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# How Kompas.com Framed Indonesia Government's Policy on COVID-19

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## ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most widely covered news stories in 2020, particularly in March 2020, when the COVID-19 virus made its first appearance in Indonesia. The government also responded to the Covid-19 virus's entry into Indonesia by issuing health, social, and economic policies. Reporting on the government's actions is undoubtedly one of the Indonesian media's objectives. Kompas.com is one of the media outlets that publish news about the government's actions. The seven news articles published by Kompas.com in March 2020 are the subject of this study. This research employs a qualitative approach and analyzes data using Robert N. Entman's framing model analysis. According to Robert Entman's analysis, news framing

can be viewed in two dimensions: issue selection and aspect highlighting. By analyzing seven news articles published by Kompas.com using Robert N. Entman's framing model, it was

concluded that the construction of Kompas.com news was that the government was having difficulty dealing with the spread of COVID-19 in Indonesia.

## INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is the most frequently discussed issue throughout 2019. It is the cause of the pandemic experienced by various countries in the world. Coronavirus is a group of viruses that can cause disease in animals or humans. This virus causes respiratory tract infections. This new virus and its causes were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.

Indonesia became one of the countries infected with the spread of COVID-19 as of March 2, 2020, after two residents of Depok, West Java, were indicated as positive for COVID-19 (Maharani, 2020). This was announced directly by President Joko Widodo at the Presidential Palace, Jakarta. When announcing the first case, the President also emphasized the government's readiness. To quote the news portal Kompas.com, "From the start, the government was ready. There are more than 100 hospitals with good isolation rooms," said the President at the Presidential Palace Complex, Jakarta.

In the first instance, the Indonesian government was also involved in developing policies to combat the pandemic. The Indonesian government stated on March 24, 2020, via the official website of the Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia, that nine policies were implemented, including the following: 1) Trimming spending plans that were not prioritized in the APBN (State Spending Budget) or APBD (Regional Spending Budget); 2) Refocusing on activities and reallocating budgets to expedite the handling of COVID-19, both health-related and economic-related issues; 3) Assuring the availability of essential commodities and preserving the purchasing power of the populace, particularly the poor; 4) Expanding the Cash Work-Intensive Program while adhering to health protocols for the prevention and transmission of COVID-19, specifically maintaining a safe distance while at work; 5) Providing an additional Rp. 50,000 per beneficiary family, bringing the total to Rp. 200,000 per

beneficiary family, which will be valid for six months; 6) Accelerating the implementation of the Pre- Employment Card, as well as anticipate layoffs, income loss for daily workers, and market and revenue loss for micro-entrepreneurs, to improve the competence and quality of their human resources; 7) Bolstering workers' purchasing power in the manufacturing sector, the government will reimburse workers for PPh article 21 contributions, to provide additional income to workers in the processing industry; 8) Facilitating the relocation of MSME loans with credit values of less than Rp. 10 billion for business purposes, whether from banks or the non-bank financial industry; 9) Providing two stimuli to low-income individuals who take out subsidized homeownership loans, namely interest differential subsidies for a period of ten years (RI, 2020).

The nine policies focus on assistance provided by the government directly to the community to maintain people's purchasing power. In addition to these nine policies, other government policies reap the pros and cons during the pandemic, such as Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) and New Normal. These two policies reap pros and cons due to the application of activity limits in daily life.

PSBB is an appeal to limit social activities issued by the government in response to the increasingly widespread coronavirus in Indonesia. These restrictions include learning activities in schools, religious activities, and activities in public places. Based on data from the Task Force for the Acceleration of Handling COVID-19, PSBB succeeded in suppressing the decline in new cases by up to 11 percent. However, the restrictions imposed by the government have also resulted in contra because the lower middle class, whose economy depends on activities related to community mobility, lose their sources of income, such as workers in the tourism sector, street vendors, market traders and others. In addition, based on a survey of indicators for the September 2020 period, 55 percent of respondents want PSBB to be stopped so that the

economy can turn around immediately since not all people cannot implement work from home.

