



Framing Analysis of Sumatera Flood Disaster News in Kompas.com and Detik.com Media December 2025 Edition

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Abstract

The flash floods that struck Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra in November–December 2025 resulted in more than 1,200 fatalities and massive infrastructure damage. Media coverage of this disaster has the potential to shape public perception in an unbalanced way if it is not presented comprehensively. This study aims to analyze and compare the framing of news coverage of the Sumatra floods on the online media outlets Kompas.com and Detik.com to reveal differences in the construction of reality and trends in information presentation in both media outlets. The approach used is descriptive qualitative analysis based on Robert N. Entman's framing model, which encompasses four elements: problem definition, identification of causes, moral judgment, and recommended solutions. The results of the study show that Kompas.com frames the floods as an ecological structural failure resulting from massive deforestation, weaknesses in permit management, and a capitalist development orientation, with long-term solutions involving ecosystem restoration and a moratorium on extractive activities. In contrast, Detik.com framed the disaster as a humanitarian emergency, focusing on the physical impacts, the need for a rapid response, and administrative measures such as declaring a national disaster and river normalization. These differences in framing reflect the editorial tendencies of each media outlet, which influence how the public understands the root causes of the problem and the priorities for disaster management.

Keywords: Floods in Sumatra; Kompas.com; Detik.com; Framing.

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INTRODUCTION

On November 25–30, 2025, extreme rainfall triggered by Tropical Cyclone Senyar caused flash floods and landslides in Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra. This disaster killed 1,207 people, 138 were missing, and forced 22,358 people to evacuate, with North Aceh as the highest death toll area (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana (BNPB), 2026). Destruction of agricultural land, threats to food security, soaring food prices in affected areas, as well as the possibility of slower economic growth and more severe poverty, are all indicators of social and economic impacts (Dewi et al., 2026).

The flood disaster in Sumatra has a high news value and highlights the community's need for fast, comprehensive, and balanced information (Jambak et al., 2025). The greater the scale of a disaster, the greater the impact on damage, casualties, and social life (Mulyaningsih & Eska Dwi Prajayanti, 2025). Therefore, disasters are an important and relevant topic for media coverage (Pinontoan & Wahid, 2020).

Media coverage that is not comprehensive and focuses solely on victims and the response can trigger excessive anxiety among the public (Hasanah & Rizqi, 2025). This indicates a process of information selection that influences the public's understanding of disasters (Bautista et al., 2023). Therefore, informative and comprehensive reporting is necessary so that the public can understand the situation and take appropriate response actions (Aprianti et al., 2025).

Media that cover the same event in a similar time period can present different news content, both in terms of sources, facts, diction, and the placement of titles and images (Bele & Fianto, 2025). This shows that the media not only conveys facts, but also constructs reality (Ramadhan et al., 2023). This difference reflects the different viewpoints and editorial policies between media (Darwis & Muqsith, 2025).

In the context of disasters, *online* media plays a crucial role as the main source of information during disasters because of its speed and reach. The media not only disseminates facts but also shapes public opinion. Disaster coverage can encourage empathy, but it has the potential to cause bias or panic if not presented proportionately (Furna et al., 2026).

Kompas.com and Detik.com are two of the leading online news portals in Indonesia. Based on data *Digital News Report (2025)* The level of public trust in *online* media is complex and tends to decline, including in the news of the Sumatra floods. Detik.com gained 59% trust thanks to its speed and factuality, while Kompas.com reached 62% as a media trusted by the public.

Maharani Anatasya et al. (2026). stated that the high public trust in Detik.com and Kompas.com due to their role as pioneers of *online journalism*, the consistency of presenting fast and relevant information, and the intensive coverage of the Sumatra floods strengthened the credibility of both.

In the study of mass communication, *framing* is used to analyze how the media shapes public perception of an event. According to Robert M. Entman, *framing* explains how journalists construct and interpret an event in the news process (Eriyanto, 2002). Through framing, the media highlights certain aspects of an event so that it affects the way the audience understands the information conveyed.

