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Argument-Centered Translation Quality Assessment of the Editorial "Save Raja Ampat" Translated by Kompas

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***Abstract*-The integration of artificial intelligence in the translation of editorial texts, which are essentially persuasive and ideologically charged, raises concerns about rhetorical accuracy, especially for content that is sensitive to the environment. This study evaluates the English translation of *Save Raja Ampat* produced by artificial intelligence from the Kompas daily editorial, reviewing the ecological impact of nickel mining in Raja Ampat, a UNESCO Global Geopark that is currently the center of controversial environmental policy in Indonesia. Through the application of a Translation Quality Assessment framework centered on Williams' (2004) prism based on the Toulmin model, this study analyzes the preservation of the core components of argumentation: claims, reasons, warrants, support, counterexamples, and rebuttals—in *the source text* and *target text* through comparative analytical analysis. The findings of this study show that although artificial intelligence translation maintains the basic logical structure and main elements of ideas, such as environmental sustainability as a reason, this translation risks weakening the rhetorical power by softening the tone, with the shift from a command to a suggestion having a detrimental impact on advocacy for an international audience. Although there is a reduction in the claim section, on the other hand, this editorial translation still accommodates other elements such as *grounds, warrant, backing, qualifier, and rebuttal.* This study concludes, first, that artificial intelligence still has a probability of rhetorical inaccuracy in opinion journalism, even though its structural adequacy can be expected; second, human supervision is needed in translating high-risk persuasive texts where ideological nuances influence policy outcomes.**

Keywords: **AI Translation; Argumentation-centered TQA; editorial discourse; Kompas**

I. INTRODUCTION

Since its emergence, Artificial Intelligence (hereafter AI) has been, and is believed to be, helping humans in fulfilling various needs, including in the field of translation. This development has become increasingly prominent in the era of digital journalism, where the demand for fast and accurate multilingual content has become a priority. (Sin-wai, 2015). Due to the efficiency opportunities in this technological trend, digital journalism has also amalgamated bilingual publications. (Sun et al., 2025 ; Sharma et al., 2024) . The integration of AI-based translation tools is considered to improve the quality, precision, accuracy, and productivity of translation, support more languages, adapt well to different languages, reduce costs, and provide broader global coverage (Ahmad et al., 2023; Boluwatife & Boluwatife, 2025; Yuxiu, 2024).

However, despite these benefits, the use of AI to translate opinion or editorial texts, which are essentially persuasive and ideologically charged, raises doubts. (Gondwe, 2025) . In addition, Ahmad et al. (2023) State that the accuracy of AI translation varies depending on the type and quality of the source text. Unlike factual news reports, opinion articles require rhetorical precision and the preservation of logical arguments across languages. Artificial Intelligence (AI), despite its rapid development, often struggles with linguistic translation issues in maintaining coherence, stance, and persuasive intent (Untara & Setiawan, 2020). This issue is particularly important in media translation, where editorial texts serve not only as carriers of information but also as instruments of persuasion and public opinion formation (Firmstone, 2019).

One example of AI integration in editorial texts can be observed on the Kompas daily website, a major news outlet in Indonesia that now provides English versions of its opinion articles through automatic AI translation. A relevant case is an editorial titled "*Save Raja Ampat*," which discusses the ecological and political implications of nickel mining in one of Indonesia's most ecologically sensitive regions. Given the high stakes of environmental and political discourse, the accuracy and effectiveness of the rhetoric in these translations need to be scrutinized.

Translation errors or a loss of argumentative coherence in such sensitive topics can distort the intended message, potentially influencing international perceptions and policy responses. Furthermore, the quality of the English translation produced by AI needs to be carefully examined, particularly in terms of whether the argumentative structure remains intact (Zinhom, 2024). This concern becomes even more pressing when such editorials reach international readers who rely on translations to access Indonesian perspectives on environmental justice and local resistance.

