



MEDIA RELEASE:

Friday 18th September 2020

Matakite Aotearoa (Vision New Zealand) Leader Hannah Tamaki (Ngāi Tamawharuia-Ngāti Pīkiao) will officially announce tonight at 7pm their flagship policy – the first “Declaration of Interdependent Authority and Self-Sufficiency for Waiariki.”

The hui tonight will include whānau from all walks of life, and also notable kaumatua and Māori leaders with a pan-regional-Iwi representation from Te Arawa, Ngati Whakauae, Ngati Awa, Tauranga Moana, Whanau Apanui, Taupo-nui-a-tia, Tuwharetoa, Tuhoe, Tapuika, Waitaha, and Ngati Whare. This hui will also be joined by leaders of Tu Tangata O Te Iwi Tapu (ManUp).

“I have been listening to the stories, frustrations, aspirations and hopes of our people while I have been campaigning throughout Waiariki. These echo the struggles and ambitions of thousands of whānau I have worked with for over 40 years.”

“For Māori, this has been the crying need for Tino Rangatiratanga and Mana Motuhake for decades now, and it’s time a political party made a stand and finally upheld He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi in its entirety. Good on Tūhoe, who have often declared themselves as the Tūhoe nation...and if you listen to what they’re saying, it’s that they want to be self-governing, self-determining, self-sustaining” says Party leader, Hannah Tamaki. “They believe in their own potential and ability to be masters of their own destiny. I believe in them too!”

Matakite Aotearoa (Vision NZ) acknowledges the significance of both He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and that Māori have never ceded their sovereignty to the Crown.

“Once in government, we will uphold the rights of Māori as tangata whenua to self-determination, equity, non-discrimination and active participation in decision making. Rebuilding a thriving, self-determining, self-sufficient Māori nation is good for the whole of Aotearoa/New Zealand. If Māori do well, New Zealand does well,” says Hannah.

This visionary approach is going to require bold changes. Matakite Aotearoa (VNZ) would like to see the re-establishment of a two House system with an Upper House to oversee legislation. To demonstrate a real commitment to He Whakaputanga, with Māori retaining their sovereignty, Matakite Aotearoa (VNZ) believe the Upper House needs to solely consist of Māori leaders with representation from every tribe in New Zealand. Matakite Aotearoa (VNZ) would also press for the Lower House membership numbers to be reduced to only 80 MPs.

Hannah goes on to say, “I believe many Māori have never wanted to be dependent on the state, but unfortunately, that’s exactly where they’ve found themselves. It’s been our colonial systems that have enslaved us.”

“I believe that Māori are just bursting with potential. They are full of creativity, enterprise, entrepreneurialism, pioneering, topped off with a good dash of charisma and cheekiness”, Hannah states.

Additional background:

Whakaputanga (Declaration of Independence of the United Tribes of New Zealand) was signed by Māori prior to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and asserted that mana (authority) and sovereign power in New

Zealand resided fully with Māori, and that foreigners would not be allowed to make laws. On this foundation, Te Tiriti o Waitangi was later signed.

Māori have never ceded their independence, yet it has failed to be acknowledged by the Crown over the years. The Waitangi Tribunal stated in November 2014, *"Your tupuna did not give away their mana at Waitangi, at Waimate, at Mangungu. They did not cede their sovereignty. This is the truth you have been waiting a long time to hear."*

As a country, we have 180 years of evidence that the present model does not work for Māori. We are wasting millions of dollars annually to reduce Māori health disparities, poverty, homelessness, incarceration, and lift Māori educational achievement and employment, with little success.

The horrific statistics for Māori are unacceptable and some of the worst statistics in history, at a time when Aotearoa New Zealand has the most Māori MPs in government. Māori MPs and the Māori Party have failed Māori.

- Earlier this week, Lakes DHB released that Māori are more likely to wait longer between referral and treatment at public health services in Rotorua compared to non-Māori.
- The Bay of Plenty alone spent \$6 million to house the homeless in motels in the third quarter of 2019. This is before COVID-19. That is a lot of money for a short-term solution that keeps people in dependency with no long-term security. During COVID-19, what was once the Māori cultural hub of New Zealand, Rotorua, has now been turned into a COVID-19 quarantine dump and emergency housing slum.
- Māori in the Wairiki electorate have one of the highest unemployment rates in the country which will continue to climb post-COVID.

