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Press Release

NEWMONT'S ACTIVITIES RESULTING IN NO NEGATIVE IMPACT TO LIFE OF BUYAT PANTE VILLAGERS

(Manado, 19 May 2006). The court hearing of the criminal case against PT NMR and its President Director Richard Ness is continued today, presenting four fact witnesses from Buyat, Ratatotok, and Belang. They were Haji Dahlan Ibrahim (village headman of Ratatotok Timur village since 1997), Salam Ani (village secretary of Buyat village since 1994), Madjid Andaria (former Hukum Tua Borgo of Belang Sub-district), and Jantje P. Aring (Hukum Tua of South Ratatotok village since 2001). Madji Andaria and Haji Dahlan Ibrahim are fishermen and merchants who are familiar with fishermen communities and fish market at Buyat Pante.

In his testimonies, Haji Dahlan Ibrahim, 59, said, "Since the first time I came here to be a fisherman in the 1970s, Buyat Bay remains a place for fishermen to catch fishes. Even now, several people who were once relocated to Duminanga have returned to Buyat Pante to catch fish again. My family and I eat fishes of Buyat Pante everyday, and we get no diseases because of eating fishes from Buyat Pante." When Panel of Judges asked about fishes with nodules, the witness said, "We, all of the fishermen at Buyat bay, have never found fishes with nodules. It was only the Mansurs who always get such fishes."

When the prosecutors asked Jantje P. Aring about his travel to Jakarta, Jantje said in the second session, "Our purpose was to get explanation from the Government, in particular Minister of Environment, about the pollution issues intensively reported in the media. Such explanation is very important for Hukum Tua and headmen so that we can warn people not to catch fishes at certain locations for the possible problems. We met Mrs. Nelly of the Ministry of Health who said that the Ministry would give information later. But, until now, we have yet to receive any prohibition."

Another fact witness, Madjid Andaria denied the accusation of the prosecutors and said, "This issue was once resulted in negative impact to the sale of our fishes. Now, everything has turned to normal. Fishermen can now sell fishes from Buyat bay."

In answering a question from the Panel of Judges, the last witness, Salam Ani, said, "PT NMR had brought a lot of benefits to communities around the mining site."

Today's hearing showed inconsistent and baseless accusations of the prosecutors against PT NMR. "Information which was given by the fact witnesses showed that the operation

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of PT NMR had resulted in no negative impact to the life of villagers of Buyat Pante and Ratatotok. Besides, the information given by villagers about the roles of NGOs that have been trying to influence the villagers has encouraged us to question the objectivity of the lawsuit. We are convinced that the accusations of the prosecutors against PT NMR are baseless and not correct,” said Luhut MP. Pangaribuan, one of PT NMR’s legal advisors.

PT NMR will present other fact and expert witnesses to prove that in operating its mine PT NMR always complies with the prevailing laws and regulations in Indonesia and there is no pollution at Buyat bay.###

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