



PT NEWMONT  
MINAHASA RAYA

**PT. NEWMONT MINAHASA RAYA**  
MENARA RAJAWALI 26<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
JL. MEGA KUNINGAN LOT # 5.1, KAWASAN MEGA KUNINGAN  
JAKARTA 12950 - INDONESIA  
Phone No. (62-21) 576-1444 Fax No. (62-21) 576-1464

## RESS RELEASE

### **WALHI'S OBJECTION TO A VISIT TO BUYAT BAY HINDER EFFORTS TO REVEAL THE TRUTH**

#### *Plaintiff's Objection a Sign that WALHI's Allegation of Environmental Pollution is Unable to Stand up to Scrutiny*

**(Jakarta, 9 August 2007)** The civil proceedings against PT Newmont Minahasa Raya (PT NMR), the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Ministry of Environment came to a standstill today after the plaintiff, WALHI, surprised the court with its objection to a visit to Buyat Bay, the site where the alleged pollution is said to have taken place.

At the beginning of the civil trial three weeks ago at the South Jakarta District Court, judges presiding over the trial expressed their interest to visit the site where PT NMR's mine was located.

Responding to the request, PT NMR's legal team issued an invitation to the court earlier today, for a visit to Buyat Bay. However, WALHI had strenuously objected to the proposed visit, though it was unable to offer a reasoned explanation for its refusal.

"Buyat Bay is a key piece of evidence in this civil lawsuit. A visit to the site will give the judges an opportunity to see the condition of Buyat Bay for themselves," said Mr. Luhut Pangaribuan, PT NMR's lead counsel.

Mr. Pangaribuan added, "WALHI's objection is undermining the proceedings of the trial. As the main objective of the trial is to return a fair verdict about the condition of Buyat Bay, WALHI's move to stop the visit can be viewed as an agreement that there is no environmental problem at Buyat Bay,"

WALHI had filed a civil lawsuit alleging that PT NMR's use of submarine tailings placement had polluted Buyat Bay. This despite the fact that the Manado District Court has acquitted PT NMR of all charges of pollution in April, after 21 months of criminal trial, where 63 international and domestic witnesses presented their testimonies.

\*\*\*\*