

Development Journalism News MBG Program on *Republika.co.id* and *Mediaindonesia.com*: Content Analysis Study

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ABSTRACT

This study discusses news about the free nutritious food (MBG) program published on *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com*. The government is promoting the MBG program as a fulfilment of President Prabowo Subianto and Vice President Gibran Rakabuming Raka's campaign promise for the 2024 presidential election. Both media outlets presented MBG news in a normative manner without any issues. However, field findings revealed various problems and biases, such as issues regarding insects and inadequate nutrition. *Republika.co.id* and *media.indonesia.com* presented news as is. The issue lies in the form of journalism applied by *Republika.co.id* and *Mediaindonesia.com* to the MBG program. This study aims to explain the form of journalism applied by these two mainstream media outlets. The research used a quantitative-descriptive method with content analysis techniques. News published on *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com* was collected and categorized based on news topics, news direction, and news sources. The data was then processed through coding. The results show that *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com* applied development journalism in presenting news about the MBG program. They deliberately selected certain sources according to their agenda. The topics and trends of the news were easily predictable due to the choice of sources. Thus, development journalism is carried out by *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com* through the dominance of government elements as sources. The tone of the news is inevitably positive, with the focus solely on the implementation of government programs. Conversely, negative tones and problematic cases are minimized. The significance of this research demonstrates that it is difficult for the media to avoid development journalism if the government is the primary source.

Keywords: news, media, free nutritious food, content analysis, development journalism

INTRODUCTION

President Prabowo Subianto and Vice President Gibran Rakabuming Raka are promoting a free nutritious meal program (MBG) for students across Indonesia. The Prabowo-Gibran government aims to realize the MBG program, as promised during their 2024 presidential election campaign. They aim to provide free nutritious meals to elementary, middle, and high school students across Indonesia.

News about the MBG program activities has also received significant attention in the Indonesian mass media. All media *platforms* provide space for news about the MBG program, both in print and electronic media, as well as on portals. *Gadget* users also frequently read and watch it on social media. Jakoeb Oetama (in Rahman, 2016) states that news is not a fact but a report about it. Meanwhile, Charnley & Charnley (Rahman, 2016:76) state that actual news relates to facts that are important, interesting, or both to the public. Susanto (2021) defines news as material consumed by the public about an event beyond their reach.

For media with this explanation, the government's MBG program is considered to have high news value because it is related to public interest, has impact, proximity, figures, and so on. Harcup & O'Neill (2017) explain that news values consist of ruling elites, celebrities, entertainment, surprises, bad news, good news, magnitude, relevance, follow-up, and media agendas. The media broadcasts news about an issue and event based on its news value content. The higher the news value, the more the media pursues it.

The news production process does not stop at assessing the news value of an issue, which in this context is the MBG Program. The frequency of simultaneous news coverage of the MBG program is believed to be able to influence public perception of the program, as well as reflect how the media as a conveyor of information understands the attitude of the government as a source of policy, and the public as a recipient of messages. In order to understand the attitudes of the three parties (government, media, and public) towards the MBG Program issue, the Kite Co-orientation Model (McQuail & Windahl, 1993) is relevant to use in this study as an analytical tool to dissect the attitudes of the three parties towards the MBG program.

Republika.co.id and *mediaindonesia.com* are mainstream media outlets that have paid close attention to the MBG program. Since the government made the MBG program a priority, these two portals have regularly broadcast news about it. Before the trial began in early 2025, *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com* had already covered government activities related to the MBG program. Especially during the school trial on January 6, 2025, coverage of the MBG program in these two media outlets was very progressive. Readers encountered activities related to the MBG program daily.

For the government, the messages of the MBG program must reach the public as a follow-up to political promises. The mass media is an effective party in disseminating information to the public. For the media, government activities are an official and trusted source of information. This media activity of reporting to the public is then referred to as journalism. Iskandar et al., (2021:1) define journalism as the skill, business, and practice of producing and disseminating important and timely information of public interest. Sourced from journalism, the public is then able to know the truth of an event. Journalism is an authentic product of journalists who go

through a long process in the editorial room. Regulations, norms, and ethics as the principles of journalism have protected media workers to work professionally (Ramli, 2024) .

