

Flood Conversation in Social Media Space: Between Politicisation and Poor Flood Governance

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ABSTRACT

Flooding is one of the natural disasters that often occurs in Indonesia during the rainy season. Whenever a flood occurs, people comment on social media to disseminate information related to floods or criticise the government for handling floods. This research analyses how public conversations on social media related to flooding in Indonesia in the period 2021-2024 on X social media. The analysis was conducted using the concept of flood governance to see what the direction of flood conversations on social media X is, especially those related to criticism of governance. The research used a qualitative method with content analysis. Data on flood-related conversations on X was retrieved using the advanced search feature. The data obtained was later analysed using the concept of flood governance to see whether the conversation leads to criticism of governance or is more inclined to political sentiment. The findings show that the conversations that emerged on social media X related to flooding led to poor flood governance in Indonesia. The dimensions that appear most often are related to community-based and participatory approaches, rules, regulations and governance, and finally actors and relationships between actors. In every reaction to flooding, people on social media often link this issue as an election commodity. The most discussed issue was related to the performance of Anies and Ganjar, who were the most likely gubernatorial candidates at the time, and thus the target of public criticism.

Keywords: Politicising Flood, Social Media, Governance, Critics

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's seasonal variations significantly impact both government operations and political processes. The dry season is conducive to uninterrupted governance and political activities, while the rainy season necessitates a focus on disaster management and can disrupt normal operations. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for effective governance and strategic political planning in Indonesia's unique climatic context.

The rainy season in Indonesia presents significant challenges to both government operations and political processes. Flooding and adverse weather conditions necessitate immediate and effective government responses, which can strain resources and disrupt normal functions. Additionally, these challenges can influence voter turnout, campaign strategies, and public sentiment, highlighting the need for robust disaster management and adaptive political strategies.

Indonesia is one of the high-exposure countries to flooding ranked 17th out of 191 countries worldwide (World Bank Group and Asian Development Bank, 2021, p. 12). It is estimated to affect the population annually of up to 1.5 million people and leads to financial loss annually of up to 1.4 billion USD (World Resources Institute, 2018). Flooding is also a persistent issue in many parts of Indonesia, particularly in most megapolitan cities (The World Bank, 2020, p. 7). Unfortunately, despite the annual occurrence of floods, the government's response has often been reactive rather than proactive. For instance, one of the critical issues contributing to flooding is poor spatial planning (Colven, Emma., Irawaty, Dian, 2016, p. 10) (Damm, Muhammad Rifqi et al, 2023). When the rainy season comes, it triggers flood disasters that exacerbate fatalities and material disadvantages in Indonesia (Husna, Setyowati and Haryanti, 2024, p. 1).

Flooding is a persistent issue in many parts of Indonesia, particularly in Jakarta. Despite the annual occurrence of floods, the government's response has often been reactive rather than proactive. One of the critical issues contributing to flooding is poor spatial planning. Urban development often proceeds without adequate consideration for natural water flow and drainage, exacerbating flood risks.

Flood disasters present significant challenges to both government operations and political processes. On the other hand, the flooding conditions necessitate immediate and effective government responses, because if the disaster is not responded well by the policymakers, it can strain resources and disrupt public services. Thus, flood disasters can be affecting public perceptions on the capability of the government in responding to disasters.

The government's focus has largely been on curative measures, such as emergency response and flood relief, rather than implementing long-term preventative solutions. Effective flood management requires comprehensive planning that includes upgrading drainage systems, enforcing zoning laws, and investing in sustainable urban development.

Rather than addressing the root causes of flooding, there is often a focus on beautifying the city through cosmetic improvements. Efforts such as landscaping, beautification of public spaces, and infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing the city's appearance do not address underlying issues like inadequate drainage and poor spatial planning. While beautification

projects may improve the city's image, they fail to provide long-term solutions to the recurring problem of flooding.

In the run-up to elections, especially in urban areas, flood issues have increasingly become a political commodity (BBC Indonesia, 2017). Politicians often capitalize on flood management issues to gain favour with voters, promising immediate relief and long-term solutions (Mustofa, Mustabsyrotul Ummah et al, 2022, p. 41). Hence, these promises often need to be revised to address the root causes of flooding, leading to repeated cycles of inadequate response and public dissatisfaction (Batubara, Bosman, 2022, pp. 4-6).

