

## FRAMING OF NICKEL MINING COVERAGE IN RAJA AMPAT ON TEMPO.CO AND DETIK.COM

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**Abstract** : The rapid expansion of nickel mining in Indonesia has generated intensifying tensions between the imperatives of natural resource exploitation and the imperatives of preserving ecologically sensitive territories. This study conducts a comparative framing analysis of news coverage concerning nickel mining activities in the Raja Ampat archipelago, focusing on two influential Indonesian online news platforms: Tempo.co and Detik.com. Grounded within a qualitative research paradigm employing a comparative case study design, the investigation applies Robert N. Entman's four-dimensional framing model encompassing problem definition, causal diagnosis, moral evaluation, and treatment recommendation to ten purposively selected news articles published in June 2025. The analytical findings reveal that Detik.com predominantly frames the issue through a techno-administrative lens, accentuating regulatory violations and governmental corrective procedures, whereas Tempo.co consistently adopts a structural-critical orientation that foregrounds concerns relating to legal governance, constitutional principles, and civil society advocacy. These divergent framing tendencies illuminate how editorial orientation actively mediates the construction of environmental discourse within the Indonesian public sphere, confirming that media framing constitutes a constitutive rather than merely reflective dimension of environmental governance controversies.

Keywords: Framing Analysis, Detik.com, Tempo.co, Raja Ampat nickel mining, Robert N. Entman

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## Introduction

The extractive mineral sector in Indonesia has undergone a period of considerable and consequential transformation over the past two decades, driven primarily by the intensification of global demand for critical minerals associated with clean energy transition technologies. Among these minerals, nickel has occupied a uniquely prominent position given Indonesia's status as the world's foremost nickel reserve holder. The Indonesian government has responded to this geopolitical and economic reality by instituting a comprehensive downstreaming policy framework a set of strategic industrial interventions designed to compel domestic value addition by mandating the processing of raw nickel ore within national territory prior to export. According to Asyono, Samputra, and Djatmiko (2026), this downstreaming strategy has yielded a multisectoral transformation of Indonesia's mineral economy, positioning the country as a pivotal node in global electric vehicle battery supply chains, while simultaneously triggering the rapid proliferation of nickel smelting infrastructure and the expansion of mining concession boundaries into previously undisturbed ecological zones.

The environmental consequences of this expansion have emerged as a matter of acute scholarly and public concern. Herdiansyah (2019) has documented comprehensively how extractive activities in Indonesia generate sustained pressures upon landscape integrity, diminish ambient environmental quality, and expose proximate ecosystems to potentially irreversible degradation when operations are conducted without robust sustainability governance frameworks. The intersection of aggressive mining expansion and the ecological sensitivity of Indonesia's outstanding natural heritage areas has therefore produced a terrain of persistent and escalating conflict a conflict wherein the economic rationale for resource extraction confronts the imperative of biodiversity conservation with considerable urgency.

Nowhere is this tension more viscerally apparent than in the Raja Ampat archipelago of West Papua Province. Raja Ampat has been consistently identified by marine biologists and conservation ecologists as constituting one of the most biologically diverse marine environments on the planet. Bert W, Tuti, and Suharsono (2009) have demonstrated that the species richness documented within Raja Ampat's waters is extraordinary even relative to other high-biodiversity areas within the Indo-Pacific Coral Triangle, the globally recognized epicenter of marine biodiversity. The archipelago encompasses approximately 1,500 islands and supports complex reef ecosystems that sustain both commercially significant fisheries and an internationally prominent marine tourism industry two economic sectors upon which the livelihoods of indigenous coastal communities have historically depended.

The governance of Raja Ampat's marine protected area network has itself been the subject of sustained academic inquiry. White, Mangubhai, Rumetna, and Brooks (2022) have established that the long-term viability of conservation management in this region is contingent upon effective multi-stakeholder collaboration involving governmental authorities, indigenous communities, non-governmental environmental

organizations, and international conservation bodies. Their research underscores that sustainable natural resource governance understood as the structural integration of conservation objectives into regulatory decision-making constitutes the foundational prerequisite for ensuring that the region's extraordinary biodiversity endures as a productive ecological and economic asset across generational timescales.

The recent and controversial emergence of commercial nickel mining operations within the Raja Ampat archipelago has placed the region at a genuinely critical developmental crossroads. Atong (2025) has characterized this juncture as a fundamental choice between two incompatible development trajectories: an extractive mining-dependent pathway that prioritizes short-term revenue from subsoil resources, and a sustainable tourism-centered pathway that positions the integrity of marine ecosystems as the primary driver of long-term economic wellbeing. Atong's analysis further indicates that mining activities carry documented potential to destabilize marine ecosystems, disrupt traditional indigenous land and sea tenure arrangements, and reconfigure local social structures in ways that may prove difficult to reverse, while sustainable tourism when designed in genuine partnership with local communities can generate durable economic benefits compatible with conservation objectives.

