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## **Press Release**

### **Newmont's AMDAL Approved by All Parties**

**(Manado. 10 February 2006).** Under the agenda of presenting fact witnesses by the public prosecutor, the PTNMR criminal case trial took place today in the Manado District Court. The witnesses presented are:

1. Ir. Dibyo Kuntjoro, former Head of Energy and Environmental Bureau – Department of Mining, and former Chairman of National AMDAL Commission.
2. Ir. Sofian Simangunsong, former staff of PTNMR as *Plant Metalurgist*

In response to the questions raised by the judges, the first witness said that PTNMR's AMDAL had been reviewed and approved by the AMDAL Commission. Besides, according to Dibyo Kuntjoro, the application of the STP technology was considered feasible environmentally and PTNMR's tailing was not classified as toxic and hazardous waste.

"AMDAL Commission consists of national government (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Mining), provincial government of North Sulawesi (Regional Environmental Impact Control Agency/Bapedalda), mining experts, representatives from several universities, Walhi and local communities. All have agreed and approved independently that STP is the best option for PTNMR." said Luhut M. Pangaribuan, PTNMR's lawyer.

"It is important to note that after AMDAL was accepted and approved, PTNMR obtained an operating permit issued by Department of Mining and Energy including an STP permit issued by the Ministry of Environment." said Olga Sumampow, Richard Ness's lawyer.

In the meantime, second witness Ir Sofian Simangunsong admitted that the detoxification process conducted by PTNMR ran as planned and converted Arsenic and Mercury in the tailing into Pheropirit and Cinabar constituting stable, non toxic and neutral compounds.