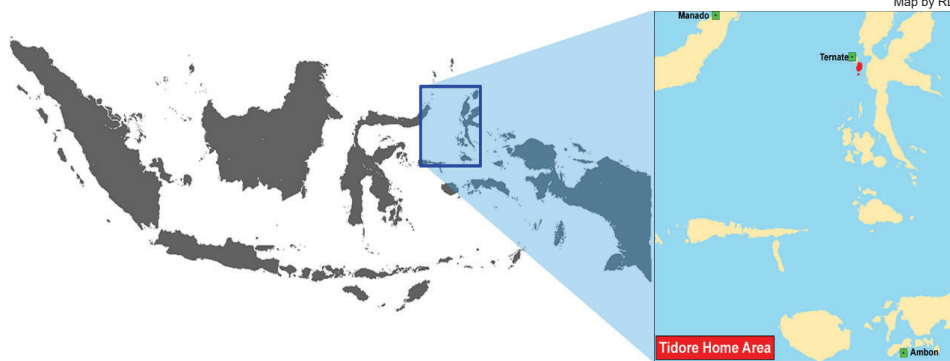


TIDORE



Demography	Tidore Language	Status
Location: North Maluku Population: 50.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: <30 Engaged: Yes Indigenous church: 0

Identity and Location

The Tidore people live on the island of Tidore, the regency of Central Halmahera, North Maluku Province. Tidore is one of the Maluku islands. The Maluku Islands, historically called the “Spice Islands”, consist of over one thousand islands scattered throughout eastern Indonesia. They include most of the islands between Sulawesi and Papua, and between Timor and the Philippines.

Some other groups also live in the capital city of Tidore, Soa Siu, but Tidore people dominate the small villages spread throughout the island. In everyday conversation, the Tidore people use their own Tidore language. However, they also understand Ternate, the language of their neighbours, which was formerly the trade language in the Halmahera region.

As can be seen in their language, history, society and culture, Tidore people have a close connection with their neighbours, the Ternate people. However each group strongly maintains its distinct identity. Tidore people don't like to be called Ternate, and vice versa.

Formerly, compared with Tidore people, the Ternate had closer relationships with other ethnic groups from western Indonesia. Because of this, Tidore are sometimes considered less educated than the Ternate. But in general, the Tidore people are more industrious than the Ternate.

Society and Culture

Cultural observers divide the area of North Maluku and Halmahera into three cultural areas, namely Ternate, Tidore and Bacan. The area of Tidore includes all the islands in the area of Tidore and

central and eastern Halmahera.

Most Tidore earn a living by farming, fishing, trading, or working for the government. The crops they cultivate include rice, corn, sweet potatoes, cassava and peanuts. They also grow various spices including cloves, nutmeg, coconut and cocoa (chocolate).

The kinship system of the Tidore community is patrilineal; kinship is traced through one's father. One of the most important forms of kinship in Tidore is the clan, called soa. According to Tidore tradition, the ideal marriage is between first cousins. Newly married couples may live with either of their sets of parents.

Beliefs

The Tidore people are loyal followers of Islam. In the past the Sultanates of Tidore and Ternate were a central force behind the spread and development of Islam in Maluku. Every village has a mosque, and at the very least a small prayer house. Islamic religious teachers serve as informal leaders in Tidore communities.

Needs

Although the Maluku islands are rich in natural resources, particularly marine resources, many of the population still live in poverty. Their economy needs stimulus through diversification of farming and fishing. One example would be the cultivation of fruit plants with high economic value.

The fishing industry also needs improvement. For better marketing of local products, transportation and communication infrastructure need enhancement. A greater number of medical clinics and personnel are also needed.