The Translation Quality Assessment (TQA) framework proposed by Williams (2004), developed from Toulmin's Argument Model (1984; Boos & Sommer, 2018) , offers a structured method for evaluating such texts (Racharak & Tojo, 2022;) . Williams argues that traditional evaluation methods, which focus on accuracy, fluency, and equivalence, are often inadequate for evaluating the effectiveness of persuasive texts. (Han, 2020) . Instead, he proposes an argument-centered model that examines whether the translated text retains the core components of argumentation: claims, data, guarantees, support, qualifications, and rebuttals (Williams, 2004). This model is relevant to opinion journalism, where clarity and completeness of argumentation are central to the communicative purpose.

Despite its relevance, no previous research has used argument-based TQA translation studies, especially in editorial texts that contain a lot of argumentation. Recent research has mostly evaluated AI-based translation from the perspective of semantic similarity calculations, with a focus on text and genre. (Linlin, 2024; Metwally et al., 2025). Although several studies have explored the translation quality of AI-based translations (Gondwe, 2025; Lin, 2024; Linlin, 2024; Metwally et al., 2025; Saehu & Hkikmat, 2025), Few have systematically applied the Toulmin model to AI-translated opinion texts, especially in language pairs that have not been widely studied, such as Indonesian-English. Gondwe (2025), for example, evaluated news content in Tanzanian newsrooms, but did not use the Williams framework or analyze AI translation results. This study addresses this gap by applying an argumentation-centered TQA model to real-world AI translations of highly persuasive Indonesian-language editorials.

This research is very timely and significant, given the increasing public scrutiny of natural resource extraction in Indonesia, especially in Raja Ampat, a center of biodiversity that has attracted global attention. The editorial in question not only provides information but also seeks to mobilize public sentiment and policy reform. If the English translation weakens or distorts the intended argument, it could undermine the impact of its international dissemination. Therefore, assessing the rhetorical integrity of such AI translations is not merely a linguistic task; it has broader domino effects for environmental communication, digital media credibility, and cross-cultural discourse ethics. This study is guided by the following research questions: (1) To what extent does the AI-generated English translation of the editorial "*Save Raja Ampat"* in Kompas retain the argumentative structure of the original Indonesian text; (2) What elements of argumentation—consisting of claims, data, justifications, and rebuttals—are missing, altered, and resistant in the translation results.

This study uses a comparative qualitative analytical approach focused on textual analysis of the editorial in the source language (Indonesian) and target language (English) versions. The main analytical tool used is Williams' argumentation-centered TQA framework, operationalized through Toulmin-based mapping of both texts. This analysis identifies corresponding and non-corresponding argumentative components in each version and assesses their implications for communicative impact. This is important because digital mediation for environmental advocacy through translation is a pressing issue in contemporary media and linguistic research. By integrating translation theory with discourse analysis and environmental concerns, this study aims to contribute to a more responsible and rhetorically conscious use of AI in public communication.

II. METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study design, focusing on an in-depth analysis of the AI-translated editorial "*Save Raja Ampat*" from Kompas. The qualitative method was chosen because it allows for a detailed examination of linguistic structures and arguments, which is essential in assessing the appropriateness of translations in persuasive texts. (Creswell, 2014). The case study approach is particularly appropriate because it allows for intensive exploration of a single text that is rich in context, providing insight into how AI handles argumentation in journalistic translation.

The primary data consists of an Indonesian-language Kompas editorial entitled "*Selamatkan Raja Ampat*" (*Save Raja Ampat*) and its English version, which was automatically translated and published by Kompas through an AI-based bilingual content service. This editorial was chosen because of its rich argumentative structure and environmental urgency, making it a strong candidate for applying Williams' argument-based TQA model. Both versions were taken from Kompas.id, ensuring textual fidelity and contextual similarity. The selection of this editorial is justified by its relevance to current environmental and socio-political discourse, making it a high-risk text where translation accuracy is crucial.

This analysis is based on Malcolm Williams' argument-centered TQA model, which refers to Stephen Toulmin's (1984) argument model. The key elements to be identified in both texts include: Claim (main proposition or editorial conclusion), Reason (facts, evidence, or supporting data), Warrant (logical bridge connecting the reason to the

claim), Support (additional justification that strengthens the warrant), Strengthener (statement indicating the strength or certainty of the claim), Counterargument (acknowledgment and response to opposing viewpoints).