The new normal is also one of those policies with both advantages and disadvantages, as several areas, such as NTT (East Nusa Tenggara) and North Sumatra, are not yet ready for public access. According to the BBC, a spokesperson for the Task Force for the Acceleration of COVID-19 Handling in NTT and North Sumatra stated that the task force was not prepared to open its territories due to the high spread of COVID-19 cases in the area. Another measure taken by the government in response to the corona virus's entry into Indonesia is the establishment of facilities for COVID-19 positive patients. One of the options presented by the government is to implement rapid tests for the general public to track the distribution of positive COVID-19 patients properly. The government's actions are then critical for publication to a broad audience. This relates to government decision-making regarding the spread of COVID-19 positivity in Indonesia. The data on the distribution of COVID-19 positive cases is required as a benchmark for making significant decisions and assessing the disease's broader impact on society (Warenza, 2020).

The mass media, as a conduit for information, undoubtedly plays a critical role. This is because mass media can reach a large audience, which simplifies the process of delivering information. Additionally, as a conduit for information, the mass media has the freedom to choose which issues and aspects to emphasize in a news report, including reporting on the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kompas.com is one of the Indonesian news outlets that cover COVID-19. As one of the 200 media outlets verified by the press council, On a personal level, Kompas.com is regarded as a reliable source of COVID-19 information. . Several government actions were taken in March 2020 to address the COVID-19 pandemic, which was covered by Kompas.com media. Kompas.com's coverage of the

government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 was also quite extensive, ranging from health reporting to economic reporting to social reporting. As a result, Kompas.com was chosen as the subject of this research. In addition, Kompas.com has also been awarded the title of trusted online media at the 2019 Superbrands Gala Awards and has been certified in the international fact-checking network (IFCN- International Fact-Checking Network) in 2018. Kompas.com is also one of the mass media whose investigative journalism is relatively deep, so that it is interesting to examine how Kompas.com builds the framing towards the steps taken by the government. The research problem in this study is: How is the framing built by the mass media Kompas.com regarding the government's steps in dealing with COVID-19 in March 2020?" This study aims to determine how the mass media Kompas.com framed the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

### Kompas.com as Mass Communication Media

In this era mass communication could be a potent force public enlightenment, supplementing and continuing the new institutions of universal schooling, public libraries and popular education (Mcquail, 2020:73). During pandemic era, mass communication played important roles to educate people about Covid-19 virus and Spreading government prevention initiatives. Prof. Deddy Mulyana defines mass communication as "communication that makes use of mass media, whether printed (newspapers, magazines) or electronic (radio, television), that is relatively expensive, managed by an institution or institutionalized person, and directed at a large number of people" dispersed in numerous locations, anonymous, and heterogeneous (Mulyana, 2000).

Mass communication according (Baran & Davis, 2012:5) is when a source, typically an organization, employs a technology as a medium to communicate with a large audience. Mass communication audience is heterogeneous and

anonymous.

Summarizing several definitions of communication experts, Dr. Jallaludin Rakhmat, M.Sc. concluded that mass communication addresses several scattered, heterogeneous, and anonymous audiences through print or electronic media to receive the same message simultaneously momentarily (Rakhmat, 2002).

The mass media can be thought of as a link in the chain of mass communication.

The mass media itself is divided into several categories, including print and electronic. However, one form of mass media has recently adapted to digital technology: New

Media. New Media can be viewed as a paradigm shift in the field of mass communication.

Kompas.com is one of the mass media outlets that has adapted to this digital technology. Kompas.com launched in Indonesia on September 14, 1995, as Kompas online. Its primary objective is to serve readers in remote areas. Additionally, recognizing the enormous potential of the digital world, Kompas Online was later spun off as a separate division of PT Kompas Cyber Media (KCM). Kompas Online was also rebranded as Kompas.com on May 29, 2008, a media portal that covers and publishes daily news and other articles. This rebranding also demonstrates that this media portal wishes to establish a presence among readers as a model for good journalism in the midst of an uncontrollable flow of information. As a result of the foregoing, it can be concluded that Kompas.com possesses the characteristics of a mass communication medium and thus belongs to the New Media.