Entman (1993) defines framing as the process of selecting and highlighting certain aspects of reality to shape users' understanding. Framing has four main functions: defining problems, diagnosing causes, making moral judgments, and recommending solutions. Thus, framing not only serves to convey information but also shapes the way society interprets reality.



Entman's model is relevant for analyzing the coverage of the December 2025 floods in Sumatra on Kompas.com and Detik.com because the four functions of framing can reveal ideological biases and vested interests in news reporting (Dimas Alfriandi, 2024). The two media outlets exhibit different tendencies in selecting facts, highlighting information, and constructing specific perspectives (Ee & Nik Hasan, 2024).

This research has two main limitations. First, the study only focuses on Sumatra flood news published during December 2025. Second, the object of research is limited to two national *online* media, namely Kompas.com and Detik.com. Therefore, this study does not cover other media.

Online media has a great influence on public perception during disasters. Framing affects risk understanding and response (Dwi Anggoro et al., 2025). However, disaster reporting still highlights victims and damage more than mitigation aspects (Furna et al., 2026). Therefore, framing analysis on Kompas.com and Detik.com is important to understand the construction of disaster reality by both media.

Previous research conducted by Furna et al. (2026) on AJNN.net found that news coverage of the Aceh floods emphasized the chronology and the extent of the damage. Research by Dwi Anggoro et al. (2025) showed that local media framing in Ponorogo highlighted the suffering of the victims and was episodic in nature. On the other hand, the study by Sopiyan & Setiawan (2023) applied Zhongdang Pan and Kosicki's framing model to coverage of the Cianjur earthquake on Kompas.com and Antaranews.com. These studies remain limited to a single media outlet, local media, or a specific framing model. Novelty refers to the element of newness that offers fresh findings to contribute to scholarship and society. Kurniati et al. (2023). This study offers novelty by comparing the framing of Sumatra flood coverage on Kompas.com and Detik.com in December 2025 using Robert N. Entman's model.

Theoretically, this study enriches the study of disaster communication and framing analysis of the construction of the reality of the Sumatra flood by Kompas.com and Detik.com. Practically, the results are useful as a reference for journalists for accurate and balanced disaster news, as well as increasing public criticism of the news.

This study aims to analyze and compare the *framing* of Sumatra flood news in the December 2025 Kompas.com and Detik.com editions using the Robert N. Entman model to reveal the differences in the construction of reality and the tendency of information presentation of the two media.

METHODS

This study employs a qualitative research design using a descriptive approach. According to Ka'anto et al. (2025), qualitative research adopts descriptive and exploratory approaches because it aims to understand the meaning and processes of a phenomenon, rather than to test relationships between variables. Qualitative research was chosen because this study aims to gain an in depth understanding of how the media constructs the reality of flood disaster coverage in Sumatra through the processes of selecting, highlighting, and interpreting information in news texts (Garusi & Splendore, 2023). This study was conducted on the online media outlets Kompas.com and Detik.com. The study focused on news coverage from December 2025, following the floods that occurred in late November 2025. This period was chosen due to the high intensity of news coverage and the ongoing relevance of the issue.

The sampling technique used was purposive sampling, which involves selecting a sample based on specific considerations in line with the research objectives. In qualitative research, this



technique is used to select data sources that are relevant and capable of providing in-depth information. Therefore, the subjects of this study consist of news articles about floods in the Sumatra region published on Kompas.com and Detik.com, with the criteria that they contain elements of disaster impact, government response, and potential risks (Sahir, 2024). In the context of this study, both primary and secondary data were used. In addition to primary data in the form of news articles, this study also utilizes secondary data obtained from books, journals, research reports, and publications from other relevant sources to strengthen the analysis (Widodo et al., 2023).

Data analysis was conducted by examining the news articles based on Robert N. Entman's four framing frameworks: define problems, diagnose causes, make moral judgments, and treatment recommendations. To ensure data validity, this study employed triangulation by comparing data from various sources, specifically flood coverage in Sumatra published by Kompas.com and Detik.com. Additionally, careful observation was conducted through repeated readings of the data to ensure consistency and validity in the interpretation process.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on data collected through purposive sampling, six news articles were identified from Kompas.com and Detik.com during December 2025 that contained information on the impact of the disaster, the government's response, and the potential risk of flooding in Sumatra. Coverage by both media outlets was dominated by issues such as the causes of the disaster, its impacts, the scale of the crisis, and the government's response; however, it was not comprehensive, as it was limited in addressing aspects of mitigation, ongoing risks, and disaster uncertainty. Although they covered the same events, the two media outlets demonstrated distinct tendencies in their emphasis on issues, perspectives, and depth of information differences between Kompas.com and Detik.com which indicate divergent constructions of reality warranting further analysis through a framing approach.

