay in that new house, they have to make a ritual (*Ui Gad*) first.



Map of Alor

The beginning of this ritual is all of the leaders of the clan have to make a sacred meeting first. At the same time, another people preparing all needs for the ceremony. After the meeting, the Chief has to invite the soul spirit of their ancestor with using spells (*Hamir*):

<i>O.. Ul Wed Lahatala</i>	: O.. Moon, Sun and God
<i>O.. Nau, Nahai, Nadar, Na'ir</i>	: O.. Grand Father, Grand Mother & families
<i>Ing Tuur Gia</i>	: Our Ancestors
<i>Kab se ni matiing gah</i>	: The house that we live
<i>Niing waang jag</i>	: Please protect us
<i>Ii dir ma ni aw</i>	: Put all bad things away
<i>Ing laha niing wang jag</i>	: Our immortal ancestors always with us
<i>Kuara murung ma niing tah</i>	: Give us a lot of good things

After that, they have to kill some animals, such as: goats, pigs and chickens. They sacrifice those animals for God and the soul spirit of their ancestors. The most important thing and the main event in this ritual is the chief has to cut the roof edges around the new house by special knife (*tua sia'ar*).

Finally, after this main ritual, every body can come into that new house. Then, every body can make a traditional party and can eat any foods, areca nut with betel fruit (*bui si*) and drink traditional spirit (*tuah fo*). And the most important thing is they have to dancing traditional Alorese dance (*Lego-Lego/ Sohe*).

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Notes:

All of these informations in this article, I collect as references for dance performance Peresmian Rumah Adat Alor in Anjungangan NTT, TMII, 2007 which cancelled for our dance community by Alor Government. So, we performed in Auditorium Teater Arena ISI Yogyakarta & Gelar Budaya Nusantara 2007 in Kraton Yogyakarta.