The political exploitation of flood issues underscores the need for more effective urban governance that prioritizes long-term planning, robust infrastructure development, and coordinated efforts across different levels of government to provide lasting solutions to urban flooding challenges. Moreover, flood governance is of paramount importance, encompassing a range of decisions and actions that address various stages of flood events and their consequences. Effective flood governance requires a holistic approach, integrating advanced risk assessment, proactive measures, and comprehensive response strategies to mitigate the impact of flooding on communities and ecosystems.

On the other hand, as a sign of public's response to this issue, the issue of flood politicisation is acutely felt on social media platforms, particularly on X (formerly Twitter) (Mustofa, Mustabsyrotul Ummah et al, 2022, p. 42). Users frequently express their criticisms and complaints regarding flood conditions and the government's handling of these crises. These conversations often extend beyond the immediate social, economic, and logistical impacts of floods to touch upon broader electoral issues. Public discourse on social media highlights not only the deficiencies in flood governance but also the political ramifications. Flood management becomes a focal point for political debate, with many discussions linking the government's response to electoral performance and campaign promises. This trend reveals a growing public awareness and frustration with how flood issues are leveraged for political gain, illustrating the deep interconnection between environmental management and political dynamics in the public sphere.

The reproduction of the flood issue at every election is a recurring phenomenon, driven by both the prevalence of flooding as a typical urban problem and the systemic inefficiencies in urban governance. Flooding is a frequent and visible issue in many cities, particularly during the rainy season, making it a highly salient topic for voters and politicians alike. Urban areas are often the most affected by floods due to high population density, inadequate drainage systems, and poor land use planning, which exacerbate the impact of heavy rainfall.

Additionally, the ineffectiveness of urban governance plays a significant role in the persistent nature of flood-related problems. Many cities struggle with comprehensive flood management due to insufficient infrastructure, lack of long-term planning, and fragmented administrative responsibilities. This governance gap results in reactive, short-term measures rather than proactive, sustainable solutions to mitigate flood risks.

During election periods, politicians frequently highlight flood issues to gain political leverage, promising swift action and improvements in flood management as part of their campaign platforms. However, these promises often fall short of addressing the root causes of

flooding, leading to repeated cycles of inadequate response and public dissatisfaction. The political exploitation of flood issues underscores the need for more effective urban governance that prioritizes long-term planning, robust infrastructure development, and coordinated efforts across different levels of government to provide lasting solutions to urban flooding challenges. Cities in Indonesia frequently operate on an autopilot mode, adhering to a business-as-usual approach in governance. This mode of operation often lacks the sophistication needed for effective spatial planning and comprehensive flood management. Urban areas are rapidly expanding without adequate consideration for the necessary infrastructure to handle heavy rainfall and prevent flooding. Unfortunately, the urban populace tends to exhibit a short memory and a degree of indifference when it comes to political accountability. During elections, they often support candidates who highlight pressing urban issues like flooding, only to later neglect to hold these elected officials accountable once they are in office. This cyclical pattern results in a persistent lack of progress in addressing fundamental urban governance challenges. Without a more engaged and vigilant urban community, and without leaders committed to long-term, strategic urban planning, cities continue to struggle with recurring issues such as flooding, ultimately impeding sustainable urban development.

Flood governance is of paramount importance, encompassing a range of decisions and actions that address various stages of flood events and their consequences. Effective flood governance requires a holistic approach, integrating advanced risk assessment, proactive measures, and comprehensive response strategies to mitigate the impact of flooding on communities and ecosystems.

One of the critical aspects of flood governance is the assessment and navigation of flood risk before an event occurs. This involves utilizing sophisticated modeling tools and historical data to predict potential flood scenarios and identify vulnerable areas. Effective risk assessment enables authorities to develop targeted mitigation strategies, such as constructing flood barriers, improving drainage systems, and implementing zoning regulations that prevent construction in high-risk areas. By proactively addressing flood risks, communities can reduce their vulnerability and enhance their resilience to future flood events.

When flooding occurs, governance plays a crucial role in tackling disastrous situations. This phase requires coordinated emergency response efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of affected populations. Effective flood governance involves establishing clear protocols for evacuation, mobilizing resources for rescue operations, and providing immediate relief to those impacted by the flood. Collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities is essential to manage the crisis efficiently. The goal is to minimize loss of life and property while ensuring that basic needs such as shelter, food, and medical care are met promptly.