Williams (2004) Emphasizes that for persuasive texts such as editorials, the loss or distortion of any of these components can significantly undermine the communicative intent of the translation. The TQA grid is inspired by Williams. (2004) It is used to categorize errors based on the severity of argument distortion, ranging from minor weakening to major rhetorical failure.

After that, the analysis continued in three main steps. First, the researchers identified and mapped the argumentative components. Each paragraph of the Indonesian source text and its English translation was segmented and annotated according to Toulmin's scheme. Argumentative markers and discourse indicators (e.g., conjunctions, modal verbs, evidence) were used to find and define each component. Second, the researchers conducted a comparative analysis. After both versions were mapped, a cross-text comparison was performed to evaluate whether each argumentative component was retained, altered, or omitted. Special attention was given to shifts in modality, logical flow, cultural references, and rhetorical intensity. Finally, researchers evaluated rhetorical impact. In addition to structural mapping, this analysis also examined whether the translated version retained the persuasive power of the original. This involved assessing narrative strategy, logical coherence, tone, and overall readability—with reference to Williams' rhetorical topology and propositional function criteria (Williams, 2004). A TQA grid inspired by Williams (2004) was used to categorize errors based on the severity of argument distortion, ranging from minor weakening to major rhetorical failure.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents findings from a comparative analysis between the Indonesian source text (ST) and the English translation generated by AI (TT), focusing on the preservation of argumentation components as defined by the Toulmin model: claim, reason, guarantee, support, justification, qualification, and rebuttal. This analysis reveals the strengths and weaknesses of AI in handling persuasive and ideologically charged texts.

A. Argumentative Elements

1. Claim

A claim (or finding) is the conclusion of an argument, or the main point that is the goal of all other elements of the argument. (Hitchcock & Verheij, 2006) . The main point in the data claim is that the government is expected to save the paradise of biodiversity. The Indonesian version of *the source text* reads: *pemerintah diharapkan menyelamatkan Raja Ampat (*the government is expected *to save Raja Ampat*). The *target* text becomes: *the government is expected to save* (Indonesia: pemerintah *diharapkan* untuk menyelamatkan).

2. Grounds

Claims do not stand alone; they must be supported by one or more pieces of information, which form the basis of the argument. The basis for this editorial claim is the premise in the official narrative delivered by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Bahlil Lahadalia during his visit to Gag Island, Raja Ampat, Southwest Papua, on Saturday (7/6/2025). The original sentence that became *the source text (*hereinafter abbreviated as ST) reads: *Kita memahami dilema yang dihadapi pemerintah terhadap isu ini. Tambang nikel diperlukan untuk mempercepat industrialisasi. Namun, kita berpendapat, keberlanjutan ekosistem yang berisi keanekaragaman hayati itu juga sangat penting bagi masa depan Indonesia.* The *target* text, hereafter referred to as TT, translates as: *we understand the dilemma faced by the government regarding this issue. Nickel mining is necessary to accelerate industrialization. However, we argue that the sustainability of ecosystems rich in biodiversity is also crucial for the future of Indonesia.* It is apparent that TT maintains the facts, the specificity of the narrative, and original information from ST. No parts have been changed that would confuse non-native readers. As is clearly seen in ST, the main message (Williams: *core passages)* is the sustainability of ecosystems above all other interests. TT accommodates this main message with precision.

3. Warrant

The next stage is *Warrant*: the logical connectivity between data and claims. In other words, a *warrant* contains an explanation of how well the data supports the statement. In the ST, which is positioned and functions as *a warrant*, *this* takes the form of: first, *keberlanjutan ekosistem yang berisi keanekaragaman hayati itu juga sangat penting bagi masa depan Indonesia;* second, *dampak tambang nikel tersebut yang makin meluas terhadap kerusakan ekosistem perairan Kepulauan Raja Ampat;* third, *Perusahaan yang mengelola tambang nikel, PT Gag Nikel, adalah anak usaha PT Aneka Tambang, sebuah badan usaha milik negara (BUMN).* TT from the three: first, the *sustainability of ecosystems rich in biodiversity is also crucial for the future of Indonesia;* second, *the expanding impacts of nickel mining on the aquatic ecosystem of the Raja Ampat Islands;* third, *the company managing the nickel mine, PT Gag Nikel, is a subsidiary of PT Aneka Tambang, a state-owned enterprise*.