Framing Analysis of Kompas.com News Coverage

News 1

Title : Sumatra Flood Has the Potential to Recur Due to Weak Governance

Source : Kompas.com, December 30, 2025

The flash floods that hit Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra in December 2025 were not solely caused by natural factors such as Tropical Cyclone Senyar, but also due to systemic environmental governance weaknesses. Experts believe that the issuance of permits based on resource exploitation, weak oversight, and the absence of long-term ecological restoration have exacerbated the disaster. The government's handling is considered to be still reactive, so that without fundamental improvements, similar floods have the potential to recur again.

Define Problem. The main problem is the weakness of systemic environmental governance and monitoring, not just natural disasters. This causes a mismatch between development and the carrying capacity of the environment in sub-watersheds (watersheds).

"Flash floods in Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra indicate a non-conformity in licensing governance that does not consider the carrying capacity and environmental carrying capacity (D3TLH) in sub-watersheds (watersheds)."

Diagnose Causes. The source of the problem stems from three factors: (1) the dominance of extractive concessions and the privatization of public space that deprives the public of access to land

and water, (2) weak monitoring, ecological audits, and EIA verification, (3) capitalistic economic development that ignores local topography and ecosystems.

"Capitalistic economic development that is inversely proportional to environmental sustainability, is indeed the root of the problem of the flash flood disaster in Sumatra."

Make Moral Judgement. The government is considered negligent, does not take sides with environmental sustainability, and is only reactive. Post-disaster responses that are rigid, bureaucratic, and tend to "show off" between agencies are considered moral failures in disaster mitigation.

"Post-disaster management in Indonesia still seems like a 'fire brigade', which only moves when the flood comes instead of taking various precautions."

Treatment Recommendation. The recommendations provided include five interventions: (1) a moratorium on extractive activities upstream of watersheds, (2) the designation of watersheds as the main unit of regional planning, (3) massive restoration through reforestation, (4) law enforcement based on spatial investigations, (5) as well as the internalization of ESG ethics and the shift from capitalistic development towards ecological justice.

News 2

Title : Ministry of Environment and Forestry Says Sumatra Floods Are Evidence of the Impact of Climate Change

Source : Kompas.com, December 12, 2025

The Ministry of the Environment (KLH) stated that the flash floods that struck Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra are clear evidence of the impacts of climate change. Tropical Cyclone Senyar which had never previously occurred in the region formed as a result of rising sea surface temperatures and changes in atmospheric circulation patterns caused by global warming. Economic losses and environmental restoration costs are estimated to reach Rp 100 trillion. Although BRIN has developed an early warning system, the main challenge is the lack of follow-up mitigation efforts on the ground.

Define Problem. The main problem is extreme hydrometeorological disasters (flash floods) caused by climate change, which trigger tropical cyclones in regions that have never experienced them before. As a result, infrastructure losses and environmental damage amount to Rp 100 trillion.

"The hydrometeorological disaster in Northern Sumatra last week serves as clear evidence, since tropical cyclones had never previously been recorded there."

Diagnose Causes. The root of the problem lies in the triple planetary crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution), which is driving global warming. Rising sea surface temperatures since the 1980s have facilitated the formation of tropical cyclones. Days of extreme rainfall have saturated the soil, increased river flows, and destabilized slopes. The global failure to reduce emissions (only a 12% reduction by 2035) has also exacerbated the situation.

"Since the 1980s, rising sea surface temperatures and changes in atmospheric circulation patterns have created conditions conducive to the formation of tropical cyclones and medium- to large-scale storms."