Addressing the myriad of social, economic, and ecological consequences of flooding is another vital component of flood governance. Post-flood recovery involves not only rebuilding infrastructure but also supporting affected communities in restoring their livelihoods. Socially, this may include providing psychological support to flood victims and ensuring equitable access to recovery resources. Economically, it involves developing financial mechanisms such as insurance schemes and government aid to help individuals and businesses recover from

losses. Ecologically, flood governance must consider the restoration of natural habitats and the implementation of sustainable practices that enhance the resilience of ecosystems to future floods.

In the broadest sense, governance refers to goal-oriented deliberative intervention in society, as highlighted by Glasbergen (1998). This concept emphasizes the strategic direction and guiding of public affairs to achieve desired outcomes, distinguishing it from management, which focuses more on operational aspects. Governance in the context of flooding involves setting overarching goals, such as reducing flood risks, enhancing community resilience, and promoting sustainable development. It requires a participatory approach, engaging various stakeholders in decision-making processes to ensure that diverse perspectives and needs are considered.

Jessop (1998) further elaborates on governance as the steering or guiding of public affairs. In the case of flood governance, this steering involves formulating policies, regulations, and frameworks that shape how society prepares for and responds to flood events. Effective governance ensures that there is a coherent and integrated approach to flood management, aligning the efforts of different sectors and levels of government.

Armitage et al. (2012) distinguish governance from management by emphasizing the strategic and deliberative nature of governance compared to the operational focus of management. While management involves the day-to-day implementation of flood control measures, governance encompasses the broader vision and planning required to create a resilient society. This distinction is crucial for understanding the comprehensive scope of flood governance, which goes beyond immediate actions to include long-term planning and adaptation strategies.

In conclusion, flood governance is a multifaceted process that requires deliberate and goal-oriented interventions to navigate flood risks, respond to disasters, and address their broader consequences. By distinguishing governance from management, it becomes clear that effective flood governance involves strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and the integration of social, economic, and ecological considerations. This comprehensive approach is essential for building resilient communities that can withstand and recover from the impacts of flooding.

Thus, flood governance is a multifaceted process that requires deliberate and goal-oriented interventions to navigate flood risks, respond to disasters, and address their broader consequences. By distinguishing governance from management, it becomes clear that effective flood governance involves strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and the integration of social, economic, and ecological considerations. This comprehensive approach is essential for building resilient communities that can withstand and recover from the impacts of flooding.

This research examines how flooding has become a political commodity on social media, with a particular focus on urban areas where flood events receive extensive public attention. The study explores the dynamics of public discourse on social media platforms, analyzing how the heightened publicity surrounding urban flooding events contributes to and amplifies criticisms of flood management practices in Indonesia. Through a qualitative analysis

of social media content, the research aims to uncover the underlying themes and sentiments that characterize public criticism, revealing widespread perceptions of poor flood governance. The study seeks to understand how these public critiques reflect broader issues in flood management policies and practices, and how the politicization of flood events influences public trust and governmental accountability. By investigating the intersection of social media discourse and flood management, this research aims to provide insights into the challenges and opportunities for improving flood resilience and governance in Indonesia.

METHODOLOGY

This study looked at the dynamics of public opinion that develops around the issue of flooding, This study examines the evolving dynamics of public opinion related to flooding, with a particular focus on key terms such as "flooding," "urban flooding," "flood management," "government," and "elections." Using a qualitative approach complemented by network analysis, the research aims to uncover how these keywords interact and shape public discourse. By analyzing conversations and sentiments on social media platforms, the study seeks to identify patterns and connections within public opinion. Network analysis helps visualize the relationships between different themes, showing how discussions about flood management are often linked to perceptions of government performance and electoral outcomes. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of how public opinion is formed and influenced by real-time events and political narratives, highlighting the complex interplay between environmental issues and political dynamics in urban contexts.

The data collected for this study originates from X social media (formerly Twitter) and encompasses the conversation period from 2021 to 2024, during which Indonesia experienced significant flooding across various regions. This period was chosen due to the recurrence of substantial flood events that sparked widespread public discourse and debate on the platform. Additionally, this timeframe includes regional head elections, providing a unique opportunity to analyze how electoral dynamics intersect with public conversations about flood management. The overlap of these events allows the study to capture the intensity and evolution of public opinion, offering insights into how flooding incidents influence and are influenced by political campaigns and government actions. By examining tweets and social media interactions, the study seeks to understand the sentiment and concerns of the public, identifying key moments when discussions about flooding align with political activity, thereby shedding light on the broader socio-political implications of environmental crises.

