

# illuminating Lives: Aiwesa Residents Celebrate TNI's "Bright Papua" Initiative

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PAPUA- In a remarkable act of service and dedication, the 501 Task Forces of the Para Raider Infantry Battalion 501/Bajra Yudha Kostrad, operating under the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) Operational Command HABEMA, have brought light—both literal and symbolic—to Aiwesa Village in Aifat District. On Monday, December 2, 2024, the "Papua Terang" (Bright Papua) program was successfully implemented, installing public lighting that has transformed the village.

Commander of the 501 Task Forces, Lieutenant Colonel Yakhya Wisnu Arianto, emphasized the initiative's significance as part of TNI's commitment to meeting the fundamental needs of communities in the area. "Providing public lighting facilities is not just about addressing basic needs; it's about enhancing safety and quality of life for the residents of Aiwesa," he stated.

The program began with a collaborative planning session involving Task Forces personnel, Aiwesa Village leaders, and community figures. The focus was clear: to identify strategic locations for installing lights that would maximize benefit. On the day of installation, Aiwesa's residents actively participated, working hand-in-hand with TNI soldiers to ensure the project was completed efficiently.

By Monday afternoon, the village streets and residential yards were illuminated for the first time, a moment of profound joy for the community. One of the village leaders, Mr. Rio Murib, expressed heartfelt gratitude, saying, "Praise God, thank you, Commander 501. We are delighted that Aiwesa is brighter now. God bless."

The initiative has drawn high praise from Brigadier General Lucky Avianto, Commander of HABEMA. "The 501 Task Forces' Bright Papua program is a shining example of how the TNI integrates security and development efforts to foster progress in the Papua region. This initiative demonstrates our unwavering commitment to improving lives through meaningful collaboration," he remarked.

The success of the Bright Papua program stands as a testament to the power of partnership between the military and local communities. It not only addresses immediate needs but also builds trust and optimism for a brighter future. Aiwesa Village, now aglow with light, symbolizes the enduring spirit of unity and progress that the TNI seeks to nurture in Papua.

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