

# E'e i Molosu

## A short story in the Kulisusu language of Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia

In this story the author, La Bura, relates his experiences as the first person to garden in the area around Molosu Lake at the southern tip of the Goram Peninsula (4° 51' 52.68" S, 123° 12' 13.30" E). This lake was formed by and fills a broad sinkhole with a subterranean connection to the sea.

	<b>Kulisusu</b>	<b>Indonesian</b>	<b>English</b>
1	Cula-culano E'e i Molosu.	Ceritanya Telaga Molosu.	The story of Molosu Lake.
2	E'e i Molosu, po'iahano jini ompole.	Telaga Molosu tempat tinggalnya banyak jin.	The lake at Molosu is the haunt of many jinns.
3	E'e a'iso, ka'owoseno rua hektar, ka'olarono lima ropa.	Telaga itu, luasnya dua hektar, dan dalamnya lima depa.	The size of the lake is two hectares, and its depth is five fathoms.
4	Saluwu-luwuo hasili i tahi itora i e'e a'iso.	Semua hasil laut hidup di air itu.	All the products of the sea live in that lake.
5	Daho ika, dāho lola, dāte dūka garangga, japi-japi, io sowolo, io ponu, io koila, te keu ngineahako tongke dāi larono E'e i Molosu kadio tinangkino La Bura.	Ada ikan, ada lola, ada agar-agar, kerang japing, teripang, penyu hijau, penyu sisik, dengan pohon bakau yang disebut <i>tongke</i> ada di dalam Telaga Molosu, kesemuanya dipelihara oleh La Bura.	There are fish, there are trochuses, there is also red seaweed, black-lip oysters, sea cucumbers, green sea turtles, hawksbill sea turtles, and the mangrove tree called <i>tongke</i> are in Lake Molosu, tended by La Bura.
6	Cumpe-cumpengku mo'ia i Tanduno, jinihako a'iso ndo'eme-emeci'aku.	Pertama-tama waktu saya tinggal di Tanjung, semua jin itu menakut-nakuti saya.	At first when I lived on the Cape, all those jinns intimidated me.
7	Salembahino kupo'ia i Tanduno, ndotena'akumo mepombulaa teku pefala.	Setelah lama saya tinggal di Tanjung, mereka menyuruh saya berkebun dan memasang sero.	After I had lived at the Cape for a while, they ordered me to plant a garden, and to set up a fishing weir.

8	Ikolaβimo hopulu ta'u kupo'ia i Tanduno.	Sudah lebih sepuluh tahun saya tinggal di Tanjung.	More than ten years I lived at the Cape.
9	Samatamo kupo'onto atamolai.	Sudah satu kali saya melihat orang bunian.	One time I saw the hidden people.
10	Inimpia, cumpe-cumpengku mo'ia i Tanduno, keto pemeke, keto o'ai, icuculukita ngineahako jinihako a'iso i po'iahano ngineahako i Tanduno.	Dahulu pertama kali saya tinggal di Tanjung, kalau kita batuk, kalau kita berteriak, yang disebut jin itu semua ikut-ikut di tempat tinggalnya yang disebut Tanjung.	Previously when I first lived at the cape, if one coughed, if one yelled, the ones called jinns would echo us at their home at the place called the Cape.
11	Samia-miano La Bura mokopo'iangio.	Sendiriannya La Bura yang bisa tinggal di situ.	La Bura alone was able to inhabit that place.
12	Selesai.	Selesai.	The end.

### Notes concerning the text

5. *tinangkeno La Bura* 'tended by La Bura': the fish, trochuses, turtles, etc. are animals which La Bura caught in the ocean and introduced to Molosu Lake.

<i>lola</i>	trochus	<i>Trochus</i> spp. including <i>T. niloticus</i> L. and <i>T. maculatus</i> L.
<i>garangga</i>	red seaweed	<i>Eucheuma</i> spp.
<i>japi-japi</i>	black-lip oyster	<i>Pinctada margaritifera</i> L.
<i>sowolo</i>	sea cucumber	general term for animals of class Holothuroidea
<i>ponu</i>	green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i> L.
<i>koila</i>	hawksbill sea turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> L.
<i>tongke</i>	large-leaved mangrove	<i>Bruguiera gymnorrhiza</i> (L.) Savigny

7. The *bala*, fishing wier, mentioned here was set up in shallow ocean waters near the cape, not in the lake itself.

9. *atamolai* 'the hidden people,' a race of invisible people who garden, fish and trade in much the same way as humans.

### **Information about the text**

Written and read by La Bura, March 1996

Recorded by David Mead on magnetic cassette tape, 3 March 1996; digitized September 2002

Translated into Indonesian by La Bura and David Mead, March 1996

Translated into English by David Mead, March 1996

The transcription given here reflects the spoken version and uses updated orthographic conventions.

### **Notes about the author**

La Bura (1923–2003), a native speaker of Kulisusu, was born in Bone Rombo village, northeastern Buton Island, southeastern Sulawesi. At the time this text was written and recorded, La Bura was 72 years old.



< La Bura in his garden at Lake Molosu, taken February 2002

## Text as originally written

Cula? no ee y molosu? polahano jini  
 Ampole? ee also kaowogen & hvetar  
 kaclarono 5ropa / Baluwa luwano hasili  
 xtahi Riiso ytra x ee also dahon ikan  
 Rola agar? jasing? teripang? &  
 penyus gigi te keu tongke day laro  
 no ee molosu / kadio Cinangkin -  
 Ra Bura / Cumpe? ka mola y tanduno  
 jini hako also ndo Eme Eme Ciaku  
 Galamba lembahino kupola y tando  
 no ndotena akumo mepombula  
 te kupobala / kolabi hopulu tar  
 kupola y tanduno / Samata kupo onto  
 atamoy himpia Cumpe? ka mola y ta  
 nduno ketopemeke keto Day Cucu  
 lukita nginehako jini hako also  
 y polaha nginehako y tanduno  
 Samia? Ra Bura moko polahio //  
 Selesay

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