The data collection method for this study involves using the advanced search function on X social media (formerly Twitter) to explore topics related to the keywords "flooding," "urban flooding," "flood management," "government," and "elections." This advanced search allows for a targeted and comprehensive retrieval of relevant posts, ensuring that the data encompasses a wide range of perspectives and discussions pertinent to these themes. By filtering tweets based on these specific keywords, the study aims to capture the nuances and dynamics of public opinion as it evolves over time.

The advanced search function enables the inclusion of various parameters such as date ranges, hashtags, user mentions, and specific phrases, which helps in isolating conversations during significant flooding events and regional elections from 2021 to 2024. This method provides a detailed snapshot of how public discourse around flooding intersects with political events and governance issues. The collected data is then analyzed qualitatively, focusing on the content, sentiment, and frequency of discussions to identify trends and patterns in public opinion.

Network analysis is employed to visualize the relationships between different keywords and topics, illustrating how discussions about flood management and government performance are linked to electoral issues. This methodological approach allows for an in-depth understanding of the interplay between environmental crises and political discourse, providing valuable insights into the factors that shape public opinion in the context of significant flooding events and elections in Indonesia.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Discourse on X during the severe flood period in Indonesia from 2021-2024

Between January 2021 and May 2024, Indonesia experienced twelve significant flooding events. These natural disasters had profound impacts on communities, infrastructure, and the environment. Each flooding incident varied in scale, severity, and the regions affected. The floods were often exacerbated by a combination of heavy rainfall, poor drainage systems, deforestation, and climate change.

Table 1. Big Flooding from 2021-2024

No.	Date	Location
1.	Early 2021	Severe flooding in South Kalimantan displaced over 100,000 residents and caused substantial damage to homes and farmlands.
2.	February 2021	Jakarta faced massive urban flooding, disrupting daily life and transportation networks.
3.		Not only Jakarta, Semarang also faced urban flooding
4.	April 2021	Flooding in East Nusa Tenggara resulted in numerous casualties and extensive property damage.
5.	November 2021	Heavy rains led to widespread flooding in West Sumatra and West Borneo, impacting both urban and rural areas.
6.	January 2022	North Sulawesi and Papua were hit by floods, causing landslides and road blockages
7.	October 2022	Jakarta and West Java experienced flooding
8.	December 2022	Significant flooding in Aceh and Semarang affected thousands, with emergency services stretched to their limits.
9.	January 2023	Floods hit North Sulawesi
10.	March 2023	Demak, Central Java was hit by flood in the north java province

11.	January 2024	Flooding in the north of Central Java resulted in substantial infrastructural damage and displacement.
12.	April 2024	North Sumatra faced severe flooding, affecting both urban centers and rural areas

Besides those flooding events, we also found 29 most engaged related postings illustrate a society actively engaged in addressing the immediate and long-term challenges posed by these floods. Enhanced preparedness, sustainable environmental practices, and robust community support systems are crucial for mitigating the impact of future flooding events in Indonesia. Moreover, from those 29 posts, we found 66 most mentioned words by categories of flood governance including electoral sentiment issues.

Whenever there is a flood in an urban area, social media platforms like X (formerly Twitter) become vibrant arenas for public expression and debate. People frequently use these platforms to voice their frustrations and grievances, freely sharing their opinions on the perceived shortcomings of governmental efforts in flood prevention. The immediacy and reach of social media allow for real-time sharing of experiences, criticisms, and demands for accountability.

During flood events, posts often highlight the inadequacies in urban planning, such as poor drainage systems, lack of maintenance, and insufficient infrastructure. Users criticize the government's reactive stance, which typically focuses on emergency response rather than proactive, long-term flood prevention strategies. Hashtags related to floods and urban governance trends, amplify the collective discontent and draw attention from media outlets, policymakers, and the general public.