Within this contested developmental context, the mass media assumes a role of considerable structural significance. The media does not merely transmit pre-formed information to passive audiences; it actively participates in the social construction of reality through the selective organization and presentation of information about complex issues. This process is theorized in the academic literature as framing. Eriyanto (2012) has articulated framing as a mechanism of selective emphasis through which certain dimensions of an event are rendered salient while others are relegated to the periphery, thereby producing specific interpretive frames at the level of public cognition. In the domain of environmental communication, framing operates as a pivotal instrument in determining how ecological issues are understood, negotiated, and contested within the public sphere (Pedelty, 2015). Empirical research consistently demonstrates that the particular frames deployed by media actors exercise measurable influence over public attitudes toward environmental issues, including in the politically charged contexts of climate policy and energy transition debates (Street & Nisbet, 2010).

The Indonesian media landscape has been shown to exhibit systematic framing tendencies in its treatment of environmental issues. Wijayanto and Nurhajati (2019) have established that Indonesian online news media coverage of environmental topics does not operate from a position of informational neutrality but is instead substantially shaped by the specific institutional interests, ideological commitments, and structural relationships that characterize individual media organizations. Muchlisoh, Ulfa, and Zuhriyah (2025) have similarly demonstrated that Indonesian online media constructs social reality through deliberate choices regarding perspective selection, linguistic

register, and issue emphasis processes that collectively constitute a form of active meaning-making rather than passive information relay.

A growing body of scholarly literature has examined media framing of nickel industry issues in Indonesia, with particular attention to the relationship between downstream policy narratives and national economic development discourse. The research of Asyono, Samputra, and Djatmiko (2026) has illuminated the complex environmental and social externalities that accompany this expansion, noting that the intensification of nickel production is accompanied by elevated emissions, heightened risks of social conflict in affected communities, and accelerating pressure upon fragile ecosystems proximate to mining operations.

Notwithstanding this growing literature, a significant analytical lacuna persists. Comparative studies examining framing dynamics in media coverage of mining activities situated within ecologically designated conservation areas remain exceptionally scarce. Furthermore, systematic comparative analyses of the framing strategies employed by different national-scale online media organizations in constructing major environmental controversies have not been undertaken with the depth or breadth required to generate robust theoretical insights (Street & Nisbet, 2010). This study is designed to address this gap directly by conducting a detailed and systematic comparative framing analysis of news coverage produced by Tempo.co and Detik.com in relation to the nickel mining controversy in Raja Ampat. The analytical focus is directed toward identifying and comparing the framing patterns each medium deploys to represent environmental concerns, configure the roles of relevant social actors, and construct normative evaluative orientations toward the contested mining activities.

### **Research Methodology**

This study is positioned within a qualitative research paradigm and employs a descriptive-comparative case study design. The qualitative orientation is particularly appropriate for the analytic objectives of this research because it facilitates the in-depth interpretive examination of meaning-making processes within media texts a dimension of inquiry that quantitative methodologies are structurally ill-equipped to address with adequate nuance (Eriyanto, 2012). The research corpus consists of news articles published by Tempo.co and Detik.com relating to nickel mining activities in the Raja Ampat archipelago. These two online news platforms were selected on the basis of their broad national reach, their documented editorial distinctiveness, and their differential historical orientations toward governmental accountability and environmental issues.

The units of analysis were identified through a purposive sampling strategy. Sampling criteria were established on the basis of thematic relevance to the central research issue, the substantive depth of informational content, and the directness of connection to the environmental conflict under investigation. Applying these criteria, five news articles from each platform were selected for analysis, yielding a total

analytical corpus of ten articles published within the period from June 6 to June 10, 2025. Data collection was conducted through systematic documentation and structured observation of news content accessed through the official online platforms of both media organizations, employing search terms including 'nickel mining,' 'Raja Ampat,' and 'environment' to ensure systematic coverage of relevant published material.

Data analysis was conducted using the framing model developed by Robert N. Entman, a theoretical and methodological framework that has achieved widespread adoption in media studies scholarship for its analytical precision and its demonstrated capacity to reveal the latent normative orientations embedded in journalistic texts. Entman's model operationalizes framing analysis through four interrelated analytical dimensions: problem definition (the manner in which the news text characterizes the central issue), causal diagnosis (the attribution of agency and responsibility for the defined problem), moral evaluation (the normative framework applied to assess actors and conditions involved), and treatment recommendation (the proposed resolutions or remedial actions the text identifies as appropriate). To ensure the validity and reliability of the analytical conclusions, a triangulation procedure was applied, combining systematic comparison of findings across multiple data sources with the integration of documentation and structured observational techniques.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Framing Analysis of Detik.com News Coverage**

The framing analysis of Detik.com's five news articles reveals a consistent and identifiable pattern in how this media organization constructs the nickel mining controversy in Raja Ampat. Across all five articles, Detik.com positions the controversy primarily as a techno-administrative governance problem a failure of regulatory compliance and governmental oversight rather than as a fundamental structural or constitutional challenge to the legitimacy of mining activities in ecologically protected territories. This framing orientation produces reporting that is predominantly informational in character, closely tracking the procedural and institutional responses of governmental authorities to documented operational violations.

