

## TNI Leads the Charge for Papua's Progress Amidst Challenges

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PAPUA- Under the framework of Presidential Instruction (Inpres) No. 9 of 2020 on the Acceleration of Welfare Development in Papua, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) is steadfast in its mission to foster peace and prosperity in the region. Through unwavering dedication, the TNI undertakes three critical tasks: providing security, supporting local governments in delivering essential services, and fostering inclusive social communication.

**Building Peace as a Catalyst for Development**

Stability and security are the cornerstones of development in Papua. To this end, the TNI has deployed Task Forces (Satgas) to ensure that the region remains safe and conducive for progress. However, this mission is not without challenges. The Free Papua Organization (OPM) continues to threaten the region's stability through acts of violence, including intimidation, assault, and murder, targeting civilians and security forces alike.

One of the most harrowing incidents occurred on August 5, 2024, when OPM brutally murdered Glen Malcolm Conning, a New Zealand pilot for PT Intan Angkasa Air Service. The TNI responded swiftly, securing the Alama area and evacuating victims, including medical personnel, teachers, and children. These actions, taken without external requests, exemplified the TNI's commitment to humanitarian service.

## **From Tragedy to Triumph: A Rescue Mission of Hope**

Another defining moment came on September 21, 2024, when TNI forces successfully rescued Susi Air Pilot Captain Phillip Mark Mehrstens, who had been held hostage by OPM. This operation, hailed as a triumph of collaboration and determination, highlighted the TNI's relentless efforts to protect lives and restore peace in Papua.

*TNI's humanitarian missions are a testament to its dedication to ensuring safety and dignity for all,* stated Colonel Arh Yogi Nugroho, Commander of Media Operations for HABEMA.

## **Commitment to a Prosperous Papua**

Beyond security, the TNI actively supports local governments in delivering basic services and fostering community engagement. These efforts aim to empower Papuan communities, enabling them to contribute to and benefit from the region's development.

Colonel Yogi emphasized the broader vision: *"The TNI and Polri are united in ensuring Papua remains secure, peaceful, and free from threats. Our mission aligns with the government's program to accelerate the region's welfare development."*

## **Hope and Unity for Papua's Future**

Through its multifaceted approach, the TNI reaffirms its commitment to building a brighter future for Papua. By addressing security challenges head-on, while prioritizing humanitarian and development efforts, the TNI stands as a pillar of hope and resilience in the region.

As Papua advances on its journey of transformation, the TNI's unwavering dedication reminds us that peace is the foundation of progress and together, we can shape a prosperous and united future.

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