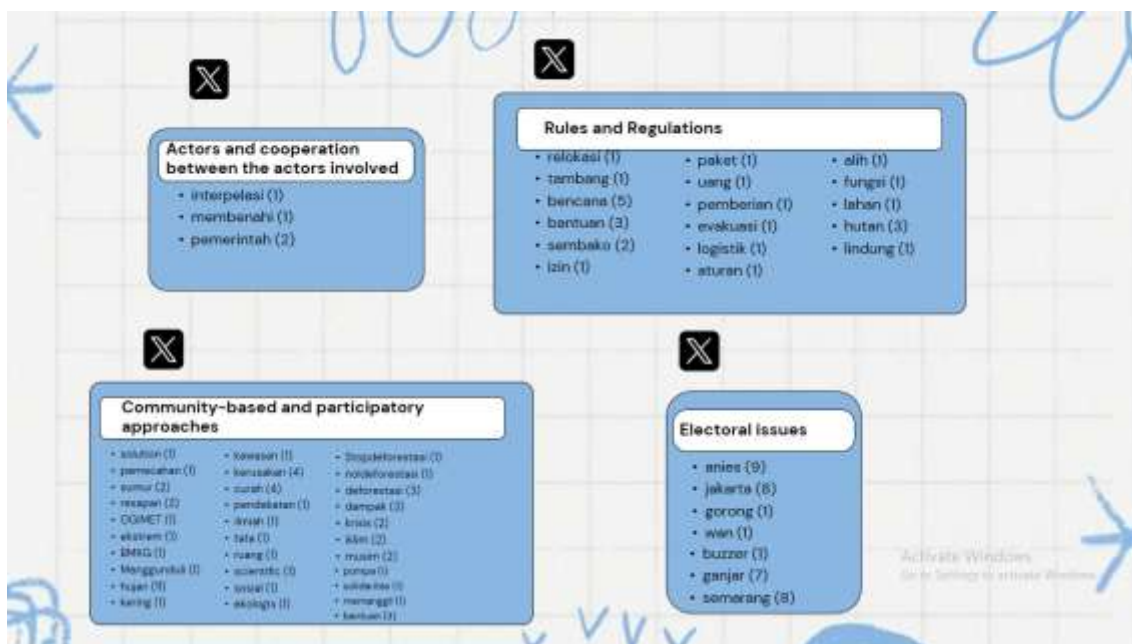


Figure 1. Words Mentioned by Flood Governance Categories

This surge of online activity underscores the community's desire for more effective flood management policies and greater transparency from their leaders. It also reflects a broader sentiment of distrust and dissatisfaction with how urban flooding issues are handled, prompting calls for more robust and preventative measures to mitigate future flooding risks. The widespread use of social media thus serves as a powerful tool for holding the government accountable and advocating for better urban flood management practices.



Figure 2: Words Cloud from Most Mentioned Words

Poor Flood Governance reflects on the critics

The community aspect is the most frequently mentioned keyword in critiques on social media X regarding flood issues, highlighting a significant concern about the lack of community participation in flood management. This recurring theme underscores the community's crucial role in not only addressing flood-related problems when disasters occur but also in taking proactive steps to prevent or anticipate flooding during the rainy season. Effective flood management requires the integration of local knowledge and active engagement from residents, who are often the first to experience the impacts of inadequate infrastructure and planning. Authorities can harness valuable insights and foster a sense of shared responsibility by involving the community in decision-making processes, disaster preparedness initiatives, and public education campaigns. This inclusive approach can lead to more sustainable and effective flood prevention strategies, ensuring that the measures taken are well-suited to the unique needs and vulnerabilities of different neighbourhoods. Ultimately, emphasizing community participation in flood management can improve resilience, enhance public trust in governance, and create a more robust framework for addressing both the immediate and long-term challenges of urban flooding.

More meaningful community involvement in flood management is needed to improve efforts to effectively address flood-related issues. Currently, communities are largely excluded from the entire process of flood management, from mitigation to recovery. Regarding mitigation, residents often have limited opportunities to participate in planning and decision-

making processes that could help reduce flood risks. This exclusion results in flood management strategies that do not fully consider local knowledge, needs, or the specific vulnerabilities of different neighborhoods.

During and after flood events, community involvement remains minimal. Local residents are not sufficiently engaged in emergency response planning or recovery efforts, which can lead to slower and less efficient relief operations. This lack of participation not only undermines the effectiveness of flood management initiatives but also diminishes the community's sense of ownership and responsibility for local solutions.

Engaging communities meaningfully in flood management can enhance resilience by leveraging local insights and fostering a collaborative approach to preparedness and response. It can also empower residents to take proactive steps in protecting their properties and neighborhoods, ultimately leading to more sustainable and effective flood management practices. However, without deliberate efforts to involve communities at every stage, from planning to implementation, flood management strategies are likely to remain inadequate and disconnected from the realities faced by those most affected.