Make a Moral Judgment. The moral issue that arises is a collective failure both global and national in climate change mitigation and in acting on early warnings. Although early warnings can be issued several days in advance, the inability to act on this information quickly and appropriately indicates systemic negligence or unpreparedness in protecting the public.



“Early warnings are key to minimizing the risk of loss of life and damage. The challenge is ensuring that this information can be acted upon quickly and appropriately.”

Treatment Recommendation (Solution Recommendations). The solution involves two levels: (1) significantly reducing emissions through NDC commitments and decarbonization efforts by businesses to achieve the Paris Agreement target (1.5°C); (2) strengthening the follow-up to early warnings already developed by BRIN, ensuring that information on extreme weather is responded to quickly by local governments and the public.

“We must expect that we need to engage in lower-emission activities, including in Indonesia.

Regarding the participation of businesses in emission reduction efforts, I see that Pertamina, BRI, and others have already made commitments to decarbonization.”

News 3

Title : 2025 Flash Floods in Sumatra: Forest Ecosystems Growing More Fragile, Disaster Looms Closer

Source : Kompas.com, December 3, 2025

The flash floods and landslides that struck West Sumatra, North Sumatra, and Aceh in November 2025 were not merely ordinary natural disasters, but rather the culmination of long-term ecological damage caused by massive deforestation. The extreme rainfall from Tropical Cyclone Senyar served merely as the trigger. Forest destruction in the upper reaches of the watersheds has eliminated hydrological functions such as interception, infiltration, and erosion control, causing rainwater to become surface runoff immediately. Deforestation in Aceh reached 700,000 hectares over three decades; North Sumatra has only 29% of its original forest cover remaining; and West Sumatra lost 740,000 hectares of forest between 2001 and 2024.

Define Problem (Problem Definition). The main issue is the fragility of Sumatra’s forest ecosystems, which have exceeded the environment’s carrying capacity. As evidence, the flash floods of November 2025 claimed more than 400 lives, submerged hundreds of villages, and severed infrastructure. The National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) recorded 2,726 hydrometeorological events throughout the year. The forest’s natural functions—such as retaining 15–35% of rainfall through the canopy and absorbing up to 55% of water through the soil have been lost.

“Flash floods and landslides are seen as indicators of just how fragile the island’s natural defenses have become.”

Diagnosing Causes. The root of the problem is the accumulation of long-term ecological damage in the upper reaches of the watershed due to massive deforestation, the conversion of forests into plantations, illegal logging, and mining. Damage to the steep slopes of the Bukit Barisan mountain range has exacerbated vulnerability.

“Deforestation in Aceh has exceeded 700,000 hectares over three decades, while North Sumatra now has only about 29 percent of its forest cover remaining.”

“Geographically, Sumatra is located in a wet tropical region; when the ecological defenses in the upper reaches are damaged, this region becomes a ticking time bomb for disasters.”

Make Moral Judgment. Through economic development policies that disregard ecology, humans have failed to protect the forests. There is a collective moral failure in the form of poor land management, the tolerance of deforestation, and a focus on short-term economic priorities. The essence of this moral judgment is reflected in the following quotes:



“When we fail to protect the forests, the forests will no longer protect us.”

“Economic development can no longer marginalize ecosystem health. The balance between humans and nature is the foundation of resilience,” said Hatma Suryatmojo.

Treatment Recommendation (Solution Recommendations). The solutions are structural and long-term preventive in nature: (1) prioritizing forest protection and watershed conservation, (2) preserving key ecosystems such as Leuser and Batang Toru as “non-negotiable,” (3) accelerating the rehabilitation of critical lands and reforestation, (4) community education and empowerment, (5) strengthening the BMKG’s early warning system, (6) weather modification technology as a complementary measure.

“Mitigation efforts cannot rely solely on infrastructure-based approaches. Forest protection, watershed conservation, and halting deforestation must be top priorities.”

“Preserving key ecosystems such as Leuser in Aceh and Batang Toru in North Sumatra as ‘non-negotiable’ is essential for their irreplaceable hydrological buffering functions. Rehabilitation of degraded land and reforestation in watershed areas must be accelerated, accompanied by community education and empowerment to protect forests. The BMKG’s early warning system and regional preparedness must also be strengthened, as climate-related extreme weather events will become increasingly frequent. Weather modification technology (TMC) can be considered as a complementary measure.”