#### **Detik.com News Article 1 (June 6, 2025)**

Detik.com's initial coverage of the nickel mining controversy in Raja Ampat frames the emergence of public controversy as a governance crisis precipitated by the discovery of environmental infractions committed by mining companies operating in the region. The problem is characterized principally as a matter of mining governance in geographically sensitive small island environments. In the dimension of causal diagnosis, responsibility is attributed to mining companies' activities that fail to satisfy applicable environmental regulatory requirements, compounded by the existence of mining business permits that were issued as far back as 2017. In terms of moral evaluation, the coverage emphasizes that mining activities on small islands carry the potential to contravene Law No. 1 of 2014 on the Management of Coastal Areas and

Small Islands, thereby requiring stringent governmental oversight to preserve ecological integrity. As a treatment recommendation, the article presents the temporary suspension of operations by PT Gag Nickel and the conduct of on-site verification by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources as the appropriate and proportionate governmental response (Eriyanto, 2012).

**Table 1. Framing Analysis Detik.com News Article 1 (June 6, 2025)**

| <b>Entman's Element</b>         | <b>Detik.com News Article 1 (June 6, 2025)</b>  |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Define Problem</i>           | The emergence of public controversy regarding nickel mining activities in the Raja Ampat region, Southwest Papua.   |
| <i>Diagnose Causes</i>          | Several mining companies are conducting activities that do not comply with environmental regulations including lacking environmental permits, failing to manage waste properly, and opening mines outside the designated permit area. |
| <i>Make Moral Judgment</i>      | Mining activities on small islands have the potential to violate legal regulations, particularly Law No. 1 of 2014 on the Management of Coastal Areas and Small Islands.  |
| <i>Treatment Recommendation</i> | The government, through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, has temporarily suspended mining operations by PT Gag Nickel pending the results of a field verification.   |

**Detik.com News Article 2 (June 7, 2025)**

The second Detik.com article focuses on the governmental findings concerning environmental rule violations by several nickel mining companies operating in Raja Ampat. The problem is defined as a concrete set of regulatory infractions documented through official governmental assessment procedures. The causal diagnosis attributes these violations to mining companies' failure to satisfy environmental and permitting requirements, encompassing inadequate environmental documentation, improper waste management procedures, and the conduct of mining activities in conflict with regulations governing the management of small islands. The moral evaluation emphasizes the importance of preserving the Raja Ampat ecosystem as a globally significant conservation area with high natural tourism potential. The treatment recommendation presents a temporary halt to mining activities at violation sites, combined with a governmental evaluation of mining business permits previously granted to these companies (White, Mangubhai, Rumetna, & Brooks, 2022).

**Table 2. Framing Analysis Detik.com News Article 2 (June 7, 2025)**

| <b>Entman's Element</b>         | <b>Detik.com News Article 2 (June 7, 2025)</b>   |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>Define Problem</i>           | Violations of environmental regulations in nickel mining activities in the Raja Ampat region.  |
| <i>Diagnose Causes</i>          | Mining company activities that do not comply with applicable environmental and permitting regulations, including lacking environmental documents, inadequate waste management, and mining conducted in conflict with small island management provisions. |
| <i>Make Moral Judgment</i>      | Emphasizing the importance of preserving the environment and the Raja Ampat ecosystem a conservation area with high marine biodiversity and natural tourism potential that is a source of national pride internationally.                                |
| <i>Treatment Recommendation</i> | Temporary suspension of mining activities at locations found to be in violation, accompanied by a governmental evaluation of mining business permits previously granted to these companies.  |

**Detik.com News Article 3 (June 8, 2025)**

The third Detik.com article addresses the Ministry of Forestry's actions regarding alleged mining activities within Raja Ampat's forest area. The problem is framed as alleged mining activities in the forest area that have caused public outcry, with particular attention to the Ministry of Forestry's findings regarding three companies PT GN, PT KSM, and PT MRP. In terms of causal diagnosis, responsibility is attributed to companies conducting development activities within forest areas, including those operating without a Forest Area Use Permit (PPKH). The moral evaluation emphasizes the importance of preserving the Raja Ampat region, which holds high ecological and cultural value, and characterizes mining activities potentially damaging to forests as requiring strict legal monitoring. As a treatment recommendation, the coverage presents the Ministry of Forestry's announced intention to pursue legal action through three parallel instruments administrative, criminal, and civil as the appropriate institutional response (Herdiansyah, 2019).

