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PRESS RELEASE

BUYAT BAY INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC PANEL CONCLUSION:

NO ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

"ISP's Final Findings in Buyat Bay Consistent with Decade of Monitoring Studies"

Manado, January 29 , 2016 – The Buyat Bay Independent Scientific Panel (ISP) today presented its final Buyat Bay monitoring results, following a decade of studies, at an Annual Public Expose in Manado.

The ISP was established to design an environmental monitoring program and to observe and analyze data collected and generated during the 10-year program to definitively assess the quality of the environment in the vicinity of PT Newmont Minahasa Raya's (PTNMR) Subsea Tailings Placement (STP) site in Buyat Bay. The ISP also evaluated any potential adverse impact of tailings placement on the community and the residents' health.

At the Public Expose today, the State Minister of Research, Technology and Higher Education, Prof. H.Mohamad Nasir, stated: "In general, based on the monitoring results, the STP of Mesel mine into Buyat Bay does not cause adverse environmental impacts to the ecosystem of Buyat Bay. Physical oceanographic and geochemical analysis of Buyat Bay shows that there is no indication of adverse impacts of marine ecosystem from tailings placement. Furthermore, according to results of geochemical processes analysis, it is predicted that tailings will not adversely impact the quality of the sea water in the future."

The ISP has conducted data collection and analysis twice a year since September 2007, with 16 environmental surveys conducted through September 2015 at Buyat Bay. The ISP's monitoring activities were undertaken in close coordination with the Government of Indonesia's (GOI) State Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education and the monitoring results have been transparently released to the public each year.

The ISP, comprised of environmental, marine and public health experts, presented the 2015 monitoring report, including the following:

1. Buyat Bay water meets all GOI seawater quality standards
2. There are no adverse impacts on seawater by Submarine Tailings Placement in Buyat Bay.
3. Average concentrations of arsenic and mercury in fish tissue samples were below the threshold limits set in relevant Food & Agriculture Organization/World Health Organization Health Guidelines. As such, all results of fish tissue tests in 2015 continued to show that the fish caught in the study area are safe for human consumption.
4. Bathymetry survey comparisons based on results from 2007 through 2015 show there is no significant changes to the positions or sizes of the tailings mounds in Buyat Bay during the period, and support the conclusion that physically the tailings are relatively stable and were not redistributed during the 10-year monitoring period.

“We welcome the results of the ISP’s final monitoring report demonstrating consistency from the first year through the final year of monitoring,” said David Sompie, President Director of PTNMR. “The report also is consistent with results of the monitoring studies conducted by PTNMR since operations began in 1996 demonstrating Buyat Bay’s environment was protected and meets national and international standards. As the results of the study have consistently demonstrated that Buyat Bay has been protected, we hope that the people of Southeast Minahasa can make the best use of and get the maximum benefit from the sea products and natural beauty of Buyat Bay, including the Botanical Garden established at the former mine site.”

ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC PANEL

The Independent Scientific Panel was established under a Goodwill Agreement signed by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and PT Newmont Minahasa Raya (PTNMR) on 16 February 2006.

The Goodwill Agreement established an Independent Scientific Panel responsible for monitoring the environmental condition around Buyat Bay for a period of 10 years. The monitoring was intended to determine conclusively whether there were any adverse impacts on Buyat Bay and the local people from the operations of the Mesel Mine which ceased production in 2004.

The 10-year environmental monitoring plan commenced in 2007. The ISP conducted annual public meetings to release and review environmental monitoring results. The annual reports were prepared by the ISP and contain results of the monitoring and data analysis conducted in the previous year.

Independent Scientific Panel:

Sponsor: State Minister of Research and Technology, RI

Members:

1.	Prof. Dr. Magdalena Irene Umboh, DEA	State University of Manado
2.	Prof. Dr. Amin Soebandrio, PhD	Univeristy of Indonesia
3.	Thomas Shepherd, PhD	Shepherd Consulting Inc, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA
4.	Prof. Dr. Ir. Inneke F.M. Rumengan, Msc	University of Sam Ratulangi, Manado
5.	Keith William Bentley, PhD	Center of Environmental Health Pty Ltd, Australia
6.	Prof. Ir. Mukhtasor, M.Eng, PhD	Technology Institute of 10 November, Surabaya