



**PT. NEWMONT MINAHASA RAYA**  
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## **Press Release**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS ONCE AGAIN UNDERLINED FACT THAT BUYAT BAY IS NOT POLLUTED**

(Manado, 16 June 2006). The criminal trial proceedings against PT Newmont Minahasa Raya (PTNMR) was resumed today in Manado with expert testimonies from two environmental experts, one from the Sam Ratulangi University (UNSRAT) and one from the renowned Bandung Institute of Technology (Institute Teknologi Bandung/ITB). Testimonials from these environmental experts once again underlined the fact that the marine ecosystem in Buyat Bay is in good shape and is in no way polluted.

The two experts have been actively involved in various environmental research and studies in Buyat Bay and the surrounding areas. Mr. James Paulus MSi was a member of the North Sulawesi's Independent Team to study the heavy metal content, marine organism, water, sediment, as well as rivers and wells in Buyat Bay and its surroundings. Mr. Paulus was also a member of the Integrated Team for the State Ministry for the Environment (KLH) that reviewed the conditions in Buyat Bay in July 2004 following alleged environmental pollution charges against PTNMR.

In today's testimonies several important facts were brought forward to underscore the fact that Buyat Bay is not polluted and that PT Newmont Minahasa Raya's environmental practices have always been in compliance with existing mining and environmental standards and regulations in Indonesia. Amongst them are the following:

- Research Conclusions from the North Sulawesi Independent Research Team and the Integrated Team of the Ministry of the Environment (2004)
  - There is no significant change to the Buyat Bay ecosystem as a result of PT Newmont Minahasa Raya's activities in the area. As a whole, the Buyat Bay ecosystem is in a healthy condition. Interestingly, these findings were similar with results of similar studies conducted back in 1999.
  - Today's expert testimonies underscored inconsistencies of the conclusions reached by the State Ministry for the Environment's Integrated Team Report filed in November 2004. These conclusions were not shared by the other parties involved in the Integrated Team, including the Ministry for Energy and Mineral Resources as well the University of Sam Ratulangi (UNSRAT)

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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- Placement of PTNMR's tailings (STP) is in line with Indonesian standard and regulations
  - PTNMR's tailing placement system has worked as designed and approved in the AMDAL.
  - PTNMR's tailing placement system has effectively prevented dissolved and suspended materials concentration in the body of water from exceeding the prevailing Indonesian environmental standard.
  - Thermoclyne is found in Buyat Bay. According to analysis, the thermoclyne layer in Buyat Bay exists at a depth of 40 to 50 meters. PTNMR's tailings were placed well below the mixed layer.
  - Based on various studies, testing and strict laboratorial evaluations, it is concluded that PTNMR's tailings are not categorized as toxic and hazardous wastes

In responding to today's session, Richard B. Ness, President Director of PTNMR said, "Testimonies provided by these environmental experts once again provides facts evidences that PTNMR did not pollute the environment. There is no criminal wrong doing and as such allegations against PTNMR and myself are without merit."

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**NOTE:**

The two expert witnesses were: Mr. James Paulus, MSi (expert on environmental toxicology; senior lecturer with the Faculty of Fisheries, UNSRAT) and Mr. Andojo Wurjanto, PhD (expert in maritime ecology; senior lecturer with the Bandung Institute of Technology/ITB).

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