### **Framing in Mass Media**

Mass media is a bridge in the process of mass communication. Mass media allows communicators to convey messages to large audiences simultaneously. The presence of mass media can be said to facilitate the

process of mass communication greatly. However, it must also be acknowledged that mass media facilitates the media as a communication bridge to construct reality through a particular point of view. The ability of the media to construct a reality in a news report is referred to as framing. Definition of framing, Entman (1993, p. 52) suggested that frames in the news can be examined and identified by “the presence or absence of certain keywords, stock phrases, stereotyped images, sources of information and sentences that provide thematically reinforcing clusters of facts or judgments” (Lecheler and Vreese, 2019:5). Framing is used to assist readers in deciphering the news of an event. The media is viewed in this context as a social construction agent that interprets reality. Framing analysis examines how reality (events, actors, groups, or others) is framed by the media (Eriyanto, 2002). Of course, social reality is constructed with a purpose. The framing technique is then used to ascertain how a media outlet presents an event or issue. More often journalistic news frames play a transformative role vis-à-vis other frames that are sponsored by various stakeholders, such as political elites (Lecheler,2019:8).

### **Framing by Robert N. Entman**

Robert N. Entman is one of the experts who laid the foundations of framing in studying media content. Entman sees framing in two major dimensions, namely issue selection and aspect highlighting. According to Entman (1993) observed that frames are located in communicators, texts, receivers, and culture, a host of overview articles and book chapters, and even a handful of empirical articles, have endeavored to parse elements of real-world news framing (D’Ángelo,2018). According to Entman, framing emphasizes how the communication text is displayed and highlighted or considered necessary by the text maker (Eriyanto, 2002).

According to Robert Entman, the first dimension in framing a news story is issue selection. The media’s stage of issue selection determines which point of view will be raised in response to an issue or event. Naturally, some elements are



included and elements that are excluded during the issue selection process. Thus, issue selection is one of the stages in the media's emphasis on the point of view. As a result, a significant and exciting event becomes widely known. Framing has been used to elaborate how the media want the audiences to see and understood (Berdianti, 2020) (Naqqiyah, 3030) (Pratiwi, 2018) (Sodikin, 2014) (Sutiawati, 2018).

After settling on a single perspective on an event, the next step is highlighting key points. This stage is concerned with the facts that will be written in a news report by the media. Which facts should be prioritized in a report, and which ones do not require prioritization? This also applies to the writing of words, the placement of titles, and the addition of images to a news report. As a result, the media can emphasize a particular perspective on an event. We can see how the media interpret an event through the two dimensions of Robert Entman's analysis. Additionally, according to Robert Entman, the term "framing" refers to four things: the provision of definitions, explanations, evaluations, and recommendations (Eriyanto, 2002). Each piece of news published by the media undoubtedly has its conceptual structure, regardless of whether it contains issues or focuses on similar topics. According to Robert Entman, there are four distinct framing concepts: *Defining Problems*. In this section, it can be seen how journalists or, in this case, the media understand what an event is; *Diagnosing Causes*. This section looks at what or who is the source or cause of the problem of an event; *Making Moral Judgements*. This stage is used as the basis for justifying the definition of problems that have been understood. This section is usually a statement or expert or perhaps a statement from the source or cause of an event.; *Treatment Recommendations*. The media use this section to propose solutions that can be used as problem-solving options.

### **Agenda Setting Theory**

Mass media is one of the elements that can construct the social reality of

an event. The media can determine the priority scale of an issue and the aspect of a news story. In addition, the mass media is a bridge to the mass communication process so that communicators can convey messages simultaneously to a broad audience. Therefore, it can be said that the mass media is one element that has the power to influence public perception. This is commonly called agenda-setting. According to Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw (1972) the mass media may well determine the important issues—that is, the media may set the ‘agenda’ of the campaign” (Baran, 2012). In “Public Opinion Quarterly”, agenda-setting is a theory about the process of media impact or the effect of mass communication on society and culture. Rogers & Dearing (1978) defines three parts of the process in agenda setting, namely: *Media agenda*, which refers to the priority of attention in media content to issues and events.; *Public agenda*, which refers to the various issues highlighted in public opinion and knowledge.; *Policy agenda* that outlines issues and policy proposals from politicians. Agenda setting theory aims to describe the power of media influence, which can select and emphasize issues on the formation of public opinion (Agustina, 2017).

## METHODOLOGY

The data collection process for this study involved the use of qualitative research methods and observation techniques. The technique of observation used in this study is online data observation.

