

## Media Group Network on digital: news construction from the hybrid perspective

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**Abstract** Advances in information technology provide new opportunities and demand changes, one of which is in the construction of news. Digital media has also changed the landscape and the structure of the quality of the press, which prioritises emotional rather than rational aspects. As a result, the relationship between the media and the public is increasingly complex. This study aims to analyse the news in the Media Group Network newsroom as a news media from the perspective of a hybrid media system. This research is a qualitative study using an in-depth interview with the Editorial Board of the Media Group Network and journalists from Media Indonesia, Metro TV and Medcom.id, as well as a literature overview from related research and media content. The study results show that public mood affects the news construction process. Issue sensitivity tends to get more attention which contains shared values. There are three implications of influencing public mood in reporting: increasing democratic involvement, decentralising news sources, and influencing policy-making in the newsroom.

**Keywords:** construction of news; hybrid media; political communication; democratic engagement

### INTRODUCTION

Marshall McLuhan's dictum mentions that the global village is becoming increasingly real amidst digital penetration. The media blur geographical boundaries and create interconnectedness. Although this view is considered too deterministic in positioning technology, understanding media at the intersection of two perspectives, utopia and dystopia, becomes crucial (Fisher & Wright, 2001; Buckup, 204; Yegen, 2018). According to Plascencia, Gurgel & Plaw (2020), social considerations as an effort to embrace essential information technology in digital journalism are related to politics to promote democratic values. Media coverage related to technology has also increased, including cloud computing (Irwansyah, 2012). Furthermore, the connectivity between politics, journalism, and technology increasingly increases civic engagement, including activism in media channels.

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The current media system has changed due to technological changes and institutional consolidation that have increased the speed and efficiency of delivering messages to the wider public (Billard, 2021). Through the new system, social movements can be used to communicate in influencing social and political order.

The media influence the flow of information between citizens and political actors or the relationship between the public and the political elite (Gilardi, 2022). The media facilitates the dialectic between interests. In this context, one side becomes both constructor and a reflector (Ibrahim & Akhmad, 2014). The media plays a key role in the dynamics of news coverage, the formation of journalism practices, and news narratives to interpret reality.

Several perspectives believe that the mainstream media still has optimal influence. This belief cannot be separated from linear views, such as hypodermic needles, which place the media in great control of news framing. This view has received criticism, considering that the audience is not always passive and has the authority to select the information received in various contexts.

The development of the digital era opens communication to be more two-way. Two-way communication based on a bottom-up approach provides a space for participants to create understanding (Pitaloka, Hendriyani, Eriyanto & Haryatmoko, 2022). Opportunities for the public are not only consumers of information but also allow them to be involved in news construction. The study of Dumitrica and Bakardjieva (2017) illustrates that social media's symbolic construction related to news is mediated by social media, allowing involvement in the government administration process and reactively responding after the policy is made. In another sense. Personalisation of public engagement can occur through technological intermediaries.

Citizens formally and informally participate in news-forming practices and routines. News production is no longer the property of a handful of elite economic, political and media actors. Meanwhile, digitalisation allows citizens to participate in producing, disseminating, debating, and competing with news information from various news platforms in a hybrid media system that elaborates the logic of old and new media (Chadwick, 2017; Mattoni & Ceccobelli, 2018).

Hybrid media penetration increases the social and political tempo and intensifies news trends (Chadwick, 2017; Lavi, 2020). The reporting process has a past and future time orientation in understanding the events reported. Media scholars identify this development of media ecology that drives modern democracy. Media integration provides information to citizens and becomes a more diverse representation in framing reality in the atmosphere of a democratic country.

The democratic media system implemented in Western countries has become a hybrid system that combines traditional media with social media. Content on social platforms is produced and shared collectively by journalists, citizens, bloggers, and activists (Chadwick, 2017). In the

application of a hybrid media system, there is a mix of the rationality of traditional media and the influence of social media, which results in a mingling of the dichotomy of public/private, entertainment/political, and work/recreation (Laaksonen, 2017; Ruotsalainen & Villi, 2018). Based on the hybrid media ecology from the affective side, the public seeks to find news that has a personal meaning to them, thus wanting to consume, share and comment.

