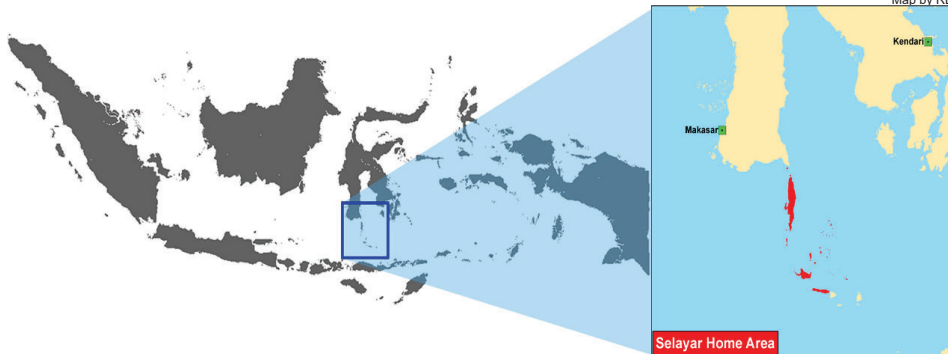


SELAYAR



RDC



| Demography | Selayar Language | Status |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Location: South Sulawesi | Bible: No | Believers: <300 |
| Population: 126.000 | Jesus Film: No | Engaged: Yes |
| Major Religion: Islam | Online Media: No | Indigenous Church: 3 |

Identity and Location

The Selayar people live primarily on the island of Selayar and several smaller nearby islands in the province of South Sulawesi. The Selayar are frequently referred to as To Hale or “the people across.”

The Selayar language is in the same linguistic grouping as those in Bulukumba Regency and is not significantly different from the Makassar language.

It is not difficult to reach the island of Selayar because there are boats and flights from Makassar to Selayar. To reach the smaller islands, there are local ferries, but some of the small islands have no ferry service whatsoever.

Society and Culture

Up to the present, farming is still the primary economic mainstay in this region, which frequently is referred to as Bumi Tana Doang (the land which pleads to the Almighty). Selayar plantations produce kapok, guava, cashews, coconut, candlenut, nutmeg, cocoa and vanilla. Kopra (dried coconut meat) and cloves were the two crops relied on in years past. However, because the prices were in free-fall, these commodities are no longer attractive for local farmers. Yet a large number of farmers continue their coconut plantations.

Several years ago, many farmers switched to growing vanilla. The crops that were considered to be intercropped have begun to increase in value and have become the primary cash crops.

It seems the entire public transportation route between Makassar and Selayar is destined to be flexible. For instance, there is a bus that enters the neighborhoods,



visiting house after house to drop off stuff inside the bus. Almost everything needed by the people in this area comes from Makassar and is delivered by public bus. Sometimes people place an order with the bus driver and he delivers it to him. The cost of having the bus driver pick up goods in Makassar is less than the cost to buy them in Selayar.

Beliefs

The majority of Selayar are Muslim. Selayar cultural customs are very influential in their daily lives because these customs include religious values which strongly bind the people.

pressure from the government and mixture of Christian and Hindu beliefs created a syncretistic form of Christianity

A few decades ago, there was a group of Christian believers among the Selayar. However as time went on, their numbers dropped because of pressure from the government and a mixing with Hindu beliefs. This has created a syncretistic form of Christianity.

Needs

The Selayar area is made up of islands. Transportation and connections between this area and the outside world are extremely limited, resulting in isolation. Because of this, sea transportation is a primary need to help the community with mobility and development.

Also, development of the ocean’s resources as a source of income needs to be strengthened. Almost 85% of the Selayar area is ocean but very few of the people are fishermen or process seafood professionally to meet the needs of the nearby areas.^(RD)