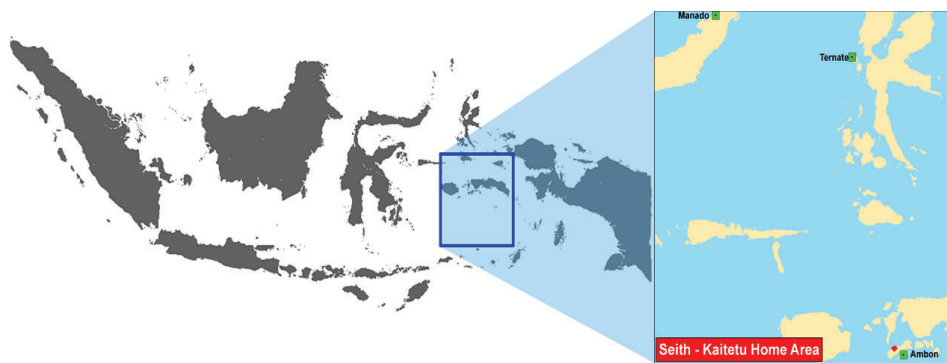


SEIT KAITETU



Demography	Seit Language	Status
Location: Maluku Population: 13.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: 0 ⁽¹¹⁷⁾ Engaged: Yes Indigenous church: 0

Identity and Location

The Seit-Kaitetu live along the north shore of the island of Ambon, in and near the villages of Seit and Kaitetu in Leihitu district of Central Maluku Regency in Maluku Province.

Electricity has now reached the villages of Seit and Kaitetu. Both villages can be reached by land or sea, and public transport runs a few times daily to and from the city of Ambon. The first mosque on the island of Ambon still stands in Kaitetu, having been built in the year 1414. The oldest church in Ambon was built in nearby Hila village in 1780. Sadly, the church building was destroyed in ethnic/religious violence.

The Seit-Kaitetu people speak the two dialects of Seit and Kaitetu. The Seit-Kaitetu language is part of the larger West Piru Bay linguistic grouping, which also includes the Asilulu, Boano, Larike Wakasihu and Luhu languages.

Society and Culture

Socio-cultural and economic aspects of life are generally similar to surrounding areas. The villages and surroundings are neat and well-ordered. The Seit-Kaitetu people's primary livelihood comes from farming and fishing. Typical crops include sago palm, cloves, nutmeg, and coffee. Before leaving shore fishermen usually pray to God for protection and blessing. Each catch is used first to meet daily needs, then the surplus is sold. Types of fish caught include tuna, spanish mackerel, and others such as (in local language) momar, silapa, lalosi and kawali. Fish caught near Luhu, Iha-Kulur and Asilulu villages are usually sold to the village of Hitu or the city of Ambon.

Seit-Kaitetu people seek to enhance their income by selling traditional products made from shells, oyster shells, and eggshells. From these materials they make women's accessories and jewellery such as brooches, wall hangings and other various souvenirs.

Beliefs

Almost all Seit-Kaitetu people follow Islam. As Muslims they believe that all people will be judged according to their knowledge of the Qur'an and their deeds throughout their lives. Nevertheless, many are still reluctant to leave animistic tribal values and beliefs. They combine traditional elements and orthodox Islamic teaching in ceremonies for occasions such as weddings circumcisions, changing leaders and building mosques.

Needs

Several years ago provocateurs from outside the area stirred up terrible violence and grudges among the people of Maluku and North Maluku. Ethnic conflicts and riots destroyed almost all buildings, including schools, homes, markets, and places of worship. Education was sorely neglected for some time as schools and other educational buildings had been destroyed and burned. Teachers didn't dare to teach and parents didn't dare send their children to school. Though that was years ago, an environment of peace and safety is still needed to rebuild this island which has been so affected by the violence.

Also necessary are precautions for Seit-Kaitetu people, indeed the people of Maluku in general, so they will not be easily provoked by provocateurs because it will cause harm to themselves and others. Unity is needed among the chiefs, religious and local leaders.^(E-RD)