

Bridging Hearts and Borders: TNI's Social Outreach Strengthens Community Bonds in Papua

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Papua- Soldiers from the Para Raider Infantry Battalion 501/Bajra Yudha Kostrad, part of the HABEMA Operational Command, recently carried out mobile security patrols at the border between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. On Thursday, October 18, 2024, the 501 Patrol Team from the Kotis Susumuk Post visited Sorry Village in Aifat Selatan District, Southwest Papua Province. During the visit, they held Social Communication (*Komsos*) activities to strengthen

relationships with residents while ensuring the area's security.

The outreach, led by the 501 Task Forces, emphasizes that safeguarding communities is not just about security it's also about connection. Lieutenant Colonel Yakhya Wisnu Arianto, Commander of the 501 Task Forces, shared that this interaction helps the military better understand the residents' challenges and fosters trust.

"Our mission is not only to protect but also to connect. Through these dialogues, we learn the people's needs and find ways to support them," he explained.

The visit received an overwhelmingly positive response from the residents of Sorry Village. One of the villagers, Rio Mujizau, expressed his heartfelt gratitude: "Praise God, thank you, Commander 501. God bless." This moment reflects the harmony and trust built between the Task Forces and the local community.

HABEMA's Commanding General, Brigadier General Lucky Avianto, praised the 501 Task Forces for their efforts. "The 501 Task Forces' initiative is a perfect example of how inclusive Social Communication supports not only security but also the welfare development of Papua," he stated. His words underline the significance of fostering positive relationships with local communities to pave the way for a safer and more prosperous future.

These efforts highlight TNI's commitment to professionalism, adaptability, and a people-first approach. By bridging hearts and borders, the 501 Task Forces embody the spirit of collaboration, helping to lay the foundation for long-term peace and growth in Papua.

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