

# Disaster Mitigation Policy Process in Majene District

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**Abstract:** The focus of this article is on advocacy work carried out by Majene district community members, particularly university students, to advance disaster prevention measures. Taking steps to reduce potential damage from disasters is an important part of disaster mitigation. Moreover, it is crucial to pay attention to disaster mitigation strategies as Majene district has the second highest disaster risk index of all districts in Indonesia, according to statistics from the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB). Various initiatives carried out by students in Majene district to encourage the formation of disaster mitigation policies show the study findings that the community has begun to realize the need for disaster mitigation. This article will be organized around Wilian N. Dunn's policy-making procedure.

**Keywords:** policy; Mitigation; Majene Regency

## 1 Introduction

The government's approach to social issues is to produce policies that serve the interests of the people. In keeping with its role as a mandate giver, the rights of the people are at the core of government policy initiatives. To make effective policy decisions, it is first necessary to identify policy challenges[1]. Good policy is determined by the agenda setting stage, which occurs early in the policy-making process.

Those in positions of power (executive and legislative) have an obligation to the public to recognize and address societal issues. This is done so that the most pressing problems can be identified and addressed first. The fact that many different complex processes go into policy formulation is revealed at this stage as well. That is because the policy process is automated using systems logic, where each part contributes to the whole.

Everyone who survived the 2021 West Sulawesi earthquake did so with hurt and sadness. This is because the government has not provided adequate assistance to many affected citizens who are still out there today, especially those who lost their homes. Refugee camps are still their home. Volunteers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also arrived quickly to help provide temporary shelter for the displaced. Majene and Mamuju districts in West Sulawesi were rocked by a 6.2 magnitude earthquake that caused 109 fatalities. In addition to the fatalities, BNPB reported that 15,522 houses were destroyed or severely damaged in Mamuju district [2]. Similar

damage occurred in Majene district, where 4,122 houses and public buildings were destroyed by the earthquake [3].

The 6.2-magnitude earthquake was a wake-up call for the people of West Sulawesi who are now aware that they must always be on guard against the worst possible outcomes of natural disasters. Only rational and self-reliant humans need to implement the duty to remain constantly vigilant. Many outside perspectives emerged after the 2021 earthquake that struck West Sulawesi, with some even coming together to speak out and promote disaster mitigation in an organized manner.

Disaster preparedness and response are the objectives of disaster mitigation. To fulfill the requirements of Law 24 of 2007, "mitigation" refers to a series of activities undertaken to reduce vulnerability to disasters. Majene Regency has the second highest disaster risk index according to BNPB statistics.

**Table 1. Disaster Risk Index Table District/City IN 2020**

Number	District/City	Province	Score	Risk Class
1	Southwest Moluccas	Maluku	223.20	High
2	Majene	West Sulawesi	216.08	High
3	Gunungsitoli City	North Sumatera	215.60	High
4	Cianjur	West Java	215.08	High
5	Mandailing Natal	North Sumatera	214.80	High

Source: IRBIBNPB[4]

Given this information, it is clear that disaster prevention measures in West Sulawesi, particularly Majene District, need to be prioritized. Despite the high disaster risk in West Sulawesi and Majene District, neither the provincial nor district governments have made any regulations in the nearly two years since the devastating earthquake there.

This study used a qualitative method based on descriptive analysis. Students from Majene area participated in this research. The In-depth Interview Analysis Method instrument was used to obtain data by using pre-determined interview questions. After completing the interview, the author will immediately record the research findings, documenting how they relate to the pre-existing research objectives.

Based on the information provided above, how can community members, particularly students, work to influence the adoption of ordinances that will help reduce the impact of natural disasters in their area?

## 2. Result and Discussion

Science and politics both have a place in policy analysis. The political process is so named because it consists of interconnected phases. This shows that the policy-making process is ongoing until the desired outcome has been realized [5].

The steps taken in formulating a policy, as outlined by Dunn, are as follows: 1) Agenda setting; 2) Policy formulation; 3) Policy adoption; 4) Policy implementation; and 5) Policy assessment

All policies certainly go through the steps outlined above. But when it comes to the topic of disaster management policy in Majene Regency, it has only reached the first two stages: setting the agenda and formulating the policy. This is the stage where the quality of the policy is established. As a result of focusing on one topic, community members can learn as much as possible about the topic and come up with effective solutions. When it comes to formulating effective policies, policymakers often go astray by overemphasizing on assessment and implementation [6].