4. Backing

After testing and finding *the warrant*, the next step is to add reinforcement to the *backing*. A simple understanding of *backing* is supporting data to measure the validity of *the warrant.* Referring to ST, the narrative that can be determined as supporting evidence is found in the sentence: *hal itu karena Organisasi Pendidikan, Ilmu Pengetahuan, dan Kebudayaan Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa (UNESCO) pada 2023 telah menetapkan Raja Ampat sebagai UNESCO Global Geopark.* The AI editorial transliteration of the source text reads: *this is because the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated Raja Ampat as a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2023.*

5. Qualifier

Qualifiers or modals are statements or phrases that increase or decrease the strength of a claim. Examples include the use of words such as "*definitely*," "*certainly*," "*probably*," or "*possibly*" and their equivalents. Toulmin and his colleagues emphasize the importance of qualified statements (or modality) in the structure of an argument: "Its function is to indicate the type of rational force that will be associated with C [claim] based on its relationship with G [ground], W [warrant], and B [backing]" (Toulmin et al., 1984:86). In ST, *the qualifier* is placed in the complete statement: *Empat tahun kemudian, sejumlah aktivis lingkungan kembali menyuarakan dampak tambang nikel tersebut yang makin meluas terhadap kerusakan ekosistem perairan Kepulauan Raja Ampat, yang akan berdampak pada pariwisata.* After being translated, the sentence becomes TT: *four years later, a number of environmental activists once again raised concerns about the expanding impacts of nickel mining on the aquatic ecosystem of the Raja Ampat Islands, which will affect tourism. The qualifier* in TT applies the structure *that will affect*.

6. Rebuttal

This is a statement about extraordinary or exceptional circumstances that contradict or weaken the supporting argument. This is often introduced for the sake of caution or humility. The rebuttal arises when explaining that nickel mining is necessary for industrialization, but should not be at the expense of the environment. In ST, the rebuttal is precisely in the statement: *tambang penting untuk industrialisasi*, which is then translated by AI into: *nickel mining is necessary to accelerate industrialization.* Here, the target text phrase (in other terms sometimes referred to as *the target language*): *nickel mining* is necessary—creates a contradiction with the main claim.

B. Preservation and Removal of Argumentative Components

A comparative breakdown of the main argumentative components in both texts is presented in the following table:

Toulmin Argumentative Components in The Source Text and Target Text

Element	Source Text	Target Text	Translation Assessment
Claim	Pemerintah diharapkan menyelamatkan Raja Ampat	*the government is expected to save*	Accurately Rendered
Ground	Kita memahami dilema yang dihadapi pemerintah terhadap isu ini. Tambang nikel diperlukan untuk mempercepat industrialisasi. Namun, kita berpendapat, keberlanjutan ekosistem yang berisi keanekaragaman hayati itu juga sangat penting bagi masa depan Indonesia	*we understand the dilemma faced by the government regarding this issue. Nickel mining is necessary to accelerate industrialization. However, we argue that the sustainability of ecosystems rich in biodiversity is also crucial for the future of Indonesia*	Accurately Rendered
Warrant	[1] keberlanjutan ekosistem yang berisi keanekaragaman hayati itu juga sangat penting bagi masa depan Indonesia; [2] dampak tambang nikel tersebut yang makin meluas terhadap kerusakan ekosistem perairan Kepulauan Raja Ampat; [3] Perusahaan yang mengelola tambang nikel, PT Gag Nikel, adalah anak usaha PT Aneka Tambang, sebuah badan usaha milik *negara (BUMN)*	*[1] The sustainability of ecosystems rich in biodiversity is also crucial for the future of Indonesia; [2] the expanding impacts of nickel mining on the aquatic ecosystem of the Raja Ampat Islands; [3] The company managing the nickel mine, PT Gag Nikel, is a subsidiary of PT Aneka Tambang, a state-owned enterprise.*	Accurately Rendered
Backing	Hal itu karena Organisasi Pendidikan, Ilmu Pengetahuan, dan Kebudayaan Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa (UNESCO) pada 2023 telah menetapkan Raja Ampat sebagai UNESCO Global Geopark	*this is because the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated Raja Ampat as a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2023*	Accurately Rendered
Qualifier	Empat tahun kemudian, sejumlah aktivis lingkungan kembali menyuarakan dampak tambang nikel tersebut yang makin meluas terhadap kerusakan ekosistem perairan Kepulauan Raja Ampat, yang akan berdampak pada pariwisata.	*four years later, a number of environmental activists once again raised concerns about the expanding impacts of nickel mining on the aquatic ecosystem of the Raja Ampat Islands, [which will affect tourism]*	Accurately Rendered
Rebuttal	tambang penting untuk industrialisasi	*Nickel mining is necessary to accelerate industrialization*	Accurately Rendered