Matakite Aotearoa (Vision NZ) and their Declaration of Interdependence and Self Sufficiency underpins all of their policies for the success of a new post-COVID Māori nation. These policies are founded on both He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and reflect the NZ Bill of Rights Act (1990) and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Solutions:

Māori want to design, develop and implement our own solutions.

"We would devolve power to Māori and their Hapū, so they can return to being self-determining, self-sufficient and thriving," says Hannah Tamaki. "Let's finish state dependency for Māori, and genuinely empower BY MĀORI, WITH MĀORI, FOR MĀORI."

"We need to be bold enough to put the power back into the hands of our people, not politicians. Let's empower parents, Whānau and Hapū" says Hannah passionately. "We've got to bring all funding back to the heart of our communities, right into the heart of the Hapū home, instead of funding more colonial systems, ie. government agencies."

As a result, Matakite Aotearoa (Vision NZ) would implement the following bold moves.

1. He Whakaputanga

Re-establish a two-house system with an Upper House of Māori leaders to oversee and have final approval on all legislation from the Lower House (our present MPs). We would also set up the Wairiki region as a pilot to prove that Māori can effectively self-govern their affairs.

2. Te Ipukarea Tāngata (Transformational Communities)

We will change how we build our communities moving forward. We will empower Papakianga. We will uphold Whakamana Hapū (empowering inter-generational families). Māori want to be able to live in close proximity to their Hapū. Present local council and RMA restrictions make this difficult. We will build new holistic communities that positively break the cycle of poverty, creating generational wealth and provide innovative and very accessible local services for Māori.

At the heart of each Hapū centred transformational community, will be their whareniui, a modernised marae, a meeting place where their community can come together.

“The great thing about these communities is we can pandemic proof our communities, and easily empower them to lock themselves down in the future whenever there are further pandemic outbreaks,” says Hannah.

“These communities will be undergirded by tried and true principles from our **Tu Tangata suite of programmes (ManUp, Legacy and Youth Nation)**. We can reach right into the heart of Hapū homes and bring about generational change, finally getting to the root of the issues, and intervening where multiple governments and colonial type agencies have failed over the years. We heal their hearts, heal their homes, and heal whole communities. This has continued with no government assistance.”

3. Whakamana Whare (Home Ownership for all Māori)

We will build a new house for every Māori whanau within Waiariki that currently does not own their own home. How can you build a healthy home, when you do not own a house? This initiative will kickstart the Waiariki’s autonomous economy and our new Whare Putea (Māori Bank). We estimate \$6.4 billion needs to be transferred from government to Waiariki Māori, in recognition of the governments past and present failures to support and deliver for Māori successfully. This funding will go directly towards building approximately 17,000 new homes for our Hapū, empowering their economy through shared equity, interest-free, homeownership solutions. This will create a fluid Kaipapa Māori economic system. There will be no more renting their own whenua for Māori.

4. Whakamana Hapū (The solution to Poverty, Drug Addiction, Suicides, and Baby Uplifts)

Through enabling Hapū to live together in our transformational communities we will strengthen our Hapū. The old adage is so true that it takes a village to raise a child. Through empowering intergenerational living you immediately remove the need for government to be so involved in whānau life.

“Through Whakamana Hapū empowering healthy hapū, we can reduce the number of baby uplifts, drug addictions, suicides, poverty, homelessness, health issues, crime and so much more. The younger generations can benefit from the wisdom of the older generations. The older generations can benefit from the love and support of the younger generations” says Hannah. “There will be no need to set up new child welfare entities, or overhaul old government agencies, Māori will finally be empowered at the Hapū level to look after their own. We will finally put power back into the Hapū home.”

This is only a few examples of how we will invest in Māori solutions.

There has been an inability for Māori politicians to successfully work through a colonial and unsuitable system, where tikanga Māori cannot be expressed, and Māori interests must be placed second to government agendas. There now has to be a new fresh, innovative voice and Māori that arises.

Event Details:

Venue: Welcome Bay Hall, 244 Welcome Bay Road, Tauranga

7pm: Vision NZ Public Meeting with Hannah Tamaki

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