

Te Runanga O Ngati Porou ki Hauraki Panui

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Website online at www.ngatiporoukihauraki.maori.nz

Kia ora Whanau,

Important Message:

We were very surprised to receive through the post a postal ballot from the HMTB asking to vote for them to regain their original mandate of 2005.

We have since received notification from our Representative on the Board, Pine Harrison that a management group had inadvertently sent out the ballot paper instead of waiting for the decision of the Trust Board. At a meeting of the Trustees on the Hauraki Maori Trust Board held on 27th January, a resolution was passed to cancel the ballot and to declare it null and void.

Given that the Hauraki Maori Trust Board themselves have declared the ballot cancelled and null and void, we are now notifying you that it is not necessary to complete the ballot paper.

Please therefore put your paper in the rubbish bin!!!

Background:

This background contains important information and concerns the Hauraki Maori Trust Board's position in the Treaty Negotiations. You will recall that our last Newsletter for December 2009 had as an attachment, correspondence from the Attorney General, advising us to hold a Hui for the election of "Interim Negotiators."

This Hui was held in the Woolshed at Mataora, on Saturday 19th December 2009. Present was a representative from Te Puni Kokiri, whose role was to ensure that the Hui was held in accordance with the requirements set out in the letter from the Attorney General as well as the matters to be discussed and voted on as set out by Mike Dreaver, the Chief Negotiator for the treaty claims within the Hauraki area. These matters were also attached to that Newsletter.

At the Hui on the 19th December 2009, John Tamihere and I were elected as our negotiators.

On Wednesday 23rd December 2009 a Cluster Hui of the negotiators for 8 of the 12 Iwi of Hauraki was held at the Formosa Golf Club facility at Beachlands. I attended on behalf of Ngati Porou ki Hauraki. This Hui was called by Mike Dreaver, the Chief Negotiator, so he could meet the people elected as "Interim Negotiators." From this Hui a letter was sent to the Attorney General advising him that 8 of the 12 Iwi that are part of the Hauraki Maori Trust Board (HMTB) had responded to his offer of holding mandated Hui, and the people present were the duly elected "Interim Negotiators" for the 8 Iwi desirous of commencing Treaty Negotiations with Mike Dreaver.

I have since received correspondence from Mike Dreaver setting out the objectives and research that has to be actioned by April, July and October 2010. We are also required to report back to the Runanga members at the same timeframes. Our final position has to be brought back to you, the Runanga base, and a vote will be required for continued negotiations. This should happen in October/November 2010.

The above information gives an overview of the current situation following the mandate Hui of 19th December 2009.

The HMTB has tried to stop its Iwi base from accepting the Crown's offer of appointing "Interim Negotiators". It should be pointed out that the offer to the 12 Iwi to elect their own "Interim Negotiators" was at the suggestion of Sir Douglas Graham, as a way of allowing the Treaty negotiations to get back on track. The reason for this was due to the Treaty negotiation process being stalled because the majority of the 12 Iwi wanted to carry out their own negotiations direct with the Crown and not through the Hauraki Maori Trust Board. This caused the HMTB to lose the mandate they had obtained in 2005, which meant the Crown could no longer negotiate with the HMTB.

We do not wish our treaty claims to be negotiated through the HMTB for the simple reason that should any financial compensation be gained, it would not be returned to the Iwi concerned, but instead be held in one big pot for all 12 Iwi. The Fisheries monies paid to the HMTB for the 12 Iwi is also held by the HMTB. They used to pay a dividend to each of the 12 Iwi. This enabled the Iwi an opportunity to use those monies to initiate plans/programs or set up governance entities/Marae or even hand out Koha to those trying to further their education or business. This system stopped in 2004. We no longer have the choice to use a little bit of our own money to further ourselves as we see fit. We feel that this will be the likely outcome of any monies negotiated through our treaty claim.

Summary:

Like I have said the HMTB is not happy with the situation that has arisen, where 8 Iwi have accepted the Crown's offer to get the negotiations back on track. To thwart our progress, the HMTB has been running Hui in each of the 12 Iwi's home base. On Sunday 17th January 2010, representatives of the HMTB held an informative Hui at Harataunga at which they advised those present that they would not be running a "**Postal Ballot**" process; however the ballot paper was posted out. Our request to you, is that if you receive any further postal ballots from the HMTB with regard to the FSSB or Treaty matters, **please tick NO!** We are negotiating these matters ourselves for ourselves. In this particular case, please do not return your paper, if you have already kei te pai.

Proposed Time Frame:

Mike Dreaver the Chief Crown negotiator for the Waitangi Tribunal Claims, has set out the proposed timeframe and action points for the upcoming Crown Treaty Negotiations. This information is set out below so that you the members of our Runanga can have some idea of what is being asked of the Interim Negotiators.

Our Negotiations will be Lead by John Tamihere. While we don't at this time have confirmed Hui dates you can see that there is a lot of work required to be done by the Runanga Executive, and assistance may be sought from folk who might be willing to help out in the backroom so to speak.

By April 2010

- Negotiating team recognised and established;
- Approach to shared and individual redress agreed with Crown;
- Negotiating structure agreed;
- Funding resolved with OTS and CFRT;
- Advisers (if any) appointed;

Terms of Negotiation agreed;
Information on Crown assets provided;
Meetings on general Crown policies and redress parameters;
Regular meetings with claimant community including Chief Crown Negotiator;
Formal deed of mandate process agreed;
Confirm area of interest;
Identify overlapping issues.

By July 2010

Site visits and sharing of information on Crown and claimant interests and outcomes
Negotiating meetings including on hard issues (gold etc) begin;
Meetings with other iwi on overlapping interests;
Meetings with minister start;
Formal deed of mandate process underway

By end September 2010

Conditional Crown offer prepared and delivered;
Formal deed of mandate process completed;
Meetings with Minister on conditional Crown offer;
Negotiating meetings with Chief Crown Negotiator and team;

By December 22-01-2010

AiP agreed.

Runanga AGM

We wish to advise our members that The Runanga AGM will be held on Saturday 6th March 2010 at Hauratanga. The venue is Rakairoa Marae, Kennedy Bay Road, Kennedy Bay, commencing at 10am.

Ngä Mihi,

Fred Thwaites.

Chairperson, Te Runanga O Ngati Porou Ki Hauraki.