Framing Analysis of Detik.com News Coverage

News 1

Title : Impact of the Sumatra Disaster: Village Nearly Wiped Out, River Like a Dry Land
Source : Detik.com, December 8, 2025

Flash floods in Aceh and North Sumatra have caused severe physical damage. In Sekumur Village, Aceh Tamiang, out of 280 homes, only a mosque and piles of wood remain, with water levels reaching 7–10 meters. Meanwhile, in Sibolga, North Sumatra, the Aek Godang River has become extremely silted up due to landslide debris (sand, rocks, and logs), causing the riverbed to resemble dry land and making it possible to cross on foot. Approximately 700 residents have been displaced.

Define Problem. The main issue is the highly destructive physical impact of the disaster: Sekumur Village was nearly wiped out, with 280 homes lost and water levels reaching 7–10 meters; meanwhile, the Aek Godang River has become shallow like dry land due to accumulated landslide debris, causing the water to easily overflow and flood residential areas and highways.

“Residents’ homes were swept away by the flood, with water levels estimated to have reached 7 to 10 meters. Sekumur Village vanished in an instant; only the mosque remained,” said Hendra, a resident of Aceh Tamiang.

Diagnosing Causes. The reported source of the problem was heavy rainfall, which triggered landslides from the hills, carrying large quantities of sand, rocks, and logs downstream. This material accumulated at the riverbed, causing siltation and changes in the river’s flow. This report did not explore structural root causes such as deforestation or weak watershed management.

“Heavy rainfall on November 25–27 increased the water flow, which then carried landslide debris from the hills downstream. The debris was carried into the lower parts of the settlement, eventually burying most of the riverbed.”

Make a Moral Judgment. The moral tone in this news story is humanitarian and empathetic, highlighting the residents' suffering and the urgent need for assistance. There are no statements blaming the government, companies, or specific policies. The moral message that emerges is that disaster victims need a helping hand, and there is hope that the government will carry out river normalization.

“Residents have now evacuated to higher ground and are in desperate need of assistance.”

Treatment Recommendation (Solution Recommendation). Only one solution is presented, and it comes from the residents themselves—not from experts or officials—namely, the hope that river normalization will be carried out immediately. There are no structural recommendations such as watershed rehabilitation, reforestation, or strengthening early warning systems. This news story focuses on the short-term impacts and needs.

“Sonia hopes that river normalization can be carried out immediately so that similar disasters do not occur again in the future.”

News 2

Title : Investigation Begins into the Origin of Logs Found in Sumatra Floods

Source : Detik.com, December 5, 2025

The government has begun investigating the origin of the logs carried by flash floods in Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra. A Forest Area Enforcement Task Force, consisting of representatives from various ministries and agencies, has been formed, with the National Police and the Ministry of Forestry joining the effort. National Police Chief Listyo Sigit stated that there are allegations of violations behind the presence of these logs, while Environment and Forestry Minister Hanif Faisol Nurofiq revealed indications that the wood originated from oil palm plantation clearing using the “zero burning” method, which leaves wood scraps along the edges of the cleared land. The massive floodwaters then carried the logs downstream, exacerbating the disaster. The total death toll reached 836 people, with 518 missing and 10,500 homes damaged.

Define Problem. The main issue is the presence of a large quantity of logs carried by the flash flood, suspected to have originated from illegal activities or violations in forest areas, thereby exacerbating the disaster's impact by damaging bridges and homes and causing loss of life. This disaster has resulted in 836 deaths, 518 people missing, 10,500 damaged homes, and 295 damaged bridges.

“A total of 10,500 homes were damaged by the disaster across these three provinces, and 295 bridges were damaged. The death toll has risen to 836.”

Diagnosing Causes. The diagnosed sources of the problem are multiple yet interrelated: (1) extreme weather factors (heavy rain), (2) environmental degradation that exacerbated the disaster—specifically, logs left over from oil palm plantation clearing using the “zero-burning” method, which were simply pushed to the sides and then carried away by the massive floodwaters. The National Police Chief also mentioned suspected violations related to these logs. A natural disaster collided with poor land management practices.

