

Bringing Joy to Susumuk: TNI Soldiers and Children Unite to Decorate Christmas Tree

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PAPUA- The spirit of Christmas lit up Susumuk Village as **Satgas Yonif Para Raider 501/Bajra Yudha Kostrad**, part of the HABEMA Operational Command, joined hands with local children to decorate a Christmas tree. The heartwarming event took place on **Sunday, December 15, 2024**, in **Maybrat Regency, Southwest Papua Province**, as part of their Social Communication (Komsos) initiative during border security operations.

Amid the lush surroundings of Susumuk, the soldiers and children worked together, adorning the tree with colorful ornaments, lights, and cheerful decorations. This festive activity aimed to foster a sense of togetherness and joy, embracing the spirit of Christmas while strengthening bonds between the **TNI** and the local community.

Lieutenant Colonel Infantry Yakhya Wisnu Arianto, Commander of Satgas Yonif 501 Kostrad, emphasized the significance of this simple yet meaningful gesture. **“This activity goes beyond decoration. It’s about teaching values of unity, cooperation, and spreading happiness among the community, especially to the children,”** he remarked.

The event was filled with laughter and excitement as children enthusiastically placed ornaments on the tree, guided by the soldiers. Parents also joined in, creating a festive atmosphere of warmth and joy. **Yose Tabuni**, one of the children, expressed his gratitude: **“Thank you, Commander 501, for celebrating Christmas with us. We’re so happy to decorate the tree together. God bless you all.”**

Commander of HABEMA, **Brigadier General TNI Lucky Avianto**, praised the initiative. **“This activity exemplifies the TNI’s commitment to fostering connections and supporting the social fabric of communities in Papua. By sharing in festive moments, we nurture trust and unity, contributing to the region's peaceful development,”** he said.

The Christmas tree decorating event is a shining example of the **TNI’s dedication to inclusive engagement** and their efforts to bring festive cheer to even the most remote corners of Papua. Through such meaningful interactions, Satgas Yonif 501 Kostrad continues to embody the values of service, harmony, and solidarity.

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