**Table 3. Framing Analysis Detik.com News Article 3 (June 8, 2025)**

| <b>Entman's Element</b> | <b>Detik.com News Article 3 (June 8, 2025)</b>   |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Define Problem</i>   | Alleged mining activities in the Raja Ampat forest area that have drawn public attention and caused considerable public concern.                               |
| <i>Diagnose Causes</i>  | Mining company activities operating in the Raja Ampat forest area. PT GN and PT KSM hold Forest Area Use Permits (PPKH), but still require oversight to ensure |

| <b>Entman's Element</b>         | <b>Detik.com News Article 3 (June 8, 2025)</b>   |
|---------------------------------|--|
|                                 | compliance with applicable obligations and laws. PT MRP is suspected of conducting mining activities without a permit in the forest area.  |
| <i>Make Moral Judgment</i>      | Emphasizing the importance of preserving the Raja Ampat area, which holds high ecological and cultural value requiring strict monitoring and legal accountability for any mining activities that potentially damage forests and the environment.   |
| <i>Treatment Recommendation</i> | The Ministry of Forestry will conduct oversight and pursue legal action through three instruments: administrative, criminal, and civil. Initial steps include forestry oversight, evidence collection, and company clarification procedures to strengthen the case regarding alleged violations. |

#### **Detik.com News Article 4 (June 9, 2025)**

The fourth Detik.com article focuses on the Ministry of Environment's findings regarding mining activities in Raja Ampat, with particular attention to environmental damage on Manuran Island. The problem is defined as a controversy surrounding mining activities with the potential to cause environmental damage, including coastal pollution and turbidity. The causal diagnosis attributes responsibility to the activities of mining companies operating on small islands PT GN, PT ASP, PT KSM, and PT MRB including the collapse of a settling pond that caused coastal pollution, weak environmental management by the companies, and the opening of mining sites beyond permitted boundaries. The moral evaluation emphasizes the importance of preserving the Raja Ampat ecosystem's coral reef habitats, and characterizes natural resource exploitation on small islands as requiring stringent oversight given the extreme difficulty of ecological restoration once damage occurs. As a treatment recommendation, the article presents governmental sealing of problematic sites, temporary halts to exploration activities by certain companies, and plans to review environmental documents and permits (Asyono, Samputra, & Djatmiko, 2026).

**Table 4. Framing Analysis Detik.com News Article 4 (June 9, 2025)**

| <b>Entman's Element</b> | <b>Detik.com News Article 4 (June 9, 2025)</b>   |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Define Problem</i>   | The controversy surrounding mining activities in the Raja Ampat region that have the potential to cause environmental damage, particularly on Manuran Island, which is suspected of experiencing pollution and coastal turbidity due to mining operations. |
| <i>Diagnose Causes</i>  | Mining company activities on small islands including PT GN, PT ASP, PT KSM, and PT MRB the collapse of a settling pond leading to coastal pollution, weak  |

| <b>Entman's Element</b>         | <b>Detik.com News Article 4 (June 9, 2025)</b>   |
|---------------------------------|--|
|                                 | environmental management by the companies, and the opening of mining sites beyond the granted permit areas.  |
| <i>Make Moral Judgment</i>      | Emphasizing the importance of preserving the Raja Ampat ecosystem, which holds high ecological value particularly the presence of coral reefs as a critical habitat for marine life. Environmental restoration in this region is extremely difficult once damage occurs. |
| <i>Treatment Recommendation</i> | Government measures include sealing problematic mining sites, temporarily halting exploration activities by certain companies, and plans to review environmental documents and permits held by mining companies.   |

### **Detik.com News Article 5 (June 6, 2025)**

The fifth Detik.com article addresses the push for a comprehensive evaluation of mining permits in Raja Ampat. The problem is framed as the presence of nickel mines in the region that are deemed to have the potential to damage the environment and threaten the tourism sector a pillar of the local economy. The causal diagnosis attributes the problem to the issuance of mining business permits to several companies operating on small islands in the region. The moral evaluation emphasizes that Raja Ampat is an area of extremely high biodiversity that must be protected from exploitation that risks damaging the environment. As a treatment recommendation, the article presents the need for a comprehensive evaluation of mining permits in conservation areas and decisive governmental action to revoke the mining business permits of several companies in order to preserve the sustainability of the area (Atong, 2025).