Hybridity reflects the wider socio-political environment by providing space for personal interests related to emphasised identity in public life. In this post-materialist world, the identity of its citizens is built in a communication network. In a communication on social media, trust tends to be determined by the disseminator of the content, not by which news organisation produces the content (Lilla, 2017; Ruotsalainen & Villi, 2018: The Media Insight Project, 2017).

According to Benton (2017), in rebuilding relationships with readers and maintaining their autonomy, journalists need to carry out a hybrid journalism system that can offer personal involvement and produce high-quality journalism. However, this concept has also been criticised by some researchers regarding the term as a shortcut to showing everything complex through hybrids. The concept of hybridity is encouraged to be more complex in theory and is projected to be explored in journalism studies. Research on hybrid journalism is also still limited, especially towards news with soft news genres such as celebrity journalism (Baym, 2017; Bodker, 2017; Bulck et al., 2017; Hamilton, 2016; Ruotsalainen & Villi, 2018).

The new hybrid environment creates uncertainty, especially for the old media and political elites. In British politics, the old media remains especially important, but politics is increasingly mediated online. The presence of the internet creates a more fluid and open structure of political opportunity and allows the public to exert influence and hold politicians and media accountable (Chadwick, 2011).

Chadwick's (2011) research states that large news organisations such as the BBC share substantial content internally across web and television divisions. This provides a sustainable structural advantage in terms of integration and breaking news. At the same time, journalists are increasingly interacting with the public online and using online news sources in their stories. Such hybrid media systems adjust to create the balance of power that shapes news production.

In Western media systems, the post-broadcast era is characterised as more inclusive and democratic than those analysed by Habermas and Mills. Although many are turning to online news consumption, traditional news is still considered valuable. We can see media relations in some of the phenomena of integration of the use of television, physical space and digital media seen during Barack Obama's speech in front of 80,000 supporters during the Democratic National Convention at the Denver football stadium in July 2008. British Data from leading polling organisation YouGov in October 2011 showed that

55 per cent of British people under fifty-five used social media to provide real-time commentary on television shows while watching (Chadwick, 2017).

Furthermore, old media relations and new media can also be seen in the news coverage by television and social media in the formation of a report on the Boston bombing in April 2013. Reporters from CNN television news use Twitter even for reporting in front of television cameras. Then in June 2013, at an undisclosed location, the Guardians conducted a live broadcast via web chat with the fugitive US National Security Agency (NSA), Edward Snowden, as the 192-year-old news organisation flexed its professional investigations and simultaneously engaged with social media networks to deliver impactful stories by the NSA (Chadwick, 2017).

In Indonesia, social media penetration affects mainstream media, for example, in the coin social movement for Prita. Another issue, how strong the public's influence is in the recent viral case, is the news about the murder involving the police officer, Ferdy Sambo. The initial narrative scenario of Ferdy Sambo's version of the news received a lot of comments, which was finally refuted. The point is that media does not work in a vacuum. In the digital era, it is increasingly showing that public pressure also determines the direction of the media agenda. The shift in media ecology also affects the diffusion of agendas (Weiman & Brosius, 2017).

Electoral issues also tend to become a public discussion. Research from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) shows that 60 per cent of Generation Z access political news from social media (Setyowati, 2018). Media logic works by combining things often discussed in new media to be reported on old media platforms such as television and print. Vice versa, the old media often lead to an issue that can become viral in the new media. The involvement of actors in shaping news production also varies from professional journalism to citizen journalism.

Interaction between media within the Media Group Network could be seen from the show 'Bedah Editorial', produced by newspaper-based Media Indonesia that converts their narrative into audio-visual in Metro TV. However, other digital media, for instance, Medcom.id and other social media under the Media Group Network, amplify news from discussed topics. The public could be involved more interactively to deliver opinions or comments in 'Bedah Editorial' through an interactive telephone number (02158399100).

Journalists from Media Group Network delivering their media report is centralised through 'MGN Newsbox.' 'MGN Newsbox is a web-based application that integrates news sources from both traditional and digital media within one canal. All news sources could be delivered to the public according to the platform's characteristics. Even more, journalists from Media Indonesia utilise Instagram to conduct interactive dialogue that invites subject-related experts to discuss contemporary public issues.

