



the **organic** farm & stay

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Happy Balinese New Year! (and my favorite 24 hours)



Bali's day of absolute quiet

Balinese made annual pilgrimage to the seaside to guard the delicate balance between man, god and nature.

(3/7/2011) On the run-up to Bali's New Year and day of absolute silence "*Nyepi*," Bali's Hindus observed the ritual celebration of *Melasti* on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. On this date, sacred religious objects are temporarily removed from village temples and carried to the sea where they can be ritually cleansed in preparations for the New Year observance that follow three days later.

The Balinese gathered at ocean shores across the island for *Melasti* on Wednesday, starting from approximately 3:00 pm. Kuta Beach in Bali was packed by local families wearing traditional dress who flocked to the beach carrying a wide variety of religious offerings.

Young and old alike enthusiastically joined the long processions down to the beach. There, the *Melasti* observance began with prayers led by a Hindu priest, followed by the tossing of offerings into the sea. Then, young girls are called upon to dance the *Rejang* - a dance whose very name means "offering" and is generally performed for the gods with the dancers backs turned to their human audience. The holy day at the beach concludes with group prayers and meditations.

Following prayers the sacrifice of live goats, chicken and ducks is made by throwing the livestock into the ocean's surf. This final part of the *Melasti* ritual - *Pakelem* is intended to seek safety and security from *Betara Segara* who controls the oceans.

Following festive *ogoh-ogoh* parades on Friday night, the island transformed into an isle of complete silence on Saturday, **March 5, 2001, when, from 6 am on Saturday until 24 hours later the Balinese are not allowed to work, ignite flames, venture forth from their homes or satisfy personal appetites.**

Source: *Bali Discovery Tours* / www.balidiscovery.com

WE OPENED THE KID'S DONATION BOX:

3 BIKES AND POP MIE PARTY!

A very big Thank you for all who donated something in the kid's box!

The kids were so excited to open the box last week. After counting they came to the amount of 700.000 Rps.

All kids in the village biggest wish is to have a bike.

With Dodi and Putu in their best clothes we went to the market in Tabanan to find second hand bikes.

Of course they straight run to the new bikes, but they were too expensive.

Big Dodi did a good job in bargaining and after some repairs on the bikes we went proudly home with 2 bikes and a baby bike for Dede.

The next day we had a Pop Mie Party on the bikes thanks to Martin and Caroline who surprised the kids and team lots of snacks.

When the box is full again we will make more kids happy with a bike.

Again thanks, thanks and please come and see yourself how happy and proud they are!



The Marginalization of Bali's Farmers

Bali business leader suggest Bali farmers move to other islands to accommodate rapid growth of tourism sector.

(2/19/2011) The growing threat to Bali's agricultural heritage was recently highlighted by a statement from the head of the *Indonesian Entrepreneurs Association (APINDO)* declaring that Bali is no longer a suitable location for farming activities. In the view of a Balinese business leader, apparently Bali is becoming too crowded for the Balinese who should now be prepared to move on and make more room for tourist activities.

Quoted in *Beritabali.com*, the chairman of *APINDO*, Panundiana Khun, said that the diminishing amount of land available for agriculture in Bali means the government should undertake a large program of transmigration, moving Balinese farmers to other areas of Indonesia, such as Kalimantan.

"If these are only simple farmers, why don't we just transmigrate them to Kalimantan? In Kalimantan one hectare of land costs only two million rupiah. You can even ask for it for free. East Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan and West Kalimantan is mostly full of Javanese. The local population is only 30 percent," explained Khun.

Panaudiana Khun added that while some agriculture can continue to be developed in Bali, that activity should only be to complement tourism. Agriculture in Bali, in the view of Khun, will only become in the future one element in a total Balinese tour package.

What will Bali be without farmers, rice fields and ceremonies?

This news makes me sad but hopefully it will never happen!

Ending with some good news!

Source: *Bali Discovery Tours* / www.balidiscovery.com

Our always happy DU is going to marry March 24!

With a girl from our village, she not has to move too far from her family. A Balinese girl always moves in with her husband and his family. Better not fall in love with a guy before you meet your mother in law! Next month pictures in the update!

Wishing you a lovely weekend from a sunny and warm Farm in Bali!
Marjan, Wayan & Team