One type of journalism is development journalism which emphasizes media support for government programs and activities. Anand (2014) stated that development journalism has the potential to influence the decision-making process and implement the concept of checks and balances necessary in the implementation of state- and centrally sponsored schemes.

In carrying out journalism, the media has an agenda. They work according to their agenda through news. *Agenda setting* is the process by which the media develops issues for the public. McCombs & Valenzuela (2007) explain that the media has the ability to determine which issues are considered important by the public. The media selects topics that will be discussed by the public, and these topics become the topics of discussions.

McCombs & Valenzuela (2007) state that *agenda setting* consists of the media agenda and the public agenda. The media agenda relates to the media's decision to select which issues to broadcast to the public. The public agenda, on the other hand, relates to issues that are trending among the public and that subsequently attract media attention.

According to initial findings, researchers found similarities and differences *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com* in presenting the MBG program. In terms of tone, both strongly support the government's program, as evidenced by the significant attention *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com* pay to the Prabowo-Gibran administration's main programs. Furthermore, their sources are predominantly government representatives. However, differences are found in the selection of news topics, with one being more diverse than the other.

With these initial findings, researchers want to know the news text presented by *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com* regarding the government's MBG program. How both explicitly broadcast news about the implementation of the government's main program. Moreover, Eriyanto (2011) stated that content analysis is a quantitative method because the technique used is capable of measuring certain dimensions quantitatively.

The formulation of this problem is what are the topics of development journalism messages published by *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com* and how are the choices of sources, news tone, and news *locus* of the two media. The objective of this study is to find out what development journalism messages are reported by *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com* and to explain the choices of sources, news tone, and news *locus* published by the two media.

A content analysis study was conducted by Ruslan Ramli & Latif (2019) on the coverage of the 212 Reunion in Jakarta in 2018 on *mediaindonesia.com* and *vua-islam*. Both used their respective media agendas to broadcast their opinions to the public. Their ideologies differ, making them interesting to study. *Mediaindonesia.com* is nationalist, while *vua-islam* is religious. The goal was to uncover how they chose issues and sources for this major aspect of the Muslim community. The researchers coded 59 news items, consisting of 44 from *mediaindonesia.com* and 15 from *vua-islam.com*.

As a result, *mediaindonesia.com* was stressing the issue that the 212 Reunion as political movement. This media outlet encouraged Muslims to demonstrate on the streets and even at the

National Monument (Monas). The demonstrators were considered an opposition group that often opposed government policies. They sometimes took positions and views that differed from government decisions. Meanwhile, *voa-islam.com* broadcast an opinion that the demonstration at Monas was a manifestation of the unity of Muslims in Indonesia. For them, the 212 Reunion was a forum for Indonesian Muslims to unite and express a firm stance against the government. If the government was deemed wrong, the people could criticize the government, which was deemed to have failed in carrying out its duties. Muslims are stronger when united. Furthermore, another issue was the struggle of Indonesian Muslims at the 212 Reunion.

Regarding the tone of the 212 Reunion, *mediaindonesia.com* views it as having both positive and negative aspects. On the one hand, the Muslim demonstrations at the event served as a reminder to the government that it should not be resistant to public criticism. On the other hand, *mediaindonesia.com* viewed the demonstration negatively, as provocative demonstrations could trigger anarchy. Meanwhile, *voa-islam.com* viewed the 212 Reunion as a positive activity by supporting the demonstration. This media outlet viewed the 212 Reunion as a platform for channelling the aspirations of Muslims in the country. Moreover, as the majority, the interests of Muslims should be prioritized.

Another study on development journalism was conducted by Anjolaoluwa (2024), who positioned the press as a media institution supporting national development programs. The press plays a role in supporting a country's national development. The press plays a role in providing public understanding of development. Public trust in government performance is crucial to the success of the development agenda because positive attention generates active participation. Development journalism can be viewed as the process of gathering valuable information, then packaging it into engaging news stories accompanied by data, presented to the public through mass media platforms.