Based on the background that has been described previously, this study examines the news that is increasingly hybridised by public currents. This study is empirical research, the result of exploration of the Media Group Network as one of the news media groups in Indonesia that has various platforms, both print (Media Indonesia), television (Metro TV) and digital (Medcom.id). How far is the interaction between old and new media in the Media Group Network in constructing news in the digital age? What factors lead to significant public influence in reporting, and what are the implications?

## **METHODOLOGY**

This type of research is qualitative by using analysis, situation description, summaries of various data obtained, or observations of the problems studied. This research was reviewed using the case study method. This method allows researchers to explain the observed situation more specifically and in-depth (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Furthermore, the focus of case studies can be used to examine objects of study that are institutional in a particular context.

Case studies emphasise mechanisms to examine empirically and systematically to answer predetermined questions. Data collection techniques in this research are observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation.

The research was conducted on the Media Group Network as a news media group entity in which there are three platforms at once, including print (Media Indonesia), television (Metro TV) and digital (Medcom.id). The context of this research sees the construction from news outlet that involves the interaction among media on the news regarding the viral and trending case of Ferdy Sambo (Litbang Kompas). The media determination refers to the perspective of a hybrid media system that emphasises the interaction between old and new media. This research is conducted from the period of July to September 2022.

Selection of informants using purposive sampling technique based on predetermined criteria, informants are positioned as figures who can provide answers related to the focus of the study. Many media actors selected as informants represent people involved in reporting activities. The representation of these informants comes from strategic layers in the Media Group Network, which represents each platform, both print, television and online. Sources involved in this research available on Table 1. While literature overview is gathered from past research on Media Groups like Ariyanti's research in 2011 on Partial Convergence in Media (Study Case within Media Group) and the news on Sambo's case from Media Indonesia, Metro TV, and Medcom.id)

**Table 1.** Key Informant Interviews

Name	Position
Elman Saragih	Head of Editorial Board of Media Group Network
Gaudensius Suhardi	Media Indonesia News Director
Arief Suditomo	News Director & Editor in Chief Metro TV
Indra Maulana	Editor in Chief Medcom.id

Source: Data Processed by Author (2022)

Data analysis in this study uses inductive analysis by identifying themes from the research results. The following data is classified based on theme clusters and analysed in depth for elaboration. The analysis is interactive and continuous (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The research results have been reviewed with a theoretical framework as a basis for drawing conclusions.

Research with case studies allows the elaboration of variations in data sources (Denscombe, 2007; Gillham, 2010). The case study for this research is a case that involves the killing scandal by Ferdy Sambo that involves several high-ranking officers within the Indonesian National Police. Media Group Network has reported the case through traditional and new media.) Such an approach leads not to generalise from the data obtained. The position of the researcher in this context supports a constructivist attitude that dialects the objective and subjective sides of the reality being studied. The methodological implications of the scheme referring to various sources can be closer to the research objectives more holistically (Yin, 2014).

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This section describes several research findings, such as the interaction between old and new media from the Media Group Network experience, the factors influencing the news construction process and their implications. Media Group Network is a news media entity which includes print, television, and online representatives as case studies to explain according to the formulation of the problems studied. This research shows how the media industry constructs news experiences dynamics amid digital penetration.

### **Old Media and New Media Interaction: The Media Group Network Experience**

Marvin (1988 in Chadwick, 2017) states that the use of the terms "old" and "new" is something relative. However, there is a need to update the old media by adapting and integrating the logic of the new media. Hybrid media systems are based on the interaction and logic between old and new media. This logic is defined as a collection of technologies, genres, norms, behaviours, and organisational forms – in the related fields of social media and politics (Chadwick, 2017).

The development of the use of technology has an impact on the adaptation mechanism of the Media Group Network in the digital era.

Journalistic practices ranging from news gatherings to editorial meetings and distribution, have also changed. Gaudensius Suhardi, Director of Media Indonesia's Reporting, explained that technological devices could unite journalistic work more effectively and efficiently. In this context, it is stated that the news box allows the news reporting process to be integrated for content purposes on Media Indonesia, Metro TV and Medcom.id.

The CEO of Media Group Network, Mohammad Mirdal Akib, after the MGN work meeting on December 13-14, 2021, said that what the Media Group Network was doing was part of a convergence strategy. The unification of channels and business entities under the Media Group Network is an effort to optimise the development of the media industry, including avoiding overlapping platforms (Alawi, 2022).