“There are indications that oil palm plantation clearings left behind logs. Since the ‘zero burning’ method was used, the wood wasn’t burned but simply pushed aside. The massive volume of floodwaters in Sumatra carried these wood remnants away.”

Make a Moral Judgment that the government is serious, firm, and accountable in thoroughly investigating the violations behind the disaster, rather than simply blaming nature. There is an



implicit moral judgment that land-clearing practices which leave behind logs constitute negligence or violations that contributed to the loss of life. The Minister of Environment and Forestry called for the enforcement of environmental regulations as a moral imperative.

“We ask for everyone’s support so that we can steadfastly enforce environmental regulations in the wake of this disaster.”

Treatment Recommendation (Solution Recommendation): The proposed measures include an investigation and legal enforcement against the violations related to the logs. Concrete steps include deploying an inter-ministerial Forest Area Enforcement Task Force, collaboration between the National Police and the Ministry of Forestry, a thorough investigation to determine the responsible parties, and the firm enforcement of environmental regulations. This news report focuses on the aspects of investigation and legal accountability, without recommendations for long-term ecological restoration.

“The government has deployed a Forest Area Enforcement Task Force to Sumatra. This task force consists of representatives from various ministries and agencies. We will collaborate with the Minister of Forestry and his team to assist the joint task force in conducting its investigation.”

News 3

Title : Awaiting the Declaration of National Disaster Status for the Sumatra Floods

Source : Detik.com, December 20, 2025

The massive floods that have struck Aceh, North Sumatra, and West Sumatra have entered their third week. Thousands of homes have been destroyed, hundreds of lives have been lost, and access to a number of villages has been completely cut off. The public and public policy observers have begun urging the central government to declare this disaster a national disaster. Dr. Ihvani Malik, a public policy expert at Muhammadiyah University of Makassar, stated that national disaster status is not merely a label, but the key to establishing a clearer chain of command, securing greater funding, and ensuring a more measured pace of recovery for the victims.

Define Problem. The issue at hand is not the flooding itself, but rather the lack of clarity regarding the disaster’s legal status, which has caused coordination efforts to be slow and decentralized. As a result, aid distribution has been hampered, infrastructure recovery has stalled, and evacuees face prolonged psychological distress due to the uncertainty of when their lives will return to normal.

“The distribution of aid has also been hampered by the disruption of road and bridge access. Evacuees face uncertainty, logistical needs are stalled, and basic services remain unstable.”

Diagnosing Causes. The primary causes of this impasse are administrative and political in nature. According to Ihvani, Law No. 24 of 2007 has established criteria for declaring a national disaster, but the final decision remains within the political-administrative sphere. As of this writing, the central government has not made a firm decision, so the burden of coordination still falls on local governments, whose capacity is already stretched to the limit.

“National disaster status is, in fact, a political-administrative decision that takes into account response capacity, coordination mechanisms, as well as financial implications and accountability.”

Make a Moral Judgment. This report conveys the moral judgment that the state must provide certainty, not merely aid. Ihvani reminds us that during this time of grief, residents need not only



food and blankets but also answers to fundamental questions: who is in charge, how will aid be distributed, and when will recovery begin? As long as the central government remains hesitant to declare a disaster status, the psychological burden and the risk of permanent poverty continue to loom over the victims.

“At a time like this, the state must be present not only in the form of aid, but also through certainty: who is in charge, how will aid be distributed, and when will recovery begin. If recovery is delayed, social vulnerability could increase.”

Treatment Recommendation (Solution Recommendations). Ihvani proposes three urgent steps. First, the central government must immediately declare a national disaster status with a transparent explanation to the public. Second, remove barriers to aid distribution by opening emergency access routes, setting up temporary bridges, and optimizing airlift operations. Third, recovery efforts must be planned early on based on the “build back better” principle including relocation from high-risk zones, disaster-resilient infrastructure, and special attention to vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

“The central government needs to make a firm decision regarding national disaster status, provide solutions to aid distribution barriers, and ensure that recovery is planned early on based on the ‘build back better’ principle. Vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities must be prioritized.”

