

**May 09, 2005**

## **NEWMONT WELCOMES MINISTRY OF HEALTH REPORT**

**Jakarta, 09 May 2005** – Newmont today said it welcomed the Ministry of Health report showing no connection between the health problems of the Buyat Bay communities and heavy metals.

"While we need to study the full report, the conclusions will reassure the people of Buyat Bay and surrounding communities who have been scared by the allegations of mercury and arsenic poisoning," Newmont spokesman Rubi Purnomo said today.

The Ministry of Health and University of Indonesia Public Health Department study of heavy metals and their impact on people of the Buyat Bay area was released today by the University's Professor Dr. Haryoto Kusnoputranto.

"This detailed study involved a large team of doctors who researched the Buyat Bay area for over three months, taking samples from 222 local people" Rubi Pronomo said.

"What all of us involved in the Buyat Bay communities need to do now is to work together to understand if there is an unusual health problem and what more we can do to get them healthy.

"We will look at Professor Haryoto's comments to include health assessments in our reporting.

"The pollution allegations not only hurt local people, they saw six Newmont workers put in jail. We hope this report helps clear their names and stops the suffering for them and their families."