The study’s primary data source was the Kompas.com mass media web portal. Additionally, this study includes secondary data. Secondary data was gathered from various sources, including books, research journals, and news articles pertaining to the research title. Seven reports were published by the mass media Kompas.com in March 2020: On the dates of 14th, 15th, 23rd, 26th, 27th, and 31st. These reports were analyzed to determine how Kompas.com frames the news regarding the government’s response to COVID-19.

The analysis model for this study was Robert N. Entman's framing analysis method. The seven Kompas.com reports for the March 2020 period were analyzed on two dimensions: issue selection and aspect highlighting, and using Robert N. Entman's framing analysis model's four framing conceptions. The findings are presented in narratives and tables.

## FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

### Kompas.com Online Media Overview

Citing the Dewanpers.or.id portal, Kompas.com is one of more than 200 media that the Press Council has verified (Pers, n.d.). Kompas.com is also one of the pioneers of digital-based mass media in Indonesia. Kompas.com was officially established on May 28, 2008, after going through a rebranding process first. Kompas.com, with the tagline "Clear Seeing the World", wants to reiterate that this news portal is present in the community as a reference for good journalism during the rapid flow of unclear information.

Kompas.com's long journey can be said to have yielded promising results. Kompas.com as a mass media has won several awards, namely 2012; Indonesia Brand Champion Award: Indonesia Most Popular Online News Provider Brand, 2014; Digital Marketing Award: Great Performing Website (Category: News Portal), 2018 and 2019; Superbrands Award: Trusted Online Media.

Until this research was completed, there were 20 news and article channels on the Kompas.com media portal. The articles published are quite diverse, such as sports, business articles, automotive, travel, etc. Especially news channels, there are 12 spotlight channels that a broad audience can freely choose. These 12 spotlight channels contain selected news ranging from national news, news from several regional provinces, collections of news about politics, news about state institutions, and readers' letters.

## Research Findings and Analysis

The analysis was conducted on seven Kompas.com reports on the Indonesian government's response to COVID-19. Kompas.com published the seven reports in March 2020. The analysis was conducted by examining the structure of the framing concept and issue selection and highlighting pertinent aspects of the news. Each news item undoubtedly highlights specific issues and facets. It is hoped that an analysis of the seven reports will reveal how Kompas.com framed the news about the government's response to COVID-19.

Indeed, framing enables readers to see or interpret which issues and details are highlighted in a news story, making it easier to remember and comprehend. Additionally, each piece of news that the media publishes has its conceptual structure. How is news defined, who or what serves as the primary source for news coverage, what can legitimize or delegitimize an event or issue for it to be published by the media, and what recommendations are made based on the news? Naturally, each news item has its own perspective, regardless of whether it covers the same subject or highlights the same aspects. The author employs Robert Entman's framing analysis

to interpret the news published by Kompas.com media. Among other things, the structure of the framing concept for the seven reports is as follows:

On March 14, 2020, the first news was entitled "Corona Virus Pandemic, How is Indonesia Responding to COVID-19?". The problem defined in this news is the government's response to the momentum of the coronavirus entry into Indonesia. Kompas.com wants to convey a message to the public about how the government is ready to prepare the initial steps for handling COVID-19 in Indonesia. Diagnosis Causes found in this news is the entry of the coronavirus into Indonesia. The Moral Judgment on this news is the statement of the former Minister of Health, Andi Nafsiah, who considered that the government's initial steps were right by guarding all entrances and preparing around

100 hospitals with good medical personnel and facilities. The Treatment Recommendations presented in this news are coverage of statements by lecturers and researchers from the Faculty of Public Health, University of Padjadjaran, dr. Panji Fortuna Hadisoemarto reminded the importance of understanding the risk factors and nature of coronavirus transmission.

On March 15, 2020, the second report was entitled "Time to Work from Home, Study from Home, Worship from Home." The Define Problem found in this news is that the government is taking steps to appeal to the community to reduce the intensity of activities outside the home. Diagnosis Causes in this news is handling the spread of the coronavirus through an appeal to reduce activities outside the home. The Moral Judgment found in this news is an affirmation of a statement by President Joko Widodo at a press conference at the Bogor Palace regarding the appeal to be productive from home. The Treatment Recommendation offered in this news affirms synergy through a Task Force led by the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) between all elements of institutions, both central and regional. In addition, President Jokowi ensured that the government would continue to communicate with the World Health Organization (WHO) in dealing with the spread of the coronavirus.

