

Hope and Healing: Sagapusatu Residents Rejoice at Free Medical Treatment for Elephantiasis by Task Forces 503/Mayangkara"

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NDUGA- In a heartwarming effort to bring healthcare closer to the community, the Task Forces of the Para Raider Infantry Battalion 503/Mayangkara Kostrad, under the operational command of HABEMA, collaborated with Krepkuri Puskesmas to provide free medical treatment to residents of Sagapusatu Village. This noble initiative aimed to combat the debilitating disease of filariasis, also

known as 'elephantiasis.'

On Wednesday, January 29, 2025, the soldiers of the 503 Task Forces, led by Captain Galih Widiharyo from the Batas Batu Post, worked hand-in-hand with healthcare workers to deliver medical aid to the people of Sagapusatu. The event was the result of extensive Social Communication efforts between the Task Forces and local stakeholders, initiated to address pressing health challenges in the community.

According to the Commander of the 503 Task Force, Lieutenant Colonel Gurbasa Samosir, the initiative stems from a commitment to address the fundamental needs of the people living around their posts. *“Our mission is not only to ensure security but also to foster the well-being of the local community. By collaborating with local healthcare providers, we aim to make a tangible difference in their lives,”* said Lt. Col. Gurbasa.

Preparations for the event began in October 2024, when Captain Galih discussed the health concerns of Krepkuri residents with the Head of Krepkuri Puskesmas. They identified elephantiasis as a significant health issue and planned a free treatment session to provide immediate relief. The event was scheduled to take place at a facility in Sagapusatu Village, ensuring accessibility for all residents.

The day of the event was marked by a wave of enthusiasm, as Papuan mothers gathered with their children to receive the much-needed healthcare services. Rut Kogoya, one of the beneficiaries, expressed her gratitude, saying, *“Thank you, Commander 503. Our children have been treated for free. God bless you.”*

Brigadier General Lucky Avianto, the Commanding General of HABEMA, praised the Task Forces' initiative, calling it a prime example of TNI's dedication to community welfare. *“The 503 Task Forces' collaboration with Krepkuri Puskesmas reflects our commitment to addressing health challenges and accelerating development in the Papua region,”* he stated.

The free medical treatment initiative not only provided relief to those suffering from elephantiasis but also strengthened the bond between the military and the local community. It showcased the soldiers' role as protectors and caregivers, going beyond their call of duty to bring hope and healing to those in need.

This initiative is a shining example of how collaborative efforts can create a lasting impact, fostering trust and paving the way for sustainable development in the region. The 503 Task Forces continue to set a benchmark for meaningful community engagement, proving that compassion and service can be as powerful as strength and security.

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