The utilisation of GPRS technology, dalet system, and content management system (Ariyanti, 2011) to improve the quality of shows with full HD resolution, providing Over the Top, Video on Demand and supporting the implementation of Analog Switch Off (ASO) as a multiplexing provider shows the commitment of the media group. It continues to adapt to changing times. In addition, the convergence space in using technology like this opens up greater democratisation of information in accommodating public aspirations.

Media Group Network strives to be relevant as a news media entity. Arief Suditomo, as Chief Editor of Metro TV, explained that becoming a continuously relevant media is not easy, especially since Media Group Network departs from the basis of conventional media, both print and television, and needs to continue to adapt during the onslaught of entertainment genre media (personal communication, 29 July 2022).

Media Group Network's news genre is closer to hard news. News such as politics, law or economics become mainstream content. However, each platform can package news according to its style. The interactions between newspapers, television and online are complimentary. In this context, although the hard news genre is interpreted as "heavy" news, each platform has a different strategy. Media Indonesia emphasises the depth of writing, Metro TV complements it with audio-visual power and Medcom.id brings more up-to-date news.

Mainstreaming certain genres does not reduce the quality of reporting with more varied narratives. Although as a news media, efforts to elaborate with values that are entertaining or contain shows are also applied in order to keep the media relevant and accepted by the public. Relevance becomes a priority condition because the media directs little attention to many issues, public figures, and affairs (McCombs, 2005).

Old media often use new media as a resource by utilising viral circulation of content in news genres and production techniques according to their organisation. New media platforms are in the process of being integrated into mainstream digital political news systems. In

the hybrid system, the old media system is still strong, especially regarding financial resources and collective organisation, which is still far from the new media.

Today, television's dominance over the news is waning, not only because online news sites are more prepared to take risks in publishing without standards of norms or professional journalism verification, but also because of the viral nature and online communication of new media more easily spread across interpersonal networks prior to broadcast official press. Some of the major political news stories first appear online and are picked up by television and print journalists who obsessively follow topics of public taste.

Identifying old media relations and new media in the formation of politics requires us to think about how the media interacts with politics. This is where "media logic" is used. The media logic approach gives us a new perspective on understanding emerging norms in practice in media and politics. The recent more polycentric media environment calls for a broader idea of hybrid media. Thus, the focus on norms that determine the character of mediation develops among different media. Hybrid media systems still require actors' judgments about the combination of media in shaping an event.

News construction is affected by the significant implications of hybrid media systems. Three key points can describe the relationship between journalism and news construction. First, the boundary between roles, identities, and norms between old and new media. Second, changes in news structure organisation. Third, the change in the way the news cycle works around political news and its rapid movement. Reporting mechanisms adapt to the evolving relationship between journalism and power in an increasingly globalised news culture (McNair, 2006).

Professional journalism increasingly demonstrates the integration of digital media logic into everyday practice. In the opposite case, amateur journalists and bloggers are increasingly integrating the logic of professional journalists. In the final stages, there are significant changes in how news is produced, especially about emergencies, political crises, and scandals. The political information cycle is a complex collection built on the hybrid logic of newer and online media with older broadcast and print media. The flow and meaning of news are influenced by power relations between actors (Chadwick, 2017).

Political mediation is increasing, and the impact of media logic is increasingly relevant. The development of technology and media platforms has created a media mindset and attitude that leads to efforts to build networks. As Pacey's (2001) review in *Meaning in Technology* states, in this context, the main thing is the purpose and context of human needs to guide or influence the practice of using technology. On the one hand, the logic of the media is based on mass audiences and individuals. Everyone can have their own media platform with a network logic focused on the same mind to connect to go viral. On the other



hand, it has challenges if information needs to be subject to journalistic rules and values.

To deal with shifts in various information governance in the digital era, Media Group Network is also not completely free but still has to follow the signs of a journalistic code of ethics. Indra Maulana, Chief Editor of Medcom.id, said that the media industry has rules of the game; flexibility and creativity lie in the content and organising mechanism, not by bumping into regulations (personal communication, August 4, 2022). That is the middle way of media interaction that is older and newer with a symbiosis of mutualism in reporting. Old media with an information verification approach tend to be more carefully elaborated, with new media full of speed, novelty and current openness as greater public accessibility. This means that the news construction process is not one-way from traditional media to mass audiences but is more complex and represents a dynamic interaction representation (Neuman, Guggenheim, Mo Jang & Bae, 2014).