**Table 5. Framing Analysis Detik.com News Article 5 (June 6, 2025)**

| <b>Entman's Element</b>    | <b>Detik.com News Article 5 (June 6, 2025)</b>   |
|----------------------------|--|
| <i>Define Problem</i>      | The presence of nickel mining activities in the Raja Ampat region, which are considered to have the potential to damage the environment and threaten the marine tourism sector that supports the local economy.  |
| <i>Diagnose Causes</i>     | The granting of mining permits to a number of companies operating on the small islands of Raja Ampat. These activities are considered to have the potential to disrupt the ecosystem and conflict with the region's character as an area of exceptionally high biodiversity. |
| <i>Make Moral Judgment</i> | Emphasizing that Raja Ampat is a precious natural heritage that must be protected from natural resource exploitation activities that risk damaging the environment and threatening local livelihoods.  |

| Entman's Element                | Detik.com News Article 5 (June 6, 2025)   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Treatment Recommendation</i> | A comprehensive evaluation of mining permits in conservation areas and decisive governmental action to revoke the mining business permits of companies operating in Raja Ampat. |

### ***Framing Analysis of Tempo.co News Coverage***

The framing analysis of Tempo.co's five news articles reveals a markedly distinct framing orientation from that observed in Detik.com's coverage. Where Detik.com constructs the controversy primarily as a regulatory enforcement problem, Tempo.co systematically frames the Raja Ampat nickel mining issue as a structural governance failure with deep legal, constitutional, and political dimensions. Tempo.co's coverage demonstrates a pronounced tendency to incorporate and privilege the perspectives of constitutional legal experts, environmental non-governmental organizations, and civil society groups actors whose voices are comparatively marginal in Detik.com's reporting (Muchlisoh, Ulfa, & Zuhriyah, 2025).

#### **Tempo.co News Article 1 (June 1, 2025)**

Tempo.co's opening article on the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister's statement regarding nickel mining permits in Raja Ampat establishes a fundamentally adversarial framing that immediately foregrounds the conflict orientation from the outset. The problem is defined as a controversy surrounding nickel mining activities in Raja Ampat that has drawn public scrutiny and opposition from environmental groups due to concerns about potential ecosystem damage between commercial interests and conservation imperatives. The causal diagnosis attributes the controversy to the existence of mining permits issued long ago and nickel exploitation activities on several small islands, with reports from environmental organizations highlighting the potential for forest destruction, coastal sedimentation, and threats to coral reefs. The moral evaluation presents two perspectives simultaneously: the government's emphasis on good mining practices and strict supervision, and environmental groups' argument that mining exploitation in areas of high biodiversity has the potential to damage marine ecosystems and globally significant tourist areas. As a treatment recommendation, the temporary suspension of PT GAG Nickel's mining activities pending governmental on-site verification is presented as an initial effort to ensure mining activities remain within environmental regulations (Wijayanto & Nurhajati, 2019).

**Table 6. Framing Analysis Tempo.co News Article 1 (June 1, 2025)**

| Entman's Element      | Tempo.co News Article 1 (June 1, 2025)   |
|-----------------------|--|
| <i>Define Problem</i> | The controversy surrounding nickel mining activities in Raja Ampat, which has drawn public attention and opposition from environmental groups because it is considered to have the potential to damage the ecosystem |

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
|                                 | of this tourist area.   |
| <i>Diagnose Causes</i>          | The existence of mining permits issued long ago and nickel exploitation activities on several small islands in the Raja Ampat region. Reports from environmental organizations highlight the potential for forest destruction, coastal sedimentation, and threats to coral reefs resulting from mining activities.                    |
| <i>Make Moral Judgment</i>      | Mining activities must adhere to the principles of good mining practices and be conducted under strict supervision. Simultaneously, environmental groups argue that mining exploitation in areas of high biodiversity such as Raja Ampat has the potential to damage marine ecosystems and globally significant tourist destinations. |
| <i>Treatment Recommendation</i> | Temporary suspension of PT GAG Nickel's mining activities pending the government's on-site verification process, as an effort to ensure mining activities remain within environmental regulations and maintain a balance between natural resource utilization and conservation area protection.                                       |

### **Tempo.co News Article 2 (June 7, 2025)**

The second Tempo.co article addresses alleged legal violations in mining activities in Raja Ampat, representing a significant escalation in the critical depth of the framing. The problem is explicitly defined as the existence of a nickel mining business permit in Raja Ampat that contradicts applicable legal provisions, with constitutional law experts cited as stating that mining activities on small islands do not comply with Law No. 1 of 2014 and a Constitutional Court ruling prohibiting mining activities in coastal areas and on small islands. The causal diagnosis identifies the issuance of mining permits in areas where such activities are legally prohibited as the root cause, and raises the possibility of abuse of authority or corrupt practices in the permitting process. The moral evaluation frames the mining activities as contradicting the principle of sustainable natural resource management enshrined in Article 33 of the 1945 Constitution. As a treatment recommendation, the article advocates a permanent halt to mining activities in the region and an evaluation of existing permits, as well as urging law enforcement agencies to investigate potential legal violations or corrupt practices in the permitting process (Eriyanto, 2012).

