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Enthusiasm Shines as Homeyo Residents Welcome Free Nutritious Meals Program Led by Kogabwilhan III Commander

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INTAN JAYA- The serene hills of Pogapa Village in Papua Tengah Province came alive with joy and gratitude on Monday, 20 January 2025, as the inaugural **Free Nutritious Meals (MBG)** program reached the remote Homeyo District.

Spearheaded by the Joint Defense Region III Command (Kogabwilhan III) Commander, **Lieutenant General Bambang Trisnohadi**, the program reflects President Prabowo Subiyanto's vision to improve the health and well-being of the nation's most remote communities.

The initiative, carried out by the TNI Operations Command (Koops) HABEMA, brought smiles to the faces of students, teachers, and residents of Pogapa Inpres Elementary School (SD). This monumental program, held for the first time in the area, not only provided nutritious meals but also strengthened bonds between the TNI and the local community.

The event began with an educational session led by TNI soldiers, who taught students the importance of handwashing with soap and clean water—a simple yet vital practice for maintaining good health. Following this, the children received their meals in an orderly manner after a collective prayer. The logistics, including fresh food supplies, arrived earlier that day with the help of a TNI Air Forces Caracal helicopter, ensuring the activity ran seamlessly.

The students savored their meals in a joyful atmosphere, creating a heartwarming scene in the rebuilt Homeyo Field School. The school, tragically burned down by the Papua Free Movement Organization (OPM) in May 2024, now stands as a beacon of hope, thanks to the efforts of the HABEMA Task Force.

The residents and teachers expressed their deep gratitude for the TNI's dedication to their welfare. One of the students, Maria Bagubau, shared her excitement, saying, *“Thank you, Commander. We are happy to eat nutritious food for free. God bless.”*

Lieutenant General Bambang Trisnohadi reflected on the significance of this event, stating, *“The Koops HABEMA initiative to implement the MBG program at Pogapa Elementary School is a testament to the TNI's commitment to serving the government's vision of meeting basic community needs, supporting the acceleration of development in Papua.”*

The MBG program is more than a meal; it is a step toward a brighter future for Papua. By addressing nutritional needs, promoting education, and fostering goodwill, initiatives like these pave the way for lasting development in the region.

The success of this event, held under challenging conditions, is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of the TNI forces and the resilience of the Papuan people. It signals a new chapter of hope, unity, and progress for Homeyo and beyond.

Authored by:

Dansatgas Media HABEMA, Kolonel Arh Yogi Nugroho