### **The Effect of Public Mood in Constructing News**

Media Group Network not only broadcasts news chronologically but also involves the public's views. This shows that the circulation of news formation in digital media is busier than in conventional media. The interaction of old and new media causes news production to be more diverse, a comparison of points of view in looking at emerging cases. The temporal intensity in the formation and dissemination of news is also more massive.

The experience of the Media Group Network in constructing news about the killing of Brigadier Joshua at the house of the former Head of the Profession and Security Division, Inspector General of Police Ferdy Sambo, is a representative example. The case is not over; a narrative battle ensues. The story scenario engineering that put the case where the shooting took place has been refuted. Public participation in guarding this case is so great. This means that the construction of the media reporting agenda cannot be unilateral from the elite or the official release of the police alone but also involves the dialectic of the underworld, which demands justice.

In this context, although the litigants have the potential to have control of the authority and financial power to "buy" the narrative of media coverage. Even the general view of official figures influences authoritative public opinion (Hidayat, Susilo & Garcia, 2021), but public penetration in encouraging case disclosure is much stronger. Instead of using the power of the apparatus (insiders) to carry out scenario engineering, the alleged obstruction of justice was uncovered.

Opinions have failed to be carried out by the litigants. The stages of the framing operation determine the formation of public opinion (de Vreese, 2005). I attended an editorial meeting held by Media Indonesia and Metro TV. The determination of the murder case of Brigadier Joshua as a headline cannot be separated from public pressure, which has

become a trending topic as a reflection of social media channels. The interaction between print, television and online media from the Media Group Network complements the construction of news reports to meet public expectations.

According to Arief Suditomo, the Head of the Editorial Board of Metro TV, public expectation is important in delivering news. More importantly, that expectation is the consequence of the public's role as citizens on one hand that have preferred outlooks or views and consumers of the media on the other. Indra Maulana also states the same as the Head of Editors of Medcom.id that highlights the importance of media to democracy and the need for a strategy to anticipate lower read count through news content in 'new' media. As a result, public expectation in this context is not only the wanted information but also news construction that is factually correct with evidence that can be held accountable.

The mainstream media agenda on every Media Group Network platform shows the same coverage. Judging from the search results or news production, the difference is more in distribution time and narrative style. Elman Saragih, Chairman of the Editorial Board of Media Group Network, stated that something viral on social media does not necessarily become the main agenda of the news but is determined by the value of the news and the leverage of the public (personal communication, July 16, 2022). In another sense, the position of the old media does not mean being replaced by newer media, but it shows that the Media Group Network is still relevant and becomes a guide in news construction.

On the one hand, the online aspect of the Media Group Network has laid down the novelty, thus demonstrating substantial continuity in older media. On the other hand, the old media, such as Media Indonesia and Metro TV, report more comprehensively but at a glance, while the new media Medcom.id is more snackable with news uploads that are more frequent, faster, and more actual. News framing that considers the public flow is integrated with conventional and digital media logic in daily practice. This process places the curation process not only by conventional media but also by social media users (Thorson & Wells, 2016).

News construction through a hybrid media system that overrides the dichotomy of one paradigm makes issues run as they should. Through public participation as a feature of hybridity, the media cannot arbitrarily steer certain issues because the public can form strong citizen journalism. This part can then connect media hybridity with the democratic paradigm. The value of journalism is a prerequisite for democracy, informing citizens and encouraging them to make rational decisions and become government supervisors by utilising existing media platforms (Peters & Broersma, 2017).

The development of media platforms as part of new media logic can be seen in each platform's production, distribution, and use with

their individual differences. The news content in the old media tends to be less because the logic of traditional media is based on the values of journalistic professionalism. This is certainly different from the logic of network media, which is more related to the logic of virality (Guðmundsson, 2019). This is also shown in the study of Vonbun, Königslöw & Schoenbach (2016), which explains that agenda setting during the Austrian national election campaign in thirty-eight newspapers, online news sites, television programs are mediated by agenda setters in digital media by looking at the characteristics of the issues raised.