Anjolaoluwa (2024) stated that development journalism is an alternative to supporting national development in developing countries. If development communication plays a role in transformation and socialization, then development journalism is expected to position the media as a space for advocacy. The press must provide a space for public voices. This means that, as an agent of change, it is tasked with exploring problems in society to help find solutions. In this process, journalism has already fulfilled its function as an advocacy space. Development journalism aims to provide the public with the knowledge needed to face changes in life. To that end, the press must provide information that can change people's lives. With this goal, development journalism can be used as a tool for national empowerment. The press plays a role in identifying the nation's strengths and weaknesses, then highlighting what needs to be done. The press must open the public's eyes to the unseen. Accessibility to national development information is key to enlightening the public. The press can access national development plans, government strategies, and the impacts felt by the community. The principle places knowledge as power. Thus, the press becomes an agent of change by providing balanced information and fostering community growth.

Jati (2021) also examined development journalism in Indonesia in relation to the concept of press freedom. This journalistic practice is regulated by law. However, history shows that development journalism in practice during the New Order era faced significant challenges. The press had to be very careful in presenting information related to the ruling government. However,

the government actively advocated for journalists to be critical in reporting on government development. Development journalism stems from supporting development programs from planning to evaluation of national development. Conceptually, the practice of development journalism critically and in-depth reports on the development process, rather than conveying the government's perspective. However, the practice of development journalism is prone to positioning journalists as mouthpieces for the ruling government. Development journalism should be carried out with a collaborative-facilitative function. Journalists act as partners with the government and support its efforts to achieve development and social welfare. Journalistic activities are carried out with a sense of social responsibility to help the government advance national development.

Social network sites are the medium to interact virtually. People get to link and communicate with each other on a particular matter or to just hang out together online. Social networking sites generally offer users a profile and allow them to share and upload photos, music and several types of messages they would prefer to share with other public. Moreover, these social networking sites offer social and emotional support, information resources and bonds to other users (Setiamukti & Nasvian, 2023). People who spend more time on social networking sites are better at showing empathy to their online friends and learn how to socialize. To support development journalism, the media must construct positive news according to government expectations. This construction said Rizkiansyah et al., (2020) is one of four journalism processes besides searching, reporting, and publishing.

METHODOLOGY

This research uses a quantitative-descriptive method through content analysis techniques. Content analysis is a technique for analysing media texts. Krippendorff (2013) states that content analysis is a way of organising texts into systematic categories, a technique repeated according to specific coding rules. Hall & Valentin (2017) stated that content analysis is a research method used to systematically evaluate the actual and symbolic content of all forms of recorded communication.

There are 141 news items from republika.co.id and 71 from mediaindonesia.com, for a total of 212. The news items were sourced from January 6 to February 6, 2025. The unit of analysis was news related to the MBG program broadcast on both portals.

Researchers identified news stories related to the MBG program on republika.co.id and mediaindonesia.com. After collecting the news, they processed the data by coding the news. Categories were created based on news topics tailored to the content. Then, sources were selected to ensure active government involvement. Furthermore, the news direction was analysed to determine the two media outlets' positions on the free nutritious food program. To determine its validity, the researchers employed two coders who understood content analysis.

Table 1. Number of News

Unit of Analysis	Republika.co.id	Mediaindonesia.com	Total
News	141	71	212

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This research focuses on news published by the media *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com* for the period January 6 to February 6, 2025. The results of this study are presented as follows:

3.1 Media *Republika.co.id*

Table 2 News Frequency

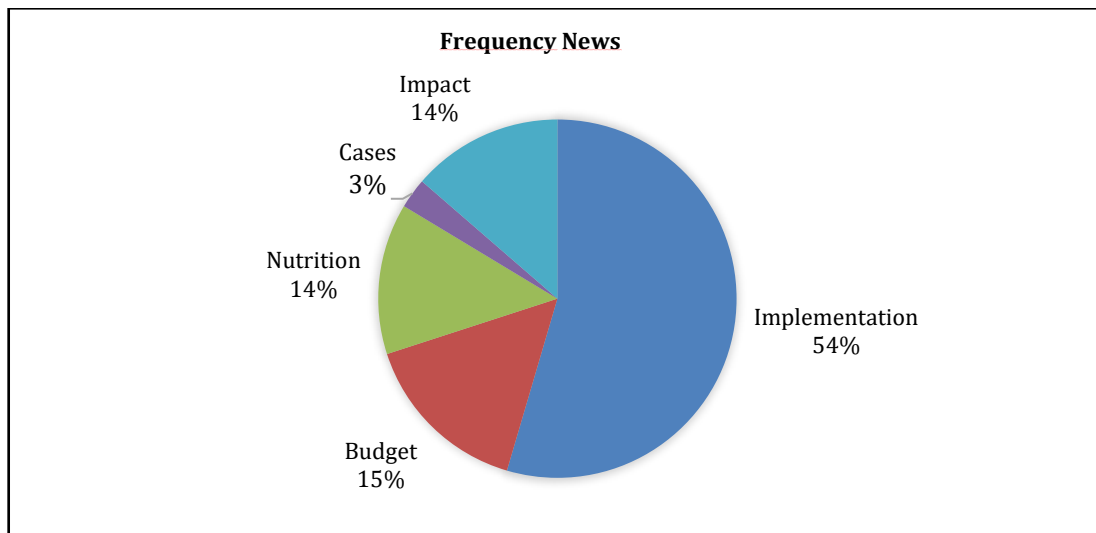


Table 3. Cross Tabulation of News Topics and News Direction

News Topics	News Direction			Total (%)
	Positive (%)	Negative (%)	Neutral (%)	
MBG	60 (41.95)	4 (2.79)	3 (2.09)	67 (46.85)
Implementation				
MBG Problems	3 (2.09)	11 (7.69)	-	14 (9.79)
Impact of MBG	15 (10.48)	-	-	15 (10.48)
MBG Budget	17 (11.88)	12 (8.39)	3(2.09)	32 (22.37)
Nutrient content	15 (10.48)	-	-	15 (10.48)
	110 (76.92)	27 (18.88)	6 (4.19)	143 (99.99)

Table 3 shows that *republika.co.id* devoted the most news space to topics discussing the implementation of the MBG. The percentage of news on MBG implementation reached 46.85 percent. News space covering the implementation of the MBG was far greater than other topics. Next came the topic of discussing the budget with a percentage of news presentation of 22.37 percent. Then, the percentage of news on the topic of the nutritional content of the MBG and the impact of the MBG implementation each received 10.48 percent of space. News related to the topic of MBG problems received the lowest percentage of only 9.79 percent.

Regarding news direction, *republika.co.id* supports the implementation of MBG, as evidenced by the preponderance of positive news coverage on MBG implementation compared

to negative or neutral news. 76.92 percent of news coverage on *republika.id* is positive, significantly higher than the 18.88 percent negative coverage. Meanwhile, only 4.19 percent of news coverage is neutral.

In general, positive news was most frequently broadcast when reviewing the implementation of the MBG with a percentage of 41.95 percent. The media *republika.co.id* also predominantly reported positive news related to the readiness of the government budget with a percentage of 11.88 percent. Even for the topic of the impact of the implementation of the MBG and the nutritional content of the MBG, *republika.co.id* did not present negative or neutral news. The topic of the impact of the MBG and nutritional content both received positive attention with a percentage of 10.48 percent. All four topics predominantly discussed the positive aspects of the MBG program. The only topic that dominated the negative news was related to the MBG problem with a percentage of negative news reaching 7.69 percent, more than the positive news only 2.09 percent.