**Table 7. Framing Analysis Tempo.co News Article 2 (June 7, 2025)**

| <b>Entman's Element</b> | <b>Tempo.co News Article 2 (June 7, 2025)</b>  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Define Problem</i>   | The existence of nickel mining business permits in Raja Ampat that are deemed to be in violation of applicable laws specifically Law No. 1 of 2014 on the Management |

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
|                                 | of Coastal Areas and Small Islands and a directly applicable Constitutional Court ruling.   |
| <i>Diagnose Causes</i>          | The issuance of mining permits in an area where mining activities are legally prohibited. Furthermore, there are allegations of abuse of authority or corrupt practices, as the permits were issued despite being in violation of the law and a ruling by the Constitutional Court. |
| <i>Make Moral Judgment</i>      | Mining activities in Raja Ampat are contrary to the principle of sustainable natural resource management as stipulated in Article 33 of the 1945 Constitution, and constitute a threat to the ecological and community rights of affected indigenous populations.                   |
| <i>Treatment Recommendation</i> | A permanent halt to mining activities in the Raja Ampat region, a comprehensive evaluation of mining permits already issued, and formal investigation by law enforcement agencies into potential legal violations or corrupt practices in the permitting process.                   |

### **Tempo.co News Article 3 (June 8, 2025)**

The third Tempo.co article covers the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources' statement regarding nickel mining activities in Raja Ampat amid intensifying public protests. The problem is framed as a controversy that has sparked a wave of public protests both on social media and from civil society groups who view the mining activities as potentially threatening the region's ecosystem. The causal diagnosis links the controversy to the mining permits granted to several companies in the Raja Ampat region, combined with the public revelation of mining activities in a tourist area that has heightened public concern. The moral evaluation presents the government's emphasis on strict supervision and compliance with legal regulations alongside the principle of maintaining a balance between natural resource utilization and conservation area preservation. As a treatment recommendation, the article presents the temporary suspension of PT GAG Nickel's mining activities and a comprehensive evaluation of mining permits and operations, supported by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources' deployment of mining inspectors to conduct verification and technical oversight (Atong, 2025).

**Table 8. Framing Analysis Tempo.co News Article 3 (June 8, 2025)**

| <b>Entman's Element</b> | <b>Tempo.co News Article 3 (June 8, 2025)</b>  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Define Problem</i>   | The controversy over nickel mining activities in Raja Ampat that has sparked a wave of public protests both online and in the community, raising serious concerns about potential environmental damage to this globally significant marine area. |

| <b>Entman's Element</b>         | <b>Tempo.co News Article 3 (June 8, 2025)</b>   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Diagnose Causes</i>          | The mining business permits granted to several companies to operate in the Raja Ampat region, combined with the public revelation of mining activities in a prominent tourist and conservation area that has intensified public environmental concern.                        |
| <i>Make Moral Judgment</i>      | Emphasizing the importance of maintaining a balance between the exploitation of natural resources and environmental protection, while underscoring the government's obligation to ensure that all mining activities adhere to legal regulations and conservation principles.  |
| <i>Treatment Recommendation</i> | The government's decision to temporarily suspend nickel mining activities by PT GAG Nickel and deploy a team of mining inspectors from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources to conduct a comprehensive technical evaluation of all mining permit areas in Raja Ampat. |

#### **Tempo.co News Article 4 (June 9, 2025)**

The fourth Tempo.co article provides the most legally detailed and structurally comprehensive analysis of the controversy, focusing on the regulatory framework governing mining activities on small islands. The problem is framed as a controversy over nickel mining activities on several small islands in Raja Ampat that violate various legal provisions governing the management of coastal areas and small islands in Indonesia, a framing reinforced by the Ministry of Environment's sealing of several mining sites. The causal diagnosis identifies the presence of mining activities on small islands that, by law, should not be designated for such activities: Law No. 1 of 2014 stipulates that the use of small islands is prioritized for conservation, research, tourism, and sustainable fisheries activities, while the fact that Gag Island spans only approximately 60 km<sup>2</sup> confirms its legal status as a small island where mining is prohibited. The moral evaluation frames mining on small islands as not only violating sectoral laws but also contradicting the constitutional principle of sustainable natural resource management, with some academics characterizing the permitting process as potentially indicative of abuse of authority or corruption. As a treatment recommendation, the article presents the temporary suspension of mining activities while conducting on-site verification, but leading legal experts argue this must be followed by the revocation of mining business permits if violations are proven (Bert W, Tuti, & Suharsono, 2009).