Observations of the translations produced by AI on the Kompas Daily news portal page largely retain the logical structure and meaning of the original editorial. The main claim stating the need to protect Raja Ampat from nickel mining, followed by five other argumentative elements, is translated accurately and does not reduce the main message contained in the ST. The data and supporting components are well preserved in the content. *The warrant* and *qualifier* remain resistant, and thus, this shows that AI is capable of accommodating argumentative logic in general.

Another study conducted by Yousaf et al. (2023) That compares human and machine translation in newspaper paragraphs, idiomatic expressions, and poetic verses similarly reveals that, to some extent, it is adequate to rely on translated text produced by machine translation. For instance, a text with only a simple translation or a word-for-word translation. However, for the complex and culture-bound expressions, a double-checked translation is urgently needed to obtain an accurate and acceptable translation. As the data of this study is an editorial text from Kompas regarding Raja Ampat Mining, the use of AI to translate such text is sufficient.

In accordance with the obtained results, Mohamed et al. (2024) In their *The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Language Translation: A Review, they* added that the combination of human creativity with AI accuracy, as in Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Statistical Machine Translation, Natural Language Processing, Neural Machine Translation, Fuzzy Algorithms, Feature Extraction, and Evaluation Metrics, opens up an unlimited dimensions of communication possibilities. This coverage thus contributes to developing a global society and is capable of overcoming linguistic barriers. (ini tidak nyambung dengan hasil penelitian. nyambungnya di paragraf "pentingnya peran manusia untuk menghasilkan hasil terjemahan yang berkualitas"

Artificial Intelligence, as a broad field of study, involves computers and other types of machines adapting developments in understanding, perception, problem solving, including translation, which has traditionally been done by humans. In recent years, improvements in computing power and data processing have pushed the boundaries of AI translation. (Xueting & Chengze, 2023) . There has been an observable evolution in the history of AI translation approaches: from RMBT (Rule-Based Machine Translation) and SMT (Statistical Machine Translation) to the modern form of Neural Machine Translation (NMT), which utilizes *deep learning* and neural networks to analyze and approach text from its semantic and syntactic structure. This latest technique focuses on the relevant parts of a sentence, enabling more accurate translations.

Utilizing advanced algorithms and big data, AI can translate text easily and quickly. However, AI translations often use simple language. As shown by Ahmed Mohammed Moneus and Yousef Sahari in their study, *Artificial Intelligence and Human Translation: A Contrastive Study Based on Legal Texts*, which compares the quality of legal text translations in Arabic and English by humans and machines. This contrastive study shows the inferiority of *AI translation* compared to humans. AI is often considered to fail to interpret subtle legal meanings, various nuances of text, and ambiguous phrases such as idioms. Using a numerical assessment, Moneus reported a score of 88.2 for AI and 92.2 for humans. That was the score for Arabic text translation. Meanwhile, for English texts, AI scored 89.1 compared to 92.7 for humans. (Moneus & Sahari, 2024) . However, as long as the text contains popular narratives and general keywords as the target text in this study, the final conclusion states that AI is still capable of conveying the main points of ST *Save Raja Ampat* without any reduction. Regardless of the gradation of text content and language type, the inter-relationship between humans and AI for translation accuracy must always be maintained. The two complement each other. Humans do not have the speed of AI, while AI does not have the deep reflective abilities of humans.