Based on the results of this analysis, differences in news framing styles were found between Kompas.com and Detik.com. These differences are evident in the way the two online media outlets frame their news, as shown in the following table.

Table 1. Comparison of News Framing

Elemen	Kompas.com	Detik.com
Define Problem	Structural ecological issues. Floods are not merely natural disasters, but rather an indication of systemic failures that include weaknesses in the permitting system, a lack of alignment with environmental carrying capacity (D3TLH), and damage to forest ecosystems that has already exceeded a critical threshold. Climate change is cited as a trigger, not the root cause of the problem.	Issues related to physical and administrative impacts. The focus is on direct consequences, including villages that have disappeared, rivers that have turned into dry land, hindered aid distribution, isolated access, and uncertainty regarding the status of a national disaster, which has slowed down coordination of the response.
Diagnose Causes	The root causes of the problem are anthropogenic and systemic. They include massive deforestation (700,000 ha in Aceh, 740,000 ha in West Sumatra), extractive concessions, weak oversight of environmental impact assessments, the privatization of public spaces,	The causes are technical and operational in nature. Two factors are cited: (1) extreme rainfall and landslides as direct triggers; (2) environmental damage such as wood debris left over from oil palm plantation clearing (zero burning). There is no in-depth

	and a capitalist development model that disregards sustainability.	analysis of historical deforestation or systemic governance weaknesses.
Make Moral Judgements	Systemic criticism of the government and corporations. The government is seen as negligent, indifferent to the environment, and merely reactive (“firefighting”). Capitalist development is viewed as the root cause of ecological crimes. There is a growing awareness that “when we fail to protect the forests, the forests will no longer protect us.”	Appreciation for the government’s response and a (subtle) call for certainty. The government (the President, the National Police Chief, and the Minister of Environment and Forestry) is portrayed as acting swiftly, seriously investigating violations, and showing concern. However, in the news article “Awaiting the Declaration of a National Disaster,” there is a subtle criticism that the state must provide certainty, not just aid.
Treatment Recommendation	Structural and long-term solutions. A moratorium on extractive activities in the upper reaches of watersheds, large-scale ecological restoration (reforestation), designating watersheds as the primary planning unit, law enforcement based on spatial investigations, and a shift from a capitalist economy toward a model based on ecological justice (ESG).	Operational and short-term solutions. Accelerating the distribution of aid, clearing road access, restoring rivers to their normal state, investigating illegal logging (law enforcement), declaring a national disaster, and rebuilding infrastructure based on the “build back better” principle.

Source: Kompas.com and Detik.com, December 2025

Discussion

Based on the analysis of three news articles from Kompas.com (December 30, December 12, December 3, 2025) and three news articles from Detik.com (December 8, December 5, December 20, 2025), significant differences were found in the way the flash floods in Sumatra were described in 2025. Kompas.com defined the problem as a structural ecological failure: “weakness in permit governance,” “forest destruction that exceeds carrying capacity,” and “capitalist development that ignores topography.” Meanwhile, Detik.com defined the problem as a direct physical impact and administrative deadlock: “villages almost disappeared,” “rivers like land,” and “unclear national disaster status.”

Kompas.com's writing style employs analytical investigative journalism, with extensive quotes from experts (Hatma Suryatmojo, statements from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and the National Agency for Research and Innovation), historical deforestation data (700,000 hectares in Aceh, 740,000 hectares in West Sumatra), and language that tends to be critical and systemic, such as "privatization of public space," "ecological crime," and "capitalist-style

development." In contrast, Detik.com adopts a humanitarian journalism style that is more relatable to residents and officials, such as quotes from residents named Hendra and Sonia, visual descriptions of "water levels reaching 7–10 meters," and procedural narratives such as "task force formed," "national disaster status declared," and "river normalization." Detik.com's language is more direct, emotional, and oriented toward short term solutions.