Public priorities can influence the media agenda. The media that carried news related to the assassination of Brigadier Joshua also set a public agenda that could force a policy response to a case. Through the mainstreaming and escort of Media Group Network news, it is easier for the public to highlight the case. Moreover, the reporting mechanism does not only report the final results of the case. The media is no longer seen as a tool for the elite to control political goals but becomes a tool for public control over what should be done when there is abuse.

### **Implications and Relational Dynamics of News Construction**

Seeing the dynamics of news construction in a contemporary context, of course, influences the determination of actors in news construction with a hybrid paradigm. Actors involved in media and politics are no longer just journalists, political elites, and other elites. In the digital era, many actors can participate in the news process. This is also a form of criticism of the traditional gatekeeping model, which tends to be unidirectional, while currently leading the so-called multidirectional flow model by placing all actors with the potential to influence each other in the flow of information exchange (Chin-Fook & Simmonds, 2011).

From a hybrid perspective, Media Group Network produces news according to the actual and factual aspects currently in the community's spotlight. The old media system and the complementary new media have become interdependent and connected agendas. The public, from a hybrid media perspective, can support or weaken the new construction that is built. Community participation plays a vital role in the media. Public connections emphasise mainstreaming inclusivity, engagement, relevance, and constructiveness (Swart, Peters & Broersma, 2017).

In the case of revealing the murder of Brigadier Joshua, the media are more likely to support the public agenda. As a result, due to high public attention and other considerations, transparency to achieve justice has been closely monitored. This is not necessarily easy to do if the old media is not transparent, while the new media do not care, so there is no logic of virality. The logic of virality relates to the communication paradigm that allows easier and faster transmission of information and creates an environment that allows it to replicate exponentially to increase diffusion and the impact of the message or

closeness to the receiver (Welker, 2002). Langer & Gruber's (2021) research shows a reciprocal influence between the media and politicians.

Continuous reporting increases the influence of news on the political agenda at a higher level. This leads to public outrage, which can ignite emotions, negative comments, and greater action if not decided on a fair punishment policy is. This is seen from a survey done by Litbang Kompas, which found that topics on Ferdy Sambo as the primary perpetrator of the killing of Brigadier Nofriansyah Yosua Hutabarat or 'Brigadier J' have become popular on social media in the period of 12-18 August 2022. Moreover, the survey also released that keyword 'Sambo' resulted in 499.200 discussions from netizens and news from online media as well as stimulated 5.6 million interactions between users of social media that defeated other issues, including Prabowo's nomination as a presidential candidate.

The hybrid media system brings collaboration between professional journalism and citizen journalism in guarding an issue that is considered important to the community. The media platform integration could be seen in 'Bedah Editorial' by Media Indonesia, which is broadcasted on Metro TV with the topic of Indonesian National Police reformation (August 10<sup>th</sup>), *Waiting for Justice in the wake of Drama* (August 11<sup>th</sup>), Perpendicularity of the Indonesian National Police's ethics (August 27<sup>th</sup>). Meanwhile, Medcom.id as a digital media primarily utilised social media through the creation of a number of Live Instagram on several topics like 'Behind Sambo's not arrested wife' (September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022), 'the Adjutants behind Sambo's siege' (September 14<sup>th</sup> 2022), 'knowing more ('kepo') the older and adopted siblings of Sambo (September 21<sup>st</sup>), 'Sambo's intention to sue the Indonesian National Police to the Indonesian National Court' (September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022), 'Immediately start Sambo's court trial (September 28<sup>th</sup> 2022).

In contrast to reporting towards an electoral system, the higher the influence of news, the higher the electability rate, and the high reporting of irregularities by government officials can accelerate and reinforce the law enforcement motion in imposing criminal penalties for suspects. This condition is reinforced by calls from various academics and activists involved in the dynamics of news construction through a hybrid media system. More urgently, the effect of Sambo's case has a negative consequence on the public confidence in the institution of the Indonesian National Police. A survey by Indikator Politik Indonesia from September 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> shows that only 54,2 per cent of those interviewed believes in the Indonesian National Police (Sadya, 2022).

Gaudensius Suhardi, the News Director of Media Indonesia, mentions that in facing the digital era, the media must listen to the public, including revealing the truth. It does not mean that the media only follows the mainstream currents in chasing virality or clickbait but also maintains news quality based on facts (personal communication, July 11, 2022). However, Keen (2008) warns that there are serious threats to the media as a consequence of participation in the digital era,

which opens up a wider amateur space, all of which rely on innovation, creativity, and interests.