Table 4. Cross Tabulation of News Topics and News Locus

News Topics	Locus		Total (%)
	Greater Jakarta (%)	Out-Jabodetabek (%)	
MBG Implementation	46 (32.16)	21 (14.68)	67 (46.85)
MBG Problems	6 (4.19)	8 (5.59)	14 (9.79)
Impact of MBG	13 (9.09)	2 (1.39)	15 (10.48)
MBG Budget	32 (22.37)	- (0)	32 (22.37)
MBGNutritional Content	9 (6.29)	6 (4.19)	15 (10.48)
	106 (74.12)	37 (25.87)	143 (100)

Table 4 shows that the locus of MBG news is centred in the Jakarta-Bogor-Depok-Tangerang-Bekasi (Jabodetabek) area, with a percentage reaching 74.12 per cent, compared to news outside Jabodetabek at only 25.87 per cent. News from Jabodetabek dominated the four news topics. Only the topic of MBG issues was reported more from outside Jabodetabek (5.59 per cent) than from the Jabodetabek area (4.19 per cent). Meanwhile, specifically for the MBG budget news, there was no news discussing outside the Jabodetabek area.

Overall, news on the implementation of the MBG remains the most frequently discussed topic. Both from Greater Jakarta and outside Greater Jakarta, news on MBG implementation reached 46.85 per cent. Meanwhile, the least discussion on MBG issues was only 9.79 per cent.

Table 5. Cross Tabulation of News Topics and Sources

News Topics	Source Person					Total (%)
	Center (%)	Area (%)	School (%)	TNI/Polri (%)	Stakeholders (%)	
MBG Implementation	44 (20.46)	24 (11.16)	6 (2.79)	-	21 (9.76)	95 (44.18)
MBG Problems	11 (5,11)	3 (1.39)	2 (0.93)	-	9 (4.18)	25 (11.62)
Impact of MBG	7 (3.25)	3 (1.39)	-	-	12 (5.58)	22 (10.23)
MBG Budget	30 (13.95)	2 (0.93)	-	2 (0.93)	18 (8.37)	52 (24.18)
MBG Nutritional Content	11 (5,11)	2 (0.93)	1 (0.46)	-	7 (3.25)	21 (9.76)
	103 (47.90)	34 (15.81)	9 (4.18)	2 (0.93)	67 (31.16)	215

Table 5 shows the diverse selection of sources used by *republika.co.id* in presenting MBG news. Sources from the central government still dominate, accounting for 47.90 percent. The number of sources from the central government is significantly higher compared to regional governments, at only 15.81 percent. Meanwhile, sources from other stakeholders also account for a relatively high 31.16 percent. Sources from schools, the target of MBG, account for only 4.18 percent. Finally, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) and the Indonesian National Police (Polri) receive the least amount of space, at 0.93 percent.

From the five topics covered by *republika.co.id*, the implementation of the MBG was the most frequently discussed topic by sources, with 44.18 percent of the discussion. Next came the MBG budget readiness, which was discussed by sources at 24.18 percent. The other three topics lagged significantly behind: the MBG issue (11.62 percent), the impact of MBG implementation (10.23 percent), and the nutritional content of MBG (9.76 percent).