The third news on March 23, 2020, was entitled "Government Steps to Prevent Coronavirus from Spreading". Define the problem in this news is the implementation of rapid tests as a government effort in tackling the spread of the coronavirus in Indonesia. Diagnosis Causes on this news, namely the number of positive COVID-19 patients, which continues to increase. The Moral Judgment that can be seen in this news is that there are criticisms from some groups against the implementation of rapid tests as one of the steps to overcome the spread of the coronavirus because the accuracy of the rapid test results is still in doubt. The treatment recommendation offered in this news is that the government has prepared the infrastructure and prepared Avigan and Chloroquine as drugs for positive patients with the

coronavirus.

On March 25, 2020, the fourth news was entitled “9 Economic Policies in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Postponement of Installments to Tax Relaxation”. The Define Problem in this news is that the government is trying to maintain people’s purchasing power during the pandemic. Diagnosis Causes of this news is the destructive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Indonesian economy, forcing the government to maintain people’s purchasing power. The Moral Judgment found in this news is a statement by President Joko Widodo, who invites all levels of the central and regional governments to work together to face economic challenges after the coronavirus entry into Indonesia. The treatment recommendation offered in this news is that the government issued nine economic policies to maintain people’s purchasing power while at the same time responding to economic challenges after the entry of the coronavirus into Indonesia. The nine policies include relocating central and regional government budgets to providing interest subsidies for community instalments.

On March 27, 2020, the fifth news was entitled “Government's Appeal to Overcome COVID-19: Physical Distancing Until Going-Home Restriction”. Define Problem in this news is an appeal for Physical Distancing as a government effort in dealing with the spread of the coronavirus. Diagnosis Causes of this news is the wider spread of the coronavirus. This is supported by data on the spread of positive COVID-19 cases, which increased from 10 provinces to 27 provinces within one week. The Moral Judgment that can be seen in this news is the statement of Vice President Ma'ruf Amin, who assesses the importance of community discipline to maximize the application of physical distancing so that the spread of the coronavirus to other areas can be prevented. The Treatment Recommendation offered in this news requires an approach starting from health education, a security approach, and a religious approach so that the appeals that have been echoed by the government can provide maximum results. In addition, Vice President Ma'ruf Amin also expressed the discourse on the

prohibition of traveling to hometown as an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

On March 31, 2020, the sixth report was entitled "Jokowi Adds Rp. 405.1 Trillion Budget to Handle COVID-19". The problem defined in this news is the handling of covid-19, which has not given maximum results, making the government consider the need for additional budget to increase the effectiveness of handling covid-19. Diagnosis Causes in this news is that the handling of the spread of COVID-19 has not been effective. The moral judgment found in this news is that the government considers the spending budget to increase the effectiveness of handling COVID-19, both in terms of health and socio-economics. The Treatment Recommendation offered in this news is the addition of a budget to increase the effectiveness of handling COVID-19 allocated to four sectors, namely the health sector, social protection and social-economic recovery.

On March 31, 2020, the seventh report was entitled "Implemented Jokowi Against Corona What is Large-Scale Social Restrictions?". The Define Problem in this news is the spread of the coronavirus which cannot be controlled so that the government implements a new social policy, namely Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB). Diagnosis Causes in this news is increasingly widespread of the coronavirus. The moral judgment that can be noticed in this news is that there is a legal basis in Law No. 6 of 2018 as a baseline for executing PSBB social programs, so that execution is coordinated and regions do not develop their own norms. The treatment recommendations offered in this news are restrictions on community activities which include three activities, namely school and workplace holidays, restrictions on religious activities and restrictions on activities in public places or facilities.

Along with the four framing concepts, the table below highlights several issues and aspects that were analyzed in these seven Kompas.com reports:

Based on the analysis conducted on seven news stories published during March 2020 by Kompas.com media, the researchers saw a selection of issues and highlighted aspects displayed on the seven news stories. The highlighted issues and aspects are reinforced by Kompas.com media coverage through various health, social, and economic perspectives. Kompas.com then constructs the facts and reality from these three points of view in such a way as to form a message.