There are three implications of the influence of public mood in reporting, including increasing democratic involvement. Second, decentralisation of news sources. Third, influencing policy-making in the newsroom. Each of these implications is associated with the interaction of old and new media in the news construction mechanism.

The opening of channels for public participation to construct news shows an increase in democratic involvement. After the media tends to be under the control of power (authoritarian), the democratisation of information in the digital age allows every individual to express his views. Frequently, the views of a massive public like this can change the direction or orientation of the news. The growing pattern of concentration of media coverage towards a specific focus is online with public attention. On the contrary, the decreasing content of certain issues is highlighted as correlated with the decreasing value of public attention (Chen, 2020; Gomez-Rodriguez, Leskovec, & Krause, 2010).

In the logic of digital media where the use of online platforms such as web portals and social media, individual participation can become a strong collective network. The consequences of the digital era encourage media to involve social media, including relational means and building transparent trust (Kanter & Fine, 2010). The network's participation, bound by a common idea and an emotional call, can bring its own public logic and allow it to fight against the big, top-down narrative. This means that the media becomes a public channel that supports citizenship behaviour (Carpini, 2004). Aspects of democratic involvement have been found in efforts to construct news coverage of Brigadier Joshua's assassination involving relations between actors as an empirical practice in the Media Group Network.

News sources are also increasingly widespread. The failure of the initial narrative engineering produced by Ferdy Sambo shows a decentralisation of news sources. The interaction of old and new media not only adds to the news space but also accommodates alternative perspectives. As a result of the decentralisation of news sources, on the one hand, journalists are still held accountable for their profession through the presentation of facts, objectivity, and truth-telling, but on the other hand, they are dealing with narrative production, which is done through storytelling to attract public attention (Kormelink & Meijer, 2015).

Various news sources that appear have their preferences. The media, in this context, reaffirmed public authorities with their logic to urge the case to be thoroughly investigated. Concealing evidence and fabricating narratives can damage the image of the police institution as a whole. This happens because there is public distrust in law enforcement agencies, and the truth will try to find its way. The public becomes an effective agent of social control when they can position the media critically and progressively.

As a dialectical public interest arena, the media can influence policy-making in the newsroom. The editorial room is not a vacuum that can be controlled by one party but needs to accommodate other parties to ensure news verification. However, policy-making in the newsroom cannot be separated from being carried out with considerations of ownership or regulation. However, in the current era of digital penetration, public values as the basis for public attention are very influential in determining editorship. Public attention is becoming a resource for hybrid media systems (Chadwick, 2017; Chen, 2020; Thorson & Wang, 2019; Tufekci, 2013). Even the psychological aspect of attention also affects the mainstreaming of collective media communication networks (Wu & Huberman, 2017).

The media are furthermore a medium of information and a channel for inclusive citizenship. The consideration of the editorial room is not just looking at the profit and loss aspect of who provides information or the extent to which news construction can be produced, but also compromises with the wider public interest. News construction involves social relations and understanding the structure of interest in that reality (Reese, 2001). The point is that the influence of public mood is large. Indeed, something viral and trending from the public cannot always construct news as a whole, but the public voice can balance reality when the practice of distorting the truth or fabricating narratives occurs. In addition, public emotions towards social issues can moderate the interaction between one issue and another to attract the public's and policymakers' attention (Peng, Sun & Wu, 2017).

## **CONCLUSION**

The hybrid media system's meaning is not limited to identifying old and new media relations in constructing news products. However, it also shows the interaction of media and politics in an issue that is being brought to public attention. Hybridity logic can complete what is lacking from one type of media. It not only highlights the dichotomy of the newness of the digital media system that is gaining popularity and leaving the old media behind, but hybridity can also embrace both present conditions from various perspectives. News construction can be done across platforms in hybrid logic.

News construction is not only the practice of reporting on reality but also in guarding certain cases. Hybridity can keep the media in direct contact with the actors involved. Through hybrid media that combines new media and old media, it is possible for case monitoring efforts to run transparently with the public escort. On the other hand, news continues to be produced because of the virality of network media, especially social media. With high attention (public attention), even the power of authorities who do obstruction of justice cannot cover the demands or public voice (public mood), as is the case in this study.

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