



PT NEWMONT  
MINAHASA RAYA

**PT. NEWMONT MINAHASA RAYA**  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Distribution*

**NEWMONT MINAHASA RAYA SUBMITS CLEAR AND CONCRETE WRITTEN EVIDENCE AGAINST ALL ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ALLEGATIONS**

(Manado, 04 August 2006) The criminal trial proceeding against PT Newmont Minahasa Raya (PTNMR) and its president director, Richard B. Ness, reached a critical milestone today. In a court session in Manado, North Sulawesi, PT NMR's defense submitted to the district court a complete dossier of written evidence consisting of 126 documents, letters, and statements. These documents provided clear and irrefutable evidence to counter the prosecutor's allegations and claims that PTNMR and its president director are guilty of environmental pollution.

There were several documents and reports that needed to be highlighted as they play a very critical role in PTNMR's defense:

**1. Reports on water quality in Buyat Bay by national and international institutions**

World renowned institutions and research organizations have conducted direct testing of the water quality in Buyat Bay and the surrounding areas. Amongst them are: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO Australia), World Health Organization (WHO), Minamata Institute (Jepang), Integrated Team formed by the North Sulawesi provincial government, Sam Ratulangi University, joint team from the renowned Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) and Gadjah Mada University, as well as the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Indonesia.

These credible and independent organizations found that the waters of Buyat Bay are clean, fish are safe to be consumed and that there is no scientific evidence to indicate any signs of pollution, particularly of arsen and mercury as alleged by the prosecutors.

The court was requested to accept 2376 cans of tuna into evidence to demonstrate the amount of fish that a family of four would have to eat monthly according to information in the infamous "Ministry of Environment Technical Team Report," The panel of judges declined to accept the cans requesting that a photo be provided at the next hearing.

**2. Reports on status of public health of the communities in Buyat Bay by the Indonesian government and international health organizations**

Public health data collected by Indonesia's Ministry of Health since 1999 showed that types of diseases suffered by the local communities ISPA, dermatitis, gastritis and malaria. Data also revealed that it is not true there were "strange illnesses" in Buyat village and none of the existing health problems were untreatable.

For further information, please visit our website [www.newmont.co.id](http://www.newmont.co.id) or [www.BuyatBayFacts.com](http://www.BuyatBayFacts.com)  
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In a Ministry of Health's letter dated 18 August 2004, the health ministry's audit teams have concluded that illnesses suffered by some in Buyat village were not Minamata disease and the disease patterns shows no signs of mercury or arsenic poisoning. These findings are shared by the Minamata Institute of Japan as well.

### **3. Submission of RKL/RPL Reports (Environmental Management Plans/Environmental Monitoring Plans) from 1996-2004**

Throughout its entire operations PTNMR has submitted to GOI these quarterly documents on time as is mandated by Indonesian laws. Heavy metal contents, in particular mercury and arsenic were always in compliance with applicable standards. The mines inspectorate also conducted regular inspection and evaluations of the mining activities related to health safety and environment. The government never found PTNMR out of compliance nor did it ever issue a warning letter to PTNMR through out the mine life.

“We are confident without a doubt that PTNMR did not pollute the environment nor harm the communities around them as further verified by the submission of these written evidences, As such, there is no basis for an indictment against PTNMR and Richard Ness, “stated Luhut M. Pangaribuan, PTNMR's legal counsel

“We warmly welcome today's court process and we hope that these writtten documents will become an important and integral component in the judges deliberations. As we have presented in the earlier proceedings, and today through this written evidence, PTNMR througout its operations has always complied with all existing regulations. We have taken the utmost care to protect the environment and the communities around us “ noted Richard B Ness, PTNMR's President Director. “We have turned in more than 10,000 pages of evidence to the court to support our case. I've yet to see one that supported the prosecutor's case.” added Ness.

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