In general, both media outlets frame the disaster similarly but differ in defining the actors and the causal locus. Kompas.com positions the state and corporations as the primary causes (weak governance, extractive concessions, and environmental impact analysis (EIA) oversight), thus offering structural and long-term solutions. Conversely, Detik.com identifies a combination of natural factors and operational negligence (extreme rainfall, landslides, palm oil residue, and the slow declaration of a national disaster status), thus offering more technical, procedural, and emergency solutions. In other words, Kompas.com views the floods as a governance crisis, while Detik.com views them as a disaster requiring a swift response.

The detailed comparison between the media lies in the diagnosis of causes and moral judgments. Kompas.com traces the causes to their historical, anthropogenic roots (three decades of deforestation, privatization of space, and a capitalist orientation) and explicitly criticizes the government as "negligent" and "reactive." In contrast, Detik.com only cites technical causes (extreme rainfall, palm oil residue) without exploring the root causes and tends to be appreciative of the government without explicitly criticizing systemic negligence.

Framing analysis reveals fundamental differences between the media outlets Kompas.com and Detik.com when reporting on the 2025 flash floods in Sumatra. Kompas.com adopted a critical structural perspective, positioning itself as a watchdog over government policies and corporate practices. Its news sources were dominated by academics and scientific data, with an analytical and metaphorical style. The government was portrayed as part of the problem: negligent, reactive, and overly focused on capitalist development. Proposed solutions were long-term, such as a moratorium on extractive activities and ecological restoration. In contrast, Detik.com prioritized a pragmatic, humanitarian approach, appearing close to the public and appreciative of the government. Its news sources often came from affected residents and state officials, using straightforward, visual, and emotional language. The government appeared as part of the solution: acting quickly and responsively to needs on the ground. The solutions offered were technical and short-term, such as river normalization, accelerated aid, and the declaration of a national disaster. In other words, Kompas.com interpreted the flood as a systemic governance failure requiring a paradigm shift, while Detik.com viewed it as a humanitarian emergency demanding a swift response. Both of these tendencies are journalistically valid, but they have different implications for public opinion. Kompas.com readers tend to demand structural policy changes, while Detik.com readers are more focused on the effectiveness of emergency responses. Therefore, cross-media news consumption is crucial for gaining a more comprehensive understanding.

Implications of the Meaning These findings indicate that media framing is not neutral but rather reflects the tendencies of its editorial staff and target audience. Kompas.com, with its critical analytical style, acts as a watchdog, examining policy roots, thus inviting readers to question environmental governance and ecological justice. Conversely, Detik.com, with its pragmatic humanitarian style, prioritizes emotional closeness and quick solutions, so its readers gain an overview of conditions on the ground, government responses, and emergency measures. Practically, consuming only one media outlet results in an unequal understanding. Kompas.com presents the

systemic responsibilities of the state and corporations, while Detik.com presents the suffering of citizens and technical needs. Therefore, cross-media consumption is imperative for the public and policymakers to avoid being trapped by a single perspective in responding to multidimensional disasters.

CONCLUSION

When comparing Kompas.com and Detik.com, it can be concluded that the two media outlets framed the same event very differently. Kompas.com tended to employ a critical structural approach, defining the flood as an indication of systemic environmental governance failure, identifying the causes as massive deforestation and a capitalist development orientation, judging the government as negligent and reactive, and recommending long-term transformative solutions such as an extractive moratorium and ecological restoration. In contrast, Detik.com adopted a pragmatic humanitarian approach, defining the flood as a physical impact and administrative impasse, citing technical causes such as extreme rainfall and wood residue from land clearing, appreciatively assessing the government for acting quickly, and recommending short-term operational solutions such as river normalization, expediting aid, and declaring a national disaster.

These differences in framing demonstrate that no media outlet is completely neutral; each carries its own ideological bias. Kompas.com positioned itself as a policy watchdog targeting an audience seeking in-depth analysis, while Detik.com prioritized emotional connection and speed of information for an audience seeking practical guidance in emergency situations. Suggestions for further research include expanding the scope of the analysis to other online media outlets, such as Tempo.co or CNN Indonesia, and adding a longer time period to see if the framing of both media outlets has shifted post-disaster. For general readers, it is recommended to consume news from various media outlets across the board to gain a comprehensive understanding and avoid being trapped by a single perspective in responding to a multidimensional disaster that cannot be measured from a single perspective.

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