The community is often positioned as a passive object in governance, particularly in the context of flood management, resulting in a pervasive sense of exclusion and disengagement among residents. When communities are not actively involved in decision-making processes or consulted on measures that directly affect their lives, they do not feel a sense of ownership or responsibility towards these initiatives. This lack of involvement undermines the effectiveness of flood management strategies and erodes public trust in governance.

To address the persistent issue of urban flooding, a long-term commitment is essential, which can only be achieved through a legitimate political agreement. Such an agreement should be built on the principles of inclusivity, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that all stakeholders, including the community, are actively engaged in the governance process. This involves creating platforms for meaningful public participation, where residents can voice their concerns, contribute local knowledge, and collaborate on solutions.

A legitimate political agreement would also necessitate sustained political will and coordinated efforts across various levels of government. It should outline clear, actionable plans for flood mitigation, infrastructure improvement, and emergency response, backed by adequate funding and resources. By fostering a collaborative approach and demonstrating a genuine commitment to long-term solutions, governments can build resilience against urban flooding and restore public confidence in their capacity to manage environmental challenges effectively.

The second most frequently mentioned aspect in social media critiques regarding flood issues is the rule of law and governance. Users express significant concerns about the lack of

clear regulations and the frequent violations of existing rules. This discourse highlights several critical points that illustrate the systemic governance challenges in flood management.



Figure 3. Example of X Post regarding the Severe Floods in West Borneo

Firstly, social media users emphasize the absence of well-defined and enforceable regulations governing flood prevention and management. This regulatory vacuum creates ambiguity and inconsistency in how flood-related issues are addressed. Without clear guidelines, local authorities and communities lack the direction needed to implement effective flood management strategies. This gap in the legal framework undermines efforts to prepare for and respond to flooding, leading to a reactive rather than proactive approach.

Moreover, even where regulations do exist, social media users point out that there are widespread violations. These violations often stem from inadequate enforcement mechanisms and a lack of accountability among those responsible for implementing flood management policies. For instance, unauthorized construction in flood-prone areas, improper waste disposal blocking drainage systems, and illegal land use changes frequently go unpunished. Such infractions exacerbate flood risks and demonstrate the disconnect between policy and practice.

Additionally, the implementation of flood management measures often fails to comply with the established laws. Social media critiques suggest that corruption, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and political interference contribute to this non-compliance. When flood management projects are delayed or executed poorly due to these issues, the effectiveness of the overall strategy is severely compromised. This failure to adhere to the rule of law not only undermines public trust in government institutions but also leaves communities vulnerable to recurrent flooding.

These critiques reflect a broader sentiment of frustration and disillusionment with the governance structures responsible for managing flood risks. They call for a more robust legal framework, stringent enforcement of regulations, and greater transparency and accountability in the implementation of flood management policies. Addressing these governance issues is essential for building resilient urban environments capable of withstanding the challenges

posed by severe weather events. By aligning flood management practices with the rule of law, authorities can create a more effective and trustworthy system that protects communities and reduces the impact of flooding.

Interestingly, public criticism of flooding does not focus heavily on the aspects of actors and relationships between actors involved in flood management. This trend suggests that the public discourse is less concerned with identifying specific individuals or institutions responsible for flood-related issues and more focused on systemic problems. Instead of targeting particular actors, social media users and critics emphasize broader governance challenges, such as the lack of community participation, ineffective rule of law, and inadequate regulatory frameworks.

One possible explanation for this is that the public may perceive the problem of flooding as a structural issue that transcends individual responsibilities. The emphasis on systemic issues implies a recognition that flood management failures are deeply rooted in institutional inefficiencies and policy gaps rather than the actions or inactions of specific actors. This perspective shifts the conversation towards the need for comprehensive reforms and improved governance mechanisms, rather than assigning blame to particular officials or agencies

Furthermore, the complexity of flood management, which involves multiple stakeholders across different levels of government and sectors, might make it difficult for the public to pinpoint and critique the roles of individual actors. The interplay between local, regional, and national authorities, as well as private and non-governmental organizations, creates a web of relationships that can be challenging to navigate. As a result, public discourse tends to generalize the critique towards the overall governance system rather than dissecting the contributions of each actor.