When it comes to actual public policy, the agenda-setting process is a very strategic step. During this phase, there is scope for defining what is of public concern, and the public agenda must be considered. An issue has earned the right to a greater share of public resources if it has reached the level of a public issue and is high on the public agenda. Agenda setting also requires the selection of public subjects worthy of discussion by the government. The term "policy problem" is commonly used to refer to policy difficulties. The next step is policy development, which involves the deliberate consideration of topics that have been added to the policy agenda. First, the problem is identified, and then the most effective answers are investigated. There are a number of different policy approaches or frameworks that can be used to fix this problem. Each potential solution competes with others in the policy development stage to be selected as the final policy implemented to address the problem. Officials sought to develop a new approach to the problem. According to this alternative approach, administrative decrees, court decisions, and legislative action are all necessary. Students' efforts to push for disaster mitigation measures in the Majene region will be analyzed using these two stages of the policy-making process.

Given the frequent natural disasters that hit West Sulawesi, especially in Majene, the issue of disaster mitigation can become a public concern. This was demonstrated by students in Majene District, West Sulawesi with persistent efforts to build awareness about the importance of disaster prevention through open dialog. After the 2021 West Sulawesi earthquake, volunteers from West Sulawesi met in Makassar to talk. Many West Sulawesi groups, including student groups from the Majene area, sent delegates to this meeting. Mitigation issues were one of the topics debated. BPBD Majene was represented at the discussion event. The students were given permission to lobby the government agency in charge of disaster management to prioritize immediate mitigation efforts.

Students' efforts in socializing disaster mitigation in Majene district is an indication of their social responsibility. At the same time, the administration should be encouraged to provide space for all interested parties to weigh in, so that the issue can be thoroughly investigated. One approach is to collect data from scientific studies on how to model disaster management and resolution with the aim of reducing the severity of certain types of disasters. As an illustration, sustainable drainage systems can help mitigate flood disasters by learning from other regions and countries that have implemented similar systems [7]. Since indications of poor preparation can be recognized through various things, including the lack of work ethic of local governments in responding to disaster situations, the government must provide the widest possible space for all stakeholders. There are three phases of disaster preparedness: prevention, mitigation and risk assessment. The time to act is not during a crisis, but in advance. To address this issue, the

government cannot rely on inertia but must be proactive and welcome all suggestions [8]. Students actively foster this issue so that residents in Majene neighborhoods feel safer.

The issue has reached crisis proportions in the public eye, and as such, deserves to be high on the agenda. That is the responsibility of elected and appointed authorities, says Dunn. Many issues go unresolved, while others are put off for a very long time. In other words, governments need to have a sixth sense to know which issues are most pressing. Public concerns, as defined by their prominence on the public agenda, deserve a disproportionate share of public resources, as Dunn emphasizes.

In addition, since the issue has only recently emerged, it should be included in the discussion of the government's policy agenda. Finding answers to problems is now the focus of the conversation. Existing problems are assumed to have mappings that can be applied to incoming data, resulting in solutions. This is what Dunn means when he talks about trying to make policy.

The source claimed that Majene district must do better in the event of a natural disaster. There should be no room for excuses in governance, as it will have devastating consequences. According to him, the next stage is to focus on minimizing the potential damage from natural disasters. Due to limited funds, one aspect that hinders disaster mitigation has not been publicized. Therefore, according to Dunn, it is very important to gather all the needs of the community during the policy development stage so that the most pressing issues can be identified.

Majene and residents continue to discuss tackling urgent social problems. To reduce the potential for tragedy in Majene district and its surroundings, the government in its role as interpreter of community concerns must now take action by drafting a regional regulation in collaboration with the district's DPRD.

Finally, being prepared is critical in the event of a tragedy. Governments and other important stakeholders have the necessary knowledge and resources if they are prepared. A disaster management plan is a record of actions taken to prevent and prepare for disasters [10].

### **3. Conclusion**

This is intended so that policies in the form of regional regulations can be implemented as a reasonable response to the high disaster risk index data in Majene Regency. In the aftermath of any tragedy that befalls the Majene region, this regulation will become a reference. The absence of local regulations for disaster mitigation provides an opportunity to learn more about the subject. The success in creating policies to educate the community in addressing, avoiding and responding to disasters will depend on the level of seriousness shown by local government officials.

We need to use the time we have as efficiently as possible to solve this problem. Since many policies fail due to misconceptions in the early stages of policy, the form of time utilization in policy logic, agenda setting, and policy development should be highly considered. The quality of a policy is largely influenced by agenda setting and policy development, so it is important not to overemphasize policy implementation and assessment as a kind of advice.

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