

# Te Taurahere o Ngati Porou ki Poneke

24 June 2015

Mr Herewini Parata,  
Chair  
Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou.

Kia ora Herewini,

Tena koutou nga kaihautu o Te Runanganui e takatu mai na ki te kawhe i nga kaupapa e pa ana ki a tatou katoa. Kaore ha, tuatahi atu ki nga mate huhua e hinga mai na i te wa kaenga, ka tapiri atu hoki nga mate o konei, huri noa. Moe mai ra te tini, te mano kua wahangu. Ki nga parirau o Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou e roha atu ra ki te Ao Whanui, tena koutou katoa.

We held our monthly Ngati Porou ki Poneke Taurahere hui on Sunday 21 June where we discussed, among many other issues, the upcoming TRONPnui elections.

This letter is to apprise you, the TRONPnui Chair and Board Members of the many concerns that were raised about the registration process which our people - keen to register on the iwi database - are finding onerous and difficult. Our people want to participate in their democratic right to vote this year but sudden new rules and changes to registration processes has given many Wellington Nātis the unpleasant impression that the Runanganui is deliberately placing barriers to their participation in this year's elections. I am sure that is not the case but simply an overzealous response by the Runanganui to its inconsistent and often contradictory approach to its registration processes.

Here are the issues about the registration processes that were raised on Sunday:

- First anomaly: there are two ways to register - hardcopy and online. The processes are NOT consistent. That's the first problem.
- The hardcopy registration process is onerous and requires multiple steps to complete. Nātis told us on Sunday they were ready to throw the form away when they realised they had to buy copies of birth certificates (takes up to 8 days and costs \$26.50) and, once past that barrier, find people to certify their information.
- People wanted to know why this 'proof of identity' was necessary when the online version does not require it - and never has. Take the further example; when the Runanga travelled Aotearoa - and Australia- to gather support for the Treaty of Waitangi Settlement with the Crown there was no 'proof of Ngati Porou Identity' required.
- We were shocked to learn that as recently as a few days ago, the online version now requires 'proof of identity'. Without any communication or explanation or

thought about the frustration of adding another step to registration this change has been 'sneaked' in.

- For years no proof was necessary. Only Ngati Porou were interested in registering on the Ngati Porou database. Now suddenly, with just weeks to go before registration closes, another barrier to voting has been introduced. Surely, having discovered these registration inconsistencies the better option for the Runanganui was to make the process easier, not harder! Does this make the Runanganui look deliberately unhelpful? Absolutely, yes.
- Changing or updating registration details has proved to be difficult too especially if, like us, you have forgotten your password or other online details. Some people complained that it could take up to 2 weeks to get a response to an email or phone inquiry. And some have still not heard if their details have been successfully changed.
- Finally, our taurahere would like a copy of the electoral roll as soon as possible so we can contact our whanau in Wellington.

Communication from the Runanganui is slow, selective and has been contradictory. Nonetheless our taurahere is openly supportive of our people engaging with their Ngati Poroutanga and participating in these elections. As a consequence local Maori media have been inquiring about the elections and our candidates intend to work with them in the near future.

To support this election kaupapa, please remove the additional step of having to provide 'proof of identity' from the online registration. Clearly this shouldn't be difficult as adding it on was quickly (albeit quietly) done. 'Proof of identity' hasn't been necessary for years and is not necessary now. If the Runanganui feels it must impose this step, do it at a later date when the whole registration process (and other anomalies) can be openly debated with our people.

Ka tǎria atu to whakautu mai.  
Naaku noa, na

Sir Tamati Muturangi Reedy  
Chairman  
Te Taurahere o Ngati Porou ki Poneke