Many studies have confirmed that collaboration between humans and AI is the best approach, rather than both working independently. (Qian & Qian, 2020) . AI can handle routine translations and improve efficiency, while the accuracy of nuances, emotions, and in-depth investigation of complex keywords and idiomatic expressions is handled by humans. This combination ensures the preservation of text authenticity, cultural richness, metaphors in literary texts, and cultural complexity. (Bakhov et al., 2025) . *The human-in-the-loop* process, which consciously combines human and AI capabilities, creativity, and sensitivity, always produces high-quality translations. The massive volume of data will slow down manual human techniques. However, acceleration that completely ignores accuracy will result in reductive translations. (Al-Azzawi et al., 2025) .

IV. CONCLUSION

From the overall analysis of the AI-based translation of the Kompas daily editorial with *the target text* titled *Save Raja Ampat* based on the six Toulmin argumentative elements developed by Malcolm Williams in the TQA prism, it can be concluded that automatic translation by AI is still capable of conveying the main message of the translated text. There are no errors in the translation, as can be seen in the chart above. Starting from the elements *of claim, grounds, warrant, backing, qualifier, and rebuttal,* the target text produces exactly the same meaning as the source text. There are no changes, modifications, or distortions of meaning that could hinder the understanding of non-native readers. This is understandable because the *Save Raja Ampat* text itself is not a literary text full of

idiomatic sentences or a study manuscript with rigorous technical terms. All sentences in the original text (ST) can be categorized as general text. However, this does not mean that *double-checking* or the role of humans is unnecessary for accuracy and sensitivity to nuances. Therefore, the role of humans remains essential so that the translated text does not lose its cultural and emotional nuances and accuracy, which could have fatal consequences for the understanding of readers outside the native Indonesian language community (*native speakers/native readers)*. Finally, because this study is only based on the first part of Williams' TQA analysis, further research can take the second part of TQA, namely the study of text rotors, considering that TQA combines two features at once: Toulmin's argument analysis and Parelman's New Rhetoric.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I. Source Text

Selamatkan Raja Ampat

Tambang nikel di sekitar Raja Ampat menjadi perbincangan publik. Pemerintah diharapkan menyelamatkan "surga" keanekaragaman hayati itu.

Sebelum ramai diperbincangkan warganet di media sosial belakangan ini, Tim Kompas sudah menyoroti tambang nikel di Pulau Gag, Kepulauan Raja Ampat, Papua Barat Daya, dalam Ekspedisi Tanah Papua, Juni 2021. Tim ekspedisi menemukan kerusakan lingkungan di sejumlah wilayah di Tanah Papua, di antaranya karena pertambangan, termasuk tambang nikel di Pulau Gag, Raja Ampat (Kompas, 26/2/2022).

Perusahaan yang mengelola tambang nikel, PT Gag Nikel, adalah anak usaha PT Aneka Tambang, sebuah badan usaha milik negara (BUMN). Sorong Office Manager PT Gag Nikel Ruddy Sumual yang ditemui tim ekspedisi saat itu menuturkan, PT Gag Nikel telah mengantongi izin eksplorasi nikel di Pulau Gag pada 1998. Perusahaan mendapat izin produksi pada 2017 dan mulai memproduksi setahun kemudian. Target produksi mencapai 1,8 juta ton per tahun.

Tim ekspedisi juga mewawancarai Saharin Sidik, Ketua Masyarakat Adat (Keret) Magimai di Pulau Gag, yang mengaku baru tahu bahwa tanda tangannya dijadikan sebagai dokumen pelepasan lahan. Ia menilai, masyarakat dibohongi karena waktu itu mereka disodori lembaran kosong untuk ditandatangani. Pada Juni 2021 itu, dampak tambang sudah dirasakan warga. Sedimen di dasar laut akibat erosi dari kawasan tambang menyebabkan ikan berkurang. Debu material nikel beterbangan ke arah permukiman penduduk.

Empat tahun kemudian, sejumlah aktivis lingkungan kembali menyuarakan dampak tambang nikel tersebut yang makin meluas terhadap kerusakan ekosistem perairan Kepulauan Raja Ampat, yang akan berdampak pada pariwisata. Padahal, selain PT Gag Nikel, masih ada empat perusahaan lain yang menjalankan usaha tambang nikel di Raja Ampat.

