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Soccer Unites: HABEMA Soldiers Inspire Ndugusiga Youth with Team Spirit and Hope

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INTAN JAYA- In a powerful demonstration of unity and collaboration, the Raider Infantry Battalion 509/Balawara Yudha Kostrad, part of the Indonesian Armed Forces Operational Command HABEMA, brought excitement and inspiration to Ndugusiga Village in Sugapa District, Papua Tengah Province. On Sunday, November 24, 2024, the Task Forces turned a routine security mission into a heartwarming community engagement through a spirited soccer practice session with local youth.

The event, led by Second Lieutenant Alvinta Sembiring of the Koper Post, was more than just a game—it was a celebration of connection and mutual support. Utilizing sports equipment generously provided by the Chief of the Indonesian Army, General Maruli Simanjuntak, the soldiers organized a joint practice session that brought smiles to young faces and fostered a sense of togetherness.

Lieutenant Colonel Dian Dessiawan Setyadi, Commander of Task Forces 509, emphasized the significance of community engagement alongside their security responsibilities. *“We believe that sports can be a bridge to stronger relationships with the communities we serve. It’s about building trust and offering hope,”* he remarked.

The practice session saw enthusiastic participation from Ndugusiga’s youth, who expressed gratitude for the opportunity to connect with the soldiers. Markus Tabuni, a local resident, shared his joy, saying, *“Thank you, Commander 509. Playing soccer together is a moment we’ll never forget. God bless you all.”*

This initiative reflects the Indonesian Army's commitment to holistic development in Papua. Beyond providing security, HABEMA soldiers aim to foster lasting relationships and promote well-being within the communities they serve.

The HABEMA Commanding General, Brigadier General Lucky Avianto, praised the efforts of Task Forces 509, stating, *“This initiative is a shining example of how the TNI supports not only the physical security of Papua but also the emotional and social growth of its people. Such activities strengthen bonds and inspire optimism.”*

As the sun set over Ndugusiga Village, the sound of laughter and the sight of soldiers and residents united by soccer left an indelible mark of hope and harmony. It is through such moments that the mission of the TNI transcends duty, bringing life, energy, and inspiration to communities across Papua.

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