The messages in the seven reports can then be dissected with the conception of Robert Entman's framing analysis, namely that the government is having difficulty solving the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia. The government's difficulty in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic is reflected in the application of changing appeals. There are three social appeals echoed by the government and published by Kompas.com during March 2020: March 15, 2020, with the title "Jokowi: Time to Work from Home, Study from Home, Worship from Home", March 27, 2020, with the title "Government Appeal to Overcome COVID- 19: Physical Distancing Until Going-Home Restriction" and March 31, 2020, with the title "Implemented Jokowi Against Corona, What Are Large- Scale Social Restrictions?". On March 15, 2020, the news discussed the government's social advice to start being productive from home. This is because the social intensity with which a community interacts is directly proportional to the rate at which COVID-

19 spreads. As a result, activities involving community interaction must be minimized. The second news item, dated March 27, 2020, addressed the call for physical separation and the discourse surrounding the prohibition on returning home. Physical distancing is an appeal for individuals to maintain a safe distance from one another, either outside or inside, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Despite issuing a productive advisory from home, the government has implemented physical distancing advice in response to the massive spread of COVID-19. On March 31, 2020, the third news was regarding the government's call for large-scale social restrictions (PSBB). PSBB is the government's third social appeal regarding the prohibition of social activities



outside the home.

**Table 1. Issue Selections and Aspect Highlights in Seven Kompas.com Reports**

Issue Selections		Aspect Highlights
The Government took steps in dealing with COVID-19		Expert's statement on the initial steps taken by the government
The government's appeal to reduce the intensity of activities outside the home		President Joko Widodo's affirmation to be productive from home
Discourse on the implementation of rapid tests		Expert criticism of the validity of the rapid test
Government policy to maintain people's purchasing ability		The government took steps to maintain economic productivity
The government's efforts to deal with the spread of the coronavirus		Ma'ruf Amin's statement urging the public to be more disciplined in implementing the government's appeal
Government efforts to increase the effectiveness of handling COVID-19		Additional budget for the health sector, social protection, economic recovery
PSBB Policy		PSBB limits people's daily activities

According to Oscar Primadi, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Health, PSBB prohibits certain activities for residents living in an area suspected of being infected with Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19).

The three reports above reflect the government's inconsistency in taking policies to deal with the spread of COVID-19. In the news mentioned above, changes to the appeal were implemented concerning the addition of positive cases of COVID-19 in Indonesian society. Kompas.com's data coverage on the news dated March 27, 2020, stated that the spread of the coronavirus expanded from 10 to 27 provinces within one week. Therefore, the government issued further appeals, namely physical distancing and a discourse on the prohibition of traveling to our hometown. This then becomes a reflection that the social appeal has not yet given satisfactory results.

Kompas.com also included government policies regarding health issues and aspects in its news coverage in March 2020. The news dated March 23, 2020, covered the government's discourse on preparing rapid tests to speed up the detection of people infected with COVID-19. The rapid test is believed to be a solution for people to find out who are infected with COVID-19 early on so that prevention can be carried out more swiftly, particularly at the stage of self-isolation. However, Kompas.com also covered the opinion of the Indonesian Association of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (PDS LatKLI) regarding the validity and accuracy of the rapid test, which has yet to be confirmed.

Additionally, news dated March 26 and 31, 2020, discusses the government's economic policies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The March 26 news article discusses the government's policy of reallocating central and regional government budgets and providing interest subsidies on public installment loans. The government recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic will negatively

impact not only health and social issues but also the country's economic stability. This relates to social pressures that discourage participation in community activities outside the home. The imposition of restrictions on activities conducted outside the home has a negative impact on the lower middle-class community, whose livelihoods are dependent on activities associated with community mobility, such as tourism workers and market traders. The March 31 news article discussed the addition of funds to the government budget to help combat the spread of COVID-19 in Indonesia. The government has decided to boost the overall budget by Rp 405.1 trillion. The funds are allocated across four sectors: Rp 75 trillion for health spending, Rp 110 trillion for social protection, Rp 70.1 trillion for tax incentives and the People's Business Credit stimulus, and Rp 10 trillion for social-economic recovery programs.