3.2 Media *mediaindonesia.com*

Table 6. News Frequency

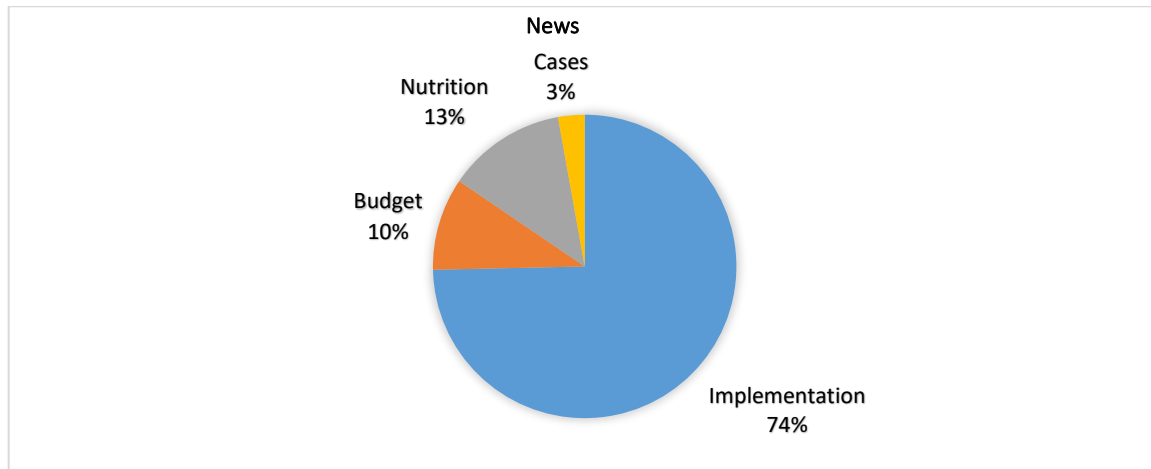


Table 7. Cross Tabulation of News Topics and News Direction

News Topics	News Direction			Total (%)
	Positive (%)	Negative (%)	Neutral (%)	
MBG Implementation	47 (66.2)	2 (2.8)	4 (5.6)	53 (74.6)
Budget	7 (9.9)	-	-	7(9.9)
Nutritional Content	9 (12.7)	-	-	9 (12.7)
MBG Problems	-	-	2 (2.8)	2 (2.8)
	63 (88.8)	2 (2.8)	6 (8.451)	71 (100)

Table 7 shows that the implementation of the MBG program was the most widely covered news topic on *mediaindonesia.com*, with a share of 74.6 percent. This far outpaced the other three topics: nutritional content (12.7 percent), budget (9.9 percent), and nutritional content (2.8 percent).

In terms of news coverage, *mediaindonesia.com* strongly supports the MBG program, as evidenced by the preponderance of positive coverage compared to negative and neutral coverage. From the four news topics, three were positive: MBG implementation (66.2 percent), nutritional content (12.7 percent), and budget (9.9 percent). The other was neutral, namely, the problematic MBG program. Although mentioned as a controversial topic, the news coverage was neutral (2.8 percent), meaning it did not denounce the government.

Overall, the four news topics on the government's MBG program were positive, accounting for 88.8 percent of the coverage. This figure significantly outnumbered neutral (8.451 percent) and negative (2.8 percent) coverage. The only negative coverage was related to the implementation of the MBG program, at 2.8 percent.

Table 8. Cross Tabulation of News Topics and News Locus

News Topics	Locus	News	Total (%)
	Greater Jakarta (%)	Out-Jabodetabek (%)	
MBG Implementation	29 (40.8)	24 (33.8)	53 (74.6)
Budget	6 (8, 5)	1 (1.4)	7 (9.9)
Nutritional Content	5 (7)	4 (5,6)	9 (12.7)
MBG Problems	1 (1.4)	1 (1.4)	2 (2.8)
	41 (57.7)	30 (42.3)	71 (100)

Table 8 shows that the news locus is still centered on the Jakarta-Bogor-Depok-Tangerang-Bekasi (Jabodetabek) region at 57.7 percent compared to outside the Jabodetabek area at 42.3 percent. Both Jabodetabek (40.8 percent) and outside Jabodetabek (33.8 percent) both placed the news topic of the MBG program implementation higher than the other three news topics. Conversely, these two regions placed the news topic of the problematic MBG program as the smallest news locus, both at only 1.4 percent.

Table 9. Cross Tabulation of News Topics and Sources

News Topics	Source					Total(%)
	Central Gov(%)	Government (%)	School (%)	TNI/Polri (%)	Stakeholders (%)	
MBG Implementation	41	21	10	4	7	83 (76.85)
Budget	6	2	-	-	6	14 (12.96)
Nutritional Content	2	-	2	1	4	9 (8.33)
MBG Problems	2	-	-	-	-	2 (1.85)
	51 (47.2)	23 (21.3)	12 (11.1)	5 (4.6)	17 (15.7)	108 (99.99)

Table 9 indicates that the choice of sources used by *mediaindonesia.com* is heavily dominated by the government, both central and regional, compared to other sources. The percentage of empowerment of the central government is very high at 47.2 percent, followed by regional governments with 21.3 percent. Schools, which are the objects of activity, have a percentage of 11.1 percent. This figure is smaller than stakeholders, which reached 15.7 percent. Meanwhile, the smallest source is from the TNI/Polri, which is only 4.6 percent.