Pemerintah merespons cepat kritik masyarakat ini. Menteri Energi dan Sumber Daya Mineral (ESDM) Bahlil Lahadalia menghentikan sementara operasi PT Gag Nikel pada Kamis (5/6/2025) serta mendatangi langsung lokasi tambang pada Sabtu (7/6). Kementerian ESDM juga menerjunkan tim inspektur tambang untuk mengevaluasi menyeluruh tambang nikel tersebut.

(GAMBAR)

Kementerian ESDM Menteri ESDM Bahlil Lahadalia mengunjungi Pulau Gag, Raja Ampat, Papua Barat Daya, Sabtu (7/6/2025).

Hasil resmi dari evaluasi Kementerian ESDM ini ditunggu. Namun, kita berharap evaluasi tidak hanya dilakukan oleh Kementerian ESDM, tetapi juga secara menyeluruh oleh Kementerian Lingkungan Hidup, Kementerian Pariwisata, Kementerian BUMN, serta pihak terkait lain. Hal itu karena Organisasi Pendidikan, Ilmu Pengetahuan, dan Kebudayaan Perserikatan Bangsa-Bangsa (UNESCO) pada 2023 telah menetapkan Raja Ampat sebagai UNESCO Global Geopark.

Kita memahami dilema yang dihadapi pemerintah terhadap isu ini. Tambang nikel diperlukan untuk mempercepat industrialisasi. Namun, kita berpendapat, keberlanjutan ekosistem yang berisi keanekaragaman hayati itu juga sangat penting bagi masa depan Indonesia.

(Redaksi Kompas, 2025)

Appendix II. Target Text

Save Raja Ampat

Nickel mining around Raja Ampat has become a topic of public discussion. The government is expected to save this "paradise" of biodiversity.

Before it was widely discussed by netizens on social media recently, the Kompas Team had highlighted nickel mining on Gag Island, Raja Ampat Islands, West Papua, in the Papua Land Expedition in June 2021. The expedition team found environmental damage in a number of areas in Papua, including as a result of mining, including the nickel mine on Gag Island, Raja Ampat (Kompas, 2/26/2022).

The company that manages the nickel mine, PT Gag Nikel, is a subsidiary of PT Aneka Tambang, a state-owned company. The manager of the PT Gag Nikel Sorong office, Ruddy Sumual, who was met by the expedition team at that time, stated that PT Gag Nikel obtained a nickel exploration permit on Gag Island in 1998. The company

obtained a production permit in 2017 and began production a year later. The production target is 1.8 million tons per year.

The expedition team also interviewed Saharin Sidik, Chairman of the Magimai (Keret) Indigenous Community on Gag Island, who claimed that he only recently found out that his signature had been used as a land release document. He believes that the community was deceived because at that time they were presented with blank sheets of paper to sign. In June 2021, the impact of mining activities began to be felt by residents. Sediment on the seabed caused by erosion from the mining area has led to a decline in fish populations. Nickel dust blows towards residential areas.

Four years later, a number of environmental activists once again voiced their concerns about the widespread impact of nickel mining on the Raja Ampat Islands' aquatic ecosystem, which will affect tourism. In fact, apart from PT Gag Nikel, there are four other companies engaged in nickel mining in Raja Ampat.

The government responded quickly to this public criticism. The Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources (ESDM), Bahlil Lahadalia, temporarily suspended PT Gag Nikel's operations on Thursday (June 5, 2025) and visited the mining site on Saturday (June 7). The Ministry of ESDM also deployed a team of mining inspectors to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the nickel mine.

(PHOTO)

ESDM Minister Bahlil Lahadalia visited Gag Island, Raja Ampat, West Papua, on Saturday (June 7, 2025).

The official results of the evaluation conducted by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources are highly anticipated. However, we hope that the evaluation will not only be carried out by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, but also comprehensively by the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises, and other relevant parties. This is because the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated Raja Ampat as a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2023.

We understand the dilemma faced by the government regarding this issue. Nickel mining is necessary to accelerate industrialization. However, we believe that the sustainability of ecosystems rich in biodiversity is also important for Indonesia's future.

(Kompas English Editorial Team, 2025)