

**NGO**

# **Bridging Hearts at the Edge of the Nation: Indonesian Marines Foster Unity with Tomonsatu Village in Peace Mission for Papua**

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**PAPUA**- In a heartwarming effort to strengthen ties and ensure peace in Papua, Indonesia's Marine Infantry Battalion Task Force 6, under the HABEMA Operational Command, has brought a personal touch to the remote village of Tomonsatu. On Thursday, November 14, 2024, the marines, led by Captain Septian of the Halabok Post, conducted a Social Communication (Komsos) session with the residents while on a routine security patrol. The goal was clear: to build trust and cooperation with local communities as part of the government's ongoing efforts to accelerate development in Papua.

During their patrol, the marines took a moment to pause and connect with Tomonsatu's children, sharing smiles, stories, and food packages—a gesture that brought joy and comfort to the residents. This initiative was warmly received by the villagers, who felt a renewed sense of safety and camaraderie. One resident, Ria Tabuni, expressed gratitude by saying, "Thank you, Commander Marines. God bless." Her words resonated as a testament to the strong bond between the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) and the community.

Lieutenant Colonel Rismanto Manurung, Commander of the Marine Task Force, highlighted the importance of attending to the local community's needs, emphasizing that TNI's mission goes beyond security to encompass genuine care for the people. His encouragement to the troops to be a positive presence in the area reflects TNI's commitment to both security and human connection.

Brigadier General Lucky Avianto, Commander of HABEMA Operational Command, praised this initiative, calling it a “symbol of TNI’s commitment to inclusive and supportive development for all of Papua.” Brigadier General Avianto’s words reflect the positive impact of these interactions, which help build a bridge of hope and unity in Papua, one interaction at a time.

Moments like these inspire not only the military personnel but also the residents, who now feel part of a shared journey towards peace and progress. The people of Tomonsatu and the Indonesian Armed Forces stand together, paving the way for a brighter future in Papua.

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