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Mamba Village Children Embrace the Spirit of Unity Through National Insight from Indonesian Marines

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INTAN JAYA- The children of Mamba Village, Sugapa District, lit up with joy as they welcomed a special visit from the Raider Infantry Battalion 509/Balawara Yudha Kostrad of the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI), under the command of HABEMA, on Thursday, October 24, 2024. While conducting mobile security operations in the region bordering Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, the 509 Task Forces took a unique and meaningful approach by sharing lessons on National Insight with the local children.

Led by Second Lieutenant Alvinta Sembiring, the Soldiers from the Koper Post (a preparatory office of the Territorial Command) made the effort to meet and engage with children passing by the post, blending security operations with valuable community-building interactions. The initiative reflects the TNI's commitment to fostering trust and unity in the region, a key step in the government's mission to accelerate development in Papua.

Lieutenant Colonel Dian Dessiawan Setyadi, Commander of the 509 Task Forces, emphasized the importance of Social Communication (Komsos) as a tool for connecting with local communities. "Building relationships and sharing knowledge with the people around us is as crucial as ensuring their security," he remarked, reinforcing the idea that trust and cooperation are fundamental to the success of the TNI's mission in the region.

The Soldiers' interaction with the children was both educational and entertaining. They joked and played while imparting important lessons on National Insight, designed to deepen the children's understanding of their national identity and the importance of unity. One of the children, Lukas Sondegau, expressed his appreciation, saying, "Stay motivated, Papuan Children. Long live TNI," highlighting the positive impact of the encounter.

The Soldiers capped off the visit by sharing food with the children, a gesture that was met with bright smiles and genuine happiness. The scene reflected the deep bond between the community and the TNI, showing that security forces are not only protectors but also friends and mentors to the people they serve.

The initiative was acknowledged by HABEMA Commanding General, Brigadier General Lucky Avianto, who praised the 509 Task Forces for their innovative approach to social communication. "This initiative is a testament to the TNI's dedication to fostering inclusivity and support for the development of Papua," he stated, highlighting the long-term significance of building strong community ties.

This heartwarming moment between the Mamba children and the TNI not only underscores the importance of social engagement in military operations but also brings hope for a brighter, more connected future for Papua. Through these simple yet powerful interactions, the Indonesian Marines continue to play a crucial role in shaping the development and unity of the region.

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