From the four news topics related to source selection, the implementation of the MBG program also had the highest coverage, at 76.85 percent. This figure surpassed the other three

topics: budget (12.96 percent), nutritional content (8.33 percent), and problematic MBG (1.85 percent).

Based on the findings, *republika.co.id* plays a significant role in implementing development journalism. This journalistic style emphasizes the role of the press in promoting national development. The press is positioned not only as a means of communication between the government and the public, but also as a critical stakeholder that examines, evaluates, and reports on development in line with national needs. This includes observing program implementation from planning to implementation on the ground, ultimately impacting the community.

This is relevant to the Kite Co-orientation Model (McLeod and Chaffee in McQuail & Windahl, 1993), which positions the media as a transmitter of information. The press is positioned as a social institution responsible for supporting the national development process through its informative function and social control in the form of a watchdog for the implementation of government (elite) policies on MBG. Meanwhile, the public has the right to receive true and accurate information about the MBG program, which in the context of the Kite Co-orientation Model is an issue.

In presenting MBG news, *republika.co.id* actively provides public understanding from the preparation stage to implementation. This is evident in the one-month implementation of MBG, where *republika.co.id* covered various issues and events daily. A total of 143 news articles were published. Of these, MBG implementation received the largest amount of public coverage. Furthermore, topics such as budget readiness, the impact of MBG implementation, nutritional content during implementation, and various MBG issues were also covered.

The topic of MBG implementation was the most dominant topic presented to the public. *Republika.co.id* detailed the implementation of MBG in a single month, from public kitchens to schools. Consequently, news on MBG implementation was the most frequently published, with 67 articles. This demonstrates the media's desire to bring the public closer to and understand the MBG implementation mechanism. To strengthen public trust in the certainty of MBG implementation, news about budget readiness also frequently appeared on news portals during the first month of implementation. The topic of budget readiness must continue to be voiced to convince the public that the MBG program is realistically implemented using the State Budget.

Republika.co.id is committed to reassuring the public about any doubts surrounding the preparedness of the MBG budget. Two topics that have received attention include the impact of implementation and the nutritional content of the MBG. The public needs to be aware of the nutritional *value* of each MBG program. By offering a variety of menus, the media strives to reassure the public that nutritional value has been carefully considered. Therefore, even when the menu changes, balanced nutrition is maintained. Similarly, we analyze the impact of MBG implementation. *Republika.co.id* examines the impact of MBG implementation from various perspectives, starting with the economic impact on the community, where families can now save money with MBG assistance for each child.

Another environmental impact is the government's efforts to address the challenge of food waste generated by the MBG kitchens. This has resulted in several news coverage of kitchen

waste management. All of these efforts aim to reassure the public that the MBG is well-organized and structured. Maintaining public trust and positive public attention is crucial for the government's continued success.

In general, news coverage of the MBG (Economic Development Goals) has a positive tone. Within a month of its implementation, positive news coverage reached 76.92 percent. This positive tone demonstrates the media's commitment to supporting national development. In selecting news sources, *republika.co.id* tends to prioritize the government as the primary source. The government, as the policy maker in implementing the MBG program, has a special place in the presentation of news content. This is evident from the 143 articles published, with 137 featuring sources from central and regional government officials. The news coverage also tends to be positive when government officials are the primary sources. This selection of sources, coupled with a positive news focus, demonstrates *republika.co.id* position in supporting national development and maintaining positive public attention towards the MBG.

The decision of *republika.co.id* to support government programs can be linked to media ownership. Mahaka Media is the holding company that oversees *republika.co.id*. Mahaka Media's owner is Erick Tohir, who is also a minister. In the Prabowo-Gibran cabinet, he served as Minister of Youth and Sports. Previously, he was Minister of State-Owned Enterprises, known for his influence in government. Therefore, it can be said that he is Prabowo's subordinate on a daily basis.

As part of Erick Tohir's ownership, *republika.co.id* naturally struggles to be critical of the government. The media *republika.co.id* has limited oversight of the MBG program due to this ownership. Although media have social control guaranteed by the constitution, *republika.co.id* avoids acting as a watchdog over the government.

