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Press Release

PTNMR BEGINS TO PRESENT A-DE-CHARGE WITNESSES

(Manado. 05 May 2006). The criminal case trial against PT NMR has entered another stage in which PT NMR begins to present its defense witnesses. In today's court hearing, PT NMR presents Ir. David Sompie and Ir. Jerry Kojansow as the witnesses.

In his testimony, David Sompie said, "From the initial planning stage until today, PT NMR has continually complied with all prevailing laws and regulations on the environment." PT NMR's environmental impact assessments (AMDAL) have been studied and approved by the Amdal Commission which comprises of officials of both central and regional government, mining experts, university academicians, NGOs and local people.

"The submarine tailing placement has been carried out in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations. Besides, the eight-year monitoring which is always reported to relevant governmental institutions has show that the mineral compounds contained in PT NMR's tailings are stable compounds, and TCLP tests conducted by both PT NMR and an Independent Team of North Sulawesi's Provincial Government prove that those tailings are not B3 waste. There is no evidence that the compounds in tailing have entered water reservoirs. Therefore, there is no evidence for the alleged environmental pollution. In addition to the tailing placement permit, PT NMR has at least 50 other permits for its operation granted by both central and regional government," said David Sompie.

In the meantime, the second witness, Ir. Jerry Kojansow, who directly involved in the sample taking, performed by a team of the Police Headquarter at the Buyat Bay, said that to ensure the accuracy of the laboratory tests, those samples should be sealed to protect them from any contamination. And, as a matter of fact, the sample bottles that the Police had were not sealed until the fourth day. Jerry's testimony also revealed a discrepancy between the number and codes of samples contained in the official report signed by him and the police and the number and code of samples mentioned by the Police. "I have no idea how the number of sample bottles received by Forensic Laboratory Centre (PUSLABFOR) can be higher than the number of bottles we and the Police took on 27 – 31 July 2004," said Jerry Konjansow.

"We believe that the testimonies of Mr. David Sompie and Mr. Jerry Kojansow will be a good beginning for our defense. After the entire evidences and facts are finally revealed, it will be clear that the lawsuits against Richard Ness and PT NMR have no legal bases.

For further information, please visit our website www.newmont.co.id or www.BuyatBayFacts.com
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There is no pollution and, therefore, there is no crime,” said PT NMR’s Legal Advisor, Luhut MP. Pangaribuan.

In the next court hearing, PT NMR will present other fact and expert witnesses to prove that PT NMR has consistently complied with all laws and regulations prevailing in Indonesia.

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