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## TNI's Mission: Driving Security and Welfare Development in Papua

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PAPUA- The Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) have taken a central role in advancing the acceleration of welfare development in Papua, as mandated by Presidential Instruction No. 9 of 2020. The directive highlights three critical TNI responsibilities: maintaining security, assisting local governments in providing essential services, and fostering inclusive social communication with all

stakeholders in Papua.

Under this legal framework, TNI has deployed specialized Military Task Forces to the region, prioritizing stability and safety to create a conducive environment for development efforts. However, the challenges posed by security disturbances, particularly from the Free Papua Movement (OPM), remain significant obstacles. The OPM's activities, including intimidation, violence, and even fatal attacks against civilians and security forces, disrupt the peace and hinder development initiatives.

One such tragic incident occurred on **Monday (5/8/2024)** when the OPM murdered Glen Malcolm Conning, a New Zealand helicopter pilot working with PT Intan Angkasa Air Service. Despite the absence of formal requests for assistance, the TNI took swift humanitarian action, securing Alama and evacuating victims, including health workers, teachers, and even infants. "These actions were not based on external demands but were purely humanitarian efforts by the TNI," stated Colonel Yogi Nugroho, Commander of the HABEMA Media Task Force.

The TNI's dedication to safeguarding Papua was further demonstrated during the successful rescue of Susi Air Pilot Captain Phillip Mark Mehrtens, who had been held hostage by the OPM. This operation, completed on **Saturday (21/9/2024)**, underscores TNI's commitment to ensuring the safety and welfare of all individuals in Papua.

Colonel Yogi emphasized, "The TNI and Polri Security Forces are steadfast in their mission to maintain peace in Papua. Their efforts align with the Indonesian Government's goal of accelerating welfare development in the region, ensuring a safe and harmonious Papua for all its residents."

As the TNI continues to support welfare initiatives, its presence highlights a dual mission: protecting the people and paving the way for sustainable development.

**Authentication:**

Commander of the HABEMA Media Task Force, Colonel Yogi Nugroho