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24 January 2006

Kainantu Gold Mine – Ore Processing Commenced

Processing of ore has commenced at the Kainantu Gold Mine.

Commissioning of the process plant at Kainantu has begun with first ore being introduced into the circuit on Friday January 20. The commissioning is going well and the plant is performing to expectations with the first gold concentrate produced and packed ready for shipment.

Ore from current mining, supplemented by stockpile development ore, is being used in the commissioning. The recently completed ore pass is functioning well.

The first shipment of gold concentrate is scheduled to depart Lae for Japan in mid-February. It is expected that the process plant will fully ramp up to design criteria by March.

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