**Table 9. Framing Analysis Tempo.co News Article 4 (June 9, 2025)**

| <b>Entman's Element</b> | <b>Tempo.co News Article 4 (June 9, 2025)</b>  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Define Problem</i>   | The controversy surrounding nickel mining activities on several small islands in Raja Ampat, which has sparked |

| Entman's Element                | Tempo.co News Article 4 (June 9, 2025)  |
|---------------------------------|---|
|                                 | protests from environmental activists because the activities are deemed to violate various legal provisions governing the management of coastal areas and small islands in Indonesia.   |
| <i>Diagnose Causes</i>          | The presence of mining activities on small islands that, by law, should not be designated for such activities. Law No. 1 of 2014 on the Management of Coastal Areas and Small Islands stipulates that the use of small islands is prioritized for conservation, research, tourism, fisheries, and other sustainable activities categories that explicitly exclude mining. |
| <i>Make Moral Judgment</i>      | Mining activities on small islands not only violate sectoral laws but also contradict the principle of sustainable natural resource management as stipulated in Article 33 of the 1945 Constitution. The issuance of mining permits in the area may constitute evidence of abuse of authority or corruption.  |
| <i>Treatment Recommendation</i> | The government's step to temporarily suspend mining activities while conducting on-site verification must be followed by the revocation of mining business permits if proven violations of legal provisions are confirmed, given the potential for serious and irreversible environmental impacts.  |

#### **Tempo.co News Article 5 (June 10, 2025)**

The fifth and final Tempo.co article covers the revocation of nickel mining permits in Raja Ampat and represents the culmination of Tempo.co's escalating critical framing throughout the coverage period. The problem is framed as a controversy over nickel mining activities in Raja Ampat that threaten the sustainability of the region's ecosystem, a framing that situates the issue within a long-term conservation horizon rather than a merely procedural regulatory one. The causal diagnosis attributes the root of the problem to the mining permits granted to companies operating in the area, with mining activities positioned as potentially damaging the environment and sparking social conflict with communities opposing the nickel industry's presence. The moral evaluation emphasizes the importance of protecting the Raja Ampat ecosystem from natural resource exploitation that could damage the environment and threaten local community livelihoods, with development characterized as more appropriately directed toward sustainable sectors such as indigenous-community-engaged tourism. As a treatment recommendation, the article presents the government's revocation of four mining permits as a meaningful but insufficient initial step, with environmental organizations urging comprehensive permanent protection through the revocation of

all active mining permits and the restoration of impacted areas (Street & Nisbet, 2010).

**Table 10. Framing Analysis Tempo.co News Article 5 (June 10, 2025)**

| <b>Entman's Element</b>         | <b>Tempo.co News Article 5 (June 10, 2025)</b>  |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Define Problem</i>           | The controversy surrounding nickel mining activities in Raja Ampat, which are considered a fundamental threat to the long-term sustainability of the region's ecosystem and the livelihoods of indigenous coastal communities.  |
| <i>Diagnose Causes</i>          | The mining business permits granted to several companies to operate in the area. Mining activities are considered to have the potential to damage the environment and trigger social conflict with communities that oppose the presence of the nickel industry in the region.   |
| <i>Make Moral Judgment</i>      | Emphasizing the importance of protecting the Raja Ampat ecosystem, which holds globally significant ecological value, and characterizing sustainable tourism involving indigenous peoples and local communities as the more appropriate and constitutionally consistent development pathway for the region.                         |
| <i>Treatment Recommendation</i> | The revocation of four mining business permits by the government represents a meaningful but insufficient initial step. Environmental organizations urge the government to provide permanent protection by revoking all active mining permits and implementing systematic restoration of areas impacted by prior mining activities. |

### ***Comparative Discussion: Framing Divergences and Their Significance***

The systematic comparative analysis of framing patterns across Detik.com and Tempo.co reveals a set of fundamental and analytically consequential divergences that extend well beyond mere differences in journalistic tone or rhetorical emphasis. Based on the framing analysis conducted across ten news articles regarding the nickel mining controversy in Raja Ampat, distinct framing patterns emerge in how the two media outlets construct the social reality of this mining issue. Both media outlets highlight the controversy surrounding mining activities in an area known simultaneously as a conservation zone and a world-class marine tourism destination. However, applying Robert N. Entman's framing model reveals how the four analytical elements are deployed differently by each media outlet to shape a specific perspective on the mining issue in Raja Ampat.

Regarding the 'define problem' element, Detik.com tends to frame the nickel mining issue in Raja Ampat as an environmental controversy arising from alleged violations of regulations in mining activities. The coverage highlights findings from

governmental environmental assessments regarding mining company activities that do not comply with environmental regulations, such as inadequate waste management, land clearing outside permitted areas, and alleged pollution at several mining sites. Thus, Detik.com defines the problem primarily in terms of technical aspects and environmental impacts arising from these mining activities. Conversely, Tempo.co defines the issue more broadly by framing the mining controversy as a legal and public policy issue. Tempo.co's coverage emphasizes the controversy surrounding the legality of mining permits on small islands, which are deemed to conflict with the Law on the Management of Coastal Areas and Small Islands as well as a ruling by the Constitutional Court (Eriyanto, 2012).