These two steps were implemented to maintain economic productivity after the entry of the COVID-19 virus in Indonesia and to increase the budget to support the effectiveness of handling COVID-19 in Indonesia. This policy has experienced difficulties due to the geographical location of Indonesia, which is in the form of an archipelago. Therefore, the synergy between the central and regional governments is needed so that the additional budget issued by the central government can be targeted for use. The news published by Kompas.com on 26 and 31 March included President Joko Widodo's statement, which emphasized the importance of the role of all parties in resolving the COVID-19 pandemic. Jokowi continues to invite both the central and regional governments to work together to face the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By highlighting the facts and statements contained in the seven news stories above, it is possible to conclude that Kompas.com's framing construction is that the government is having difficulty containing the corona virus's spread in Indonesia.

Additionally, the Kompas.com agenda can be seen in the seven reports analyzed. Following the agenda-setting theory, Kompas.com's March 2020 coverage included a focus on issues and public opinion. Kompas.com's agenda can be described as emphasizing issues and highlighting aspects to draw public attention to the government's actions. The seven news pieces show that the plan was put on hold until the media agenda was met, notably Kompas.com's priority attention on government efforts in dealing with the COVID-19 epidemic by controlling numerous issues and incorporating public opinion.

Quoting Scheufele (2000), agenda-setting and priming rely on the notion of attitude accessibility. Mass media have the power to increase levels of importance assigned to issues by audience members. They increase the salience of issues or the ease with which these considerations can be retrieved from memory. Framing, in contrast, is based on the concept of prospect theory; that is, on the assumption that subtle changes in the wording of the description of a situation might affect how audience members interpret this situation. In other words, that framing influences how audiences think about issues, not by making aspects of the issue more salient, but by invoking interpretive schemas that influence the interpretation of incoming information (Baran, 2012).

Agenda setting theory can describe the power of media influence in reporting an issue or event. Quoting Rogers & Dearing (1978), there are three parts of the process in the agenda-setting, namely: *Media agenda*, which refers to the priority of attention in media content to issues and events.; *Public agenda*, which refers to the various issues highlighted in public opinion and knowledge.; *Policy agenda* that outlines issues and policy proposals from politicians

The above understanding explains that the media has the power to influence and shape public perception. Kompas.com's reporting on the government's steps to deal with the COVID-

19 pandemic is one example of choosing an agenda in the media. Kompas.com

assesses that the government's steps in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic are essential to convey to the broader public.

This public agenda can be seen through news articles covered by Kompas.com media, which contain government policies from several perspectives: health, social, and economic. Kompas.com also includes several public opinions in its news coverage, namely the opinions of experts and the statements of President Joko Widodo. For this reason, it can be concluded that the public agenda brought by Kompas.com is that the government has tried to deal with the COVID-19 virus in Indonesia through several appeals and policies, but these steps have not provided optimal results. Kompas.com supports the agenda by including data on the spread of the coronavirus through news dated March 27, 2020. In addition, Kompas.com also covers criticism from several experts regarding the government's steps in implementing rapid tests in Indonesia. All

the facts raised and the statements included in the seven news stories shape the reality that the government is having difficulty dealing with the spread of COVID-19 cases in Indonesia. This is in accordance with the previous research about content Analysis of Readers' comments on media aggregator as feedback and form of public opinion about covid 19 (Setiawan,2021) assuming that public is not quite sure with the government's action in controlling the pandemic.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the government's response to COVID-19 on Kompas.com in March 2020, it can be concluded that:

Kompas.com covers several changes to the social advice implemented by the government in connection with the addition of positive cases of COVID-19 in Indonesia. Therefore, Considering all of these reasons there was an

inconsistency of the government in policy making in March 2020, especially on social appeals.

The seven Kompas.com reports demonstrate that the government has implemented several policy changes. As a result, briefly concluded the Indonesian government is having difficulty containing the spread of COVID-19 cases.

Kompas.com believes that the government's March 2020 policies have not resulted in a satisfactory response to COVID-19 in Indonesia. This is confirmed by data on the massive spread of cases in several provinces over the course of a week published on March 27, 2020

## LIMITATION AND STUDY FORWARD

This study tries to see the framing pattern of Kompas on government policies on Covid-19, in its news publications during March 2020. The following research can aim at identifying the effect of news publication on Covid-19 on readers' level of knowledge on government policies.

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This research is based on the concern regarding the agenda of Kompas in framing government policies on Covid-19. Media plays role in providing information as well as public education on government frameworks in dealing with the current pandemic.

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