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Brightening Sokamu: HABEMA's Solar Cell Lamps Illuminate Hope in Papua

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YAHUKIMO- In a heartwarming effort to improve the quality of life in Papua Pegunungan, the Task Forces of Infantry Battalion 6 Marines, under the Indonesian Armed Forces Operational Command HABEMA, have brought light to Sokamu Village in Yahukimo Regency. On Thursday, January 23, 2025, the Marines Task Forces, led by Captain Septian from the Halabok Post, launched the “*Papua Terang*” (*Bright Papua*) initiative by installing solar cell lamps in residential areas and public roads in the Dekai District.

Lieutenant Colonel Rismanto Manurung, Commander of the Marines Task Forces, emphasized their dedication to addressing the fundamental needs of communities near the Halabok Post. "Lighting public spaces is a basic necessity, especially for Sokamu Village residents who need safer and more accessible roads and yards during nighttime," said Captain Septian.

The planning phase began with discussions between Captain Septian and Sokamu Village Leaders and Community Figures to identify the most critical locations for lighting installation. During the implementation, the Marines prioritized security but were met with overwhelming support from local residents. This collaboration ensured the successful and efficient installation of solar cell lamps, surpassing expectations and bringing light to Sokamu by Thursday afternoon.

Grateful for this initiative, a Sokamu Community Leader, Mr. Waipan Murib, expressed his appreciation: “Praise God, thank you, Commander Marines. We are delighted that our Honais and roads are no longer dark. God bless TNI.”

The success of “*Papua Terang*” did not go unnoticed. Major General Lucky Avianto, Commanding General of HABEMA, lauded the Marines Task Forces’ initiative, calling it an embodiment of the TNI’s mission to accelerate development in Papua. “This initiative reflects TNI’s unwavering commitment to meeting the basic needs of the community while fostering regional growth,” he stated. Major General Lucky also recognized the vital role of the Sokamu residents, whose active participation ensured the project’s success.

The solar cell lamps now stand as a beacon of hope and progress in Sokamu Village, symbolizing the TNI’s dedication to building a brighter future for Papua. The initiative has not only enhanced safety and accessibility but also strengthened the bond between the TNI and the local community, fostering mutual respect and collaboration.

Through programs like “*Papua Terang*”, the HABEMA Task Forces continue to demonstrate that development and security can go hand-in-hand, lighting the way for a brighter and more prosperous Papua.

Autentikasi:

Dansatgas Media HABEMA, Kolonel Arh Yogi Nugroho