Furthermore, regarding the 'diagnosis of causes' element, Detik.com tends to attribute the causes of the controversy to mining companies' activities deemed not to fully comply with environmental regulations or applicable operational procedures. The root of the problem is directed toward technical violations on-site and the need for governmental oversight of mining activities. Meanwhile, Tempo.co attributes the root of the controversy to structural issues particularly the process of issuing mining business permits in areas legally deemed unsuitable for mining activities. In some reports, Tempo.co also raises the possibility of abuse of authority in the permitting process, thereby framing the mining issue not merely as an environmental concern but also as a matter of natural resource governance integrity (Wijayanto & Nurhajati, 2019).

Regarding the element of making moral judgments, both media outlets emphasize the importance of preserving the environment of Raja Ampat as an area with extremely high biodiversity. Detik.com argues that mining activities must be strictly monitored to prevent broader environmental damage, constructing a moral assessment that emphasizes the importance of balancing the utilization of natural resources with environmental protection. On the other hand, Tempo.co presents a more critical moral assessment, emphasizing that mining activities on small islands have the potential to conflict with the principles of sustainable development as well as the state's obligation to protect coastal areas and marine ecosystems as mandated by the 1945 Constitution (Pedelty, 2015).

In the treatment recommendation section, both media outlets propose solutions involving governmental measures to temporarily halt mining activities and conduct an evaluation of previously issued mining permits. However, Detik.com focuses more on administrative measures such as field verification, monitoring of mining activities, and potential enforcement actions against companies found to have violated regulations. Conversely, Tempo.co emphasizes the need for more decisive measures, such as the permanent revocation of mining permits and comprehensive protection of the Raja Ampat region from natural resource exploitation activities. These framing differences demonstrate that the media plays a crucial role in shaping public perceptions of an issue through the selection of perspectives, emphasis on information, and the narratives constructed in their reporting (Muchlisoh, Ulfa, & Zuhriyah, 2025).

Overall, the framing analysis results indicate that Detik.com and Tempo.co exhibit distinct framing tendencies in their coverage of the nickel mining issue in Raja Ampat. Detik.com highlights field-based facts and the government's response to alleged environmental violations, resulting in reporting that is largely informative and focused on policy developments. Meanwhile, Tempo.co places greater emphasis on legal dimensions, public policy, and criticism from civil society groups regarding mining activities in the region. Thus, the coverage by both media outlets not only serves to convey information regarding the nickel mining controversy in Raja Ampat but also shapes public perceptions of how these mining activities are understood within the contexts of the environment, law, and development policy. Through this framing process, the media contributes to constructing a social reality that can influence how the public evaluates governmental policies and the sustainability of natural resource management in the Raja Ampat region (White, Mangubhai, Rumetna, & Brooks, 2022).

## **Conclusion**

This study has conducted a systematic comparative analysis of the framing strategies employed by Tempo.co and Detik.com in their coverage of the nickel mining controversy in the Raja Ampat archipelago during June 2025. The application of Robert N. Entman's four-dimensional framing model to ten purposively selected news articles has confirmed the existence of fundamental and analytically consequential divergences in the interpretive frames constructed by the two media organizations across all four analytical dimensions. The findings of this study confirm that there are fundamental differences in the framing used by Tempo.co and Detik.com in their coverage of the nickel mining issue in Raja Ampat. Detik.com tends to represent the issue as a technical-administrative matter focused on operational violations and the government's response, whereas Tempo.co frames the issue within a more structural framework by emphasizing aspects of legality, public policy, and criticism of the permitting system (Eriyanto, 2012).

This difference demonstrates that media framing not only reflects reality but also actively shapes social meaning through the selection of issues and specific emphases, thereby influencing how the public understands the conflict between resource exploitation and environmental protection. Analytically, these findings reinforce the relevance of Robert N. Entman's framing theory in explaining how the media constructs reality through four key elements, while also demonstrating that editorial orientation plays a significant role in determining the direction of news narratives. Although both media outlets acknowledge the urgency of environmental protection in conservation areas, differences in the emphasis on solutions between administrative and structural approaches indicate variations in the level of media criticism toward mining policies (Wijayanto & Nurhajati, 2019).

However, these findings should be interpreted with appropriate epistemic caution. The analytical corpus is limited to ten articles drawn from a relatively narrow

publication window, a constraint that limits the extent to which the identified framing patterns can be generalized to represent the comprehensive and durable editorial orientations of either platform. Future research should address this limitation through the analysis of larger and more temporally extended corpora, the incorporation of additional media platforms representing a broader range of editorial orientations, and the application of complementary analytical approaches including audience reception studies and political economy analysis of media ownership structures that can illuminate the production contexts and reception effects of environmental media framing in Indonesia. Extending this line of inquiry to other contested natural resource governance issues across the archipelago would further enrich the theoretical contribution of environmental communication research in the Indonesian context.

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