Similarly, media ownership in *mediaindonesia.com* is linked to editorial criticism of the government. Surya Paloh, the owner of *mediaindonesia.com*, has had negative experiences opposing the government. Under previous governments, he and his media outlets encountered obstacles and difficulties when they were highly critical of the government. Therefore, the editors chose to be smooth rather than critical in broadcasting the MBG program news.

Moreover, contextually, the implementation of the MBG program was an initial government program still in the socialization phase. During this initial period, the media was not yet critical, but rather acted as a "honeymoon policy" for the government. The media served as an information and promotional tool for government programs and policies. The media broadcast the MBG program with the aim of socializing it with the public. This was evident in the news topics and tone of the news broadcasts. The content was highly informative. The media used the government as a resource for campaigning for the MBG program.

Politically, the MBG program was a government policy supported by the winning political parties. As part of the government, the MBG program was viewed as a strategic program that benefited the people. Political actors narrated the MBG program as a pro-people policy. Naturally, the discourse conveyed was always tinged with praise and support.

Meanwhile, *mediaindonesia.com* effectively implements the concept of development journalism. *The mediaindonesia.com editorial team* supports the government in implementing

development programs, including the free nutritious meals promised by Prabowo and Gibran during their campaign. In the 2024 presidential election, they pledged to provide free nutritious meals to students across Indonesia. After being inaugurated, they began to realize this political promise.

For *mediaindonesia.com*, there is no or no loophole for it to exercise social control. There are no issues that can be sharply criticized. In terms of timing, the MBG program has no shortcomings; it is simply a newly launched program. A policy that has only been in effect for a few weeks cannot yet be evaluated.

In terms of news topics, *mediaindonesia.com* highlighted the implementation of the MBG program as the most intensive news item. The media outlet covered schools' preparations for receiving external food supplies, their coordination with stakeholders, particularly food distributors, the education office, and other relevant parties. Furthermore, it covered government oversight of food nutritional content, menu diversity, and the distribution of food rations to schools.

Development journalism practices are also evident in the choice of sources. *Mediaindonesia.com* remains heavily reliant on both central and regional governments as news sources. The central government is represented by high-ranking state officials, including the president, ministers, and ministerial-level officials, as well as director generals. Regional officials are then represented by regents/mayors, heads of departments, and other technical officials. Interviews with these government officials are prevalent in the news published on *mediaindonesia.com*. They take turns serving as sources.

In fact, the media has a tremendous opportunity to develop coverage of the MBG program. They can select sources with strong backgrounds in public service, NGOs, and academics. They can critically and constructively analyze the implementation of the MBG program. Development journalism doesn't necessarily rely on government officials as sources, but rather on those who can see policy comprehensively. They can distinguish between principles and technicalities. They can identify activities with good management and those that are amateurish.

Another aspect is the news locus, which predominantly originates from the Greater Jakarta (Jabodetabek) region. The large news locus in Greater Jakarta is due to the central government's domicile in the capital. Their daily activities are in Jakarta, making them easily interviewed by *mediaindonesia.com* reporters. Fatima & Bukhari (2024) state that news plays a special role in influencing public opinion in every action.

For both media outlets, the editorial team is a central part of the media, constructing events without outside intervention. Both *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com* frame the MBG program according to their own agendas. Susanto (2021) stated that reporters must be independent in deciding the direction of their reporting. Outsiders must not intervene or interfere in editorial matters.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com* apply development journalism, taking into consideration media ownership, moment and timing, context, and also the domestic political situation. Both mainstream media portal support the free nutritious food

program (MBG) at a ceremonial level rather than developing principled issues. The reason is that this is an initial government policy that requires socialization. Editors cannot yet control the government as a form of evaluation because the MBG program is still in its early stages. The topics and tone of the news are still technical, in line with the media's support for the government. The media echo is the spirit of development to the government in order to the public will be enthusiastic about the government's concern for the people. Therefore, both *republika.co.id* and *mediaindonesia.com* choose the government as their main source over other parties. The focus of the news remains on the preparation and implementation of the MBG program in schools rather than looking for their weaknesses.

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