



MEDIA STATEMENT, FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2020

Tena tatau

TODAY WE WERE ADVISED THAT A MAN HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19. IN TAIRAWHITI. THIS PERSON HAD RETURNED FROM THE UNITED STATES AND IMMEDIATELY PLACED HIMSELF INTO SELF-ISOLATION.

KIA MATAARA WHANAU. KIA MANAWANUI, KIA TAU

WE NEED EVERYONE TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THAT THE COVID-19 IS REAL , IT IS NOW IN TAIRAWHITI AND WE WILL ALL NEED TO STEP UP IN TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTAINING THE VIRUS AS BEST WE CAN.

ON WEDNESDAY A STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WAS DECLARED AND THE COUNTRY MOVED TO LEVEL 4 OF THE COVID-19 ALERT SYSTEM.

LEVEL 4 OF THE COVID-19 ALERT SYSTEM IS FOCUSED ON ELIMINATION OF COVID-19 AND INDICATES THAT THE VIRUS IS NOT CONTAINED AS EVIDENCED BY SUSTAINED AND INTENSIVE TRANSMISSION AND WIDESPREAD OUTBREAKS

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, FOR US, IT **SIMPLY MEANS STAY AT HOME, STAYING HOME SAVES LIVES.**

WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN SAFETY AND HYGIENE MEASURES SUCH AS;

1. WASHING YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS
2. MAINTAINING THE 2 METER SAFE ZONE AROUND YOU
3. IF YOU HAVE TO GO AND PURCHASE KAI AND ESSENTIALS YOU NEED TO GO STRAIGHT THERE AND STRAIGHT HOME. DELEGATE ONE PERSON IN YOUR HOUSEHOLE OR BUBBLE, TO GO AND GET KAI AND ESSENTIALS,
4. WHEN RETURNING HOME MAKE SURE YOU WASH YOUR HANDS

IT WAS CONCERNING TO HEAR, THAT YESTERDAY ACROSS SOME OF OUR COMMUNITIES, CAR-LOADS OF PEOPLE WERE GOING OUT AND ABOUT ,TO THE SHOP OR VISITING OTHER HOUSEHOLDS.

WHANAU THIS HAS TO STOP, IF YOU WANT TO STOP THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS AND PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR LOVED ONES AND THE PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

OUR COUNTRY IS IN A STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY THIS IS UNPRECEDENETD IN MY LIFETIME AND IS AN INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF COVID-19 AND ITS RISK TO OUR WHANAU, HAPU AND IWI

ANY BREACHES OF THE LEVEL 4 COVID-19 ALERT SYSTEM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. THEREFORE, WHANAU DON'T BE SURPRISED IF WE START TO SEE TOUGHER MEASURES PUT IN PLACE BY THE POLICE AND CIVIL DEFENCE, INCLUDING CHECK POINTS TO GET PEOPLE OFF THE ROAD, WHO DON'T NEED TO BE TRAVELLING.

REGARDING TANGIHANGA

1. AT THIS TIME WHEN WE ARE FOCUSED ON SAVING AND PROTECTING THE LIVING WE WILL NEED TO MAKE IMPORTANT SACRIFICES, INCLUDING TANGIIHANGA
2. WE CAN NOT HOLD OUR NORMAL LARGE TANGIHANGA AT THIS TIME
3. THE GOVERNMENT HAS SAID THAT THAT BURIALS AND CREMATIONS WILL NEED TO HAPPEN FAST
4. FUNERAL DIRECTORS ARE BEING AUTHORISED TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS HAPPENS
5. THESE MEASURES HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE NOT TO CAUSE OFFENCE TO ANY OF US, BUT TO KEEP OUR WHANAU SAFE FROM COVID-19
6. WHEN THINGS GET BACK TO THE NORMAL, AND THEY WILL, WE WILL HOLD A SHARED KAWE MATE FOR ALL OF OUR WHANAU WHO COULD NOT CONDUCT THE TANGIHANGA FOR THEIR LOVED ONES THAT THEY WOULD HAVE LIKED TO

NGATI POROU HAS JOINED FORCES WITH OUR TURANGA IWI WHANAUNGA AND HAVE DEVELOPED A TAIRAWHITI IWI COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN, TO ENSURE OUR PEOPLE ARE INFORMED, CARED FOR AND SUPPORTED THROUGH THESE VERY CHALLENGING TIMES.

OUR IWI RADIO STATION AND IWI MEDIA PLATFORMS WILL BE PROVIDING REGULAR UPDATES ON THE SERVICES AND SUPPORT THAT WE WILL BE PROVIDING TO OUR MUST VULNERABLE, OUR PAKEKE, PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS, HIGH NEEDS WHANAU AND MARAE

WE (Ngati Porou) HAVE ESTABLISHED TWO 0800 NUMBERS,

1. 0800 676 768 AND
2. 0800 833 502

END OF STATEMENT