This broader focus also indicates a potential gap in transparency and accountability. If the public lacks clear information about the roles and responsibilities of various actors in flood management, it becomes harder to hold specific entities accountable. This underscores the need for better communication and clarity from authorities about their flood management plans, roles, and actions. By enhancing transparency, it would be possible to foster more informed public debates that can address both systemic issues and the accountability of individual actors.

In summary, the lack of focus on actors and relationships between actors in public criticism of flooding reflects a broader concern with systemic governance failures. This trend highlights the need for comprehensive policy reforms, improved institutional frameworks, and greater transparency to effectively address flood management challenges. By shifting the discourse towards these systemic issues, there is potential for fostering a more holistic and effective approach to flood governance that transcends individual responsibilities.

In each reaction to the floods, people on social media often linked the issue to electoral politics, viewing it as an electoral commodity. This phenomenon is particularly evident when public discussions focus on prominent political figures who are perceived as potential

presidential candidates. During the period under review, Anies Baswedan and Ganjar Pranowo, both widely recognized as likely contenders in the presidential race, became central figures in these critiques.

Social media users frequently scrutinized Anies Baswedan's performance as the Governor of Jakarta, a city notorious for its recurrent flooding. The criticism centered on his administration's perceived failures in implementing effective flood management strategies and long-term urban planning. Commentators highlighted issues such as inadequate drainage systems, poor infrastructure maintenance, and insufficient flood prevention measures. Anies's handling of these issues became a hot topic, with many arguing that his performance in managing Jakarta's floods could indicate his potential effectiveness as a national leader. This intense scrutiny reflects how local governance issues can significantly influence public perceptions of a candidate's suitability for higher office.

Similarly, Ganjar Pranowo, as the Governor of Central Java, also faced public criticism regarding his flood management policies. Social media discussions often compared his efforts with those of other regional leaders, questioning his ability to address environmental challenges effectively. Critics pointed to specific instances of flooding in Central Java, examining the government's response and the measures taken to mitigate future risks. Ganjar's actions, or lack thereof, in dealing with these crises became a focal point in assessing his leadership capabilities and his prospects in the presidential race.

The public discourse on social media also highlighted a broader trend of politicizing flood management issues. Many users expressed frustration that political leaders tend to prioritize short-term, visible solutions aimed at garnering electoral support rather than implementing sustainable, long-term strategies. This criticism reflects a deep-seated skepticism about the motivations of politicians, suggesting that their responses to floods are often driven more by the desire for electoral gains than by a genuine commitment to resolving the underlying issues.

Furthermore, the focus on Anies and Ganjar illustrates how natural disasters, such as floods, can become arenas for political competition. Each flood event provides an opportunity for the public to assess and critique the leadership qualities of these figures, often drawing direct comparisons between their approaches and effectiveness. This dynamic underscores the intersection of environmental management and electoral politics, where the handling of natural disasters becomes a significant factor in shaping political fortunes.

In conclusion, the repeated linkage of flood issues to electoral politics on social media underscores the high stakes involved for prominent political figures like Anies Baswedan and Ganjar Pranowo. Public criticism during flood events reflects broader concerns about the effectiveness of governance and the integrity of political leaders. This trend highlights the need for a more transparent and accountable approach to flood management, where policies are driven by long-term public interest rather than short-term electoral considerations.

CONCLUSION

People flock to social media whenever a flood occurs to voice their criticisms of flood governance. These criticisms primarily revolve around the lack of community participation in flood management, highlighting the community's desire for more inclusive and collaborative approaches. Social media users frequently point out that their insights and local knowledge are often overlooked, leading to ineffective flood prevention and response strategies. Additionally, there is significant discourse regarding the rule of law and its implementation in flood governance. Critics argue that existing laws and regulations are either inadequate or poorly enforced, contributing to recurring flood problems.

The discussion also touches on the roles and relationships of various actors involved in flood management, indicating a need for better coordination and accountability among government agencies, private sector entities, and civil society organizations. Furthermore, social media commentary often frames flooding as an electoral political commodity, where politicians leverage flood issues to gain support during campaigns, yet fail to implement meaningful changes once elected. This recurrent theme suggests that floods are treated superficially for political gain rather than being addressed with genuine political will and concrete action. The persistent politicization of flooding undermines serious efforts to manage it effectively, reducing it to a tool for electoral manipulation rather than recognizing it as a critical issue requiring sustained attention and comprehensive solutions.

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