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Kago Village Lights Up: HABEMA Soldiers Unite Community Through Soccer

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PUNCAK- In a powerful gesture of camaraderie and community care, the Raider Infantry Battalion 323/Buaya Putih Kostrad, operating under the Indonesian Armed Forces Operational Command HABEMA, brought more than just security to Kago Village in Ilaga District, Puncak Regency. On Thursday, November 28, 2024, the soldiers turned a routine patrol into a heartwarming event by distributing soccer balls and fostering a shared love for the sport.

The initiative, part of the Task Forces' Social Communication (Komsos) efforts, featured soldiers interacting with Kago residents in an atmosphere of trust and collaboration. The soccer balls, gifted by the Chief of the Indonesian Army, General Maruli Simanjuntak, were met with excitement and gratitude, sparking a spontaneous soccer practice between soldiers and villagers.

Mario Tabuni, a resident of Kago, expressed heartfelt appreciation, saying, "Thank you, Commander 323. We are so happy to receive these soccer balls from the Chief of Army. They mean so much to us."

Lieutenant Colonel Tri Wiratno, Commander of the 323 Task Forces, emphasized the importance of integrating community-focused initiatives into their mission.

"Our goal is not just to ensure security but also to uplift and support the communities we serve. Activities like this build bonds and contribute to the region's positive development," he said.

The initiative earned high praise from Brigadier General Lucky Avianto, HABEMA Commanding General, who highlighted its deeper significance:

"The 323 Task Forces' approach exemplifies TNI's dedication to inclusive community engagement. Such actions play a vital role in fostering unity and accelerating development in Papua."

This effort underscores the transformative power of simple yet meaningful acts of kindness. Through soccer a universal language of joy and teamwork the HABEMA soldiers bridged divides and brought a sense of hope to the children and families of Kago Village.

As the sun set over Kago, the echoes of laughter and cheers from the makeshift soccer field symbolized a brighter, united future for the community, brought to life by the spirit of the HABEMA Task Forces.

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