



Ngāti Toa Rangatira

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1905

(Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, 2011)

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Latest Panui

Ngāti Toa and New Zealand Rugby Union enter new era of relationship with Ka Mate

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Thursday, March 17th, 2011

MEDIA RELEASE

17 March 2011

Ngāti Toa and New Zealand Rugby Union enter new era of relationship with Ka Mate

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Historic agreement reaffirms 100-year connection to haka

Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira Incorporated, the body representing Ngati Toa Rangatira, and the New Zealand Rugby Union have today signed a new agreement which formalises the century-old relationship built on the performance of *Ka Mate* by the All Blacks.

The Memorandum of Understanding, signed by both parties today at Takapūwāhia Marae in Porirua, confirms the support of Ngati Toa for the continuing performance by the All Blacks of *Ka Mate*, the special relationship that exists between Ngati Toa and the NZRU, and a shared desire to work together.

While the detailed terms of the document remain confidential, it provides certainty to the NZRU regarding its on-going use of *Ka Mate*, while at the same time giving assurances to Ngati Toa that the use of the haka will be respectful.

Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira Incorporated Chairman, Riki Wineera says: "We have always supported the All Blacks performance of *Ka Mate* and take great pride in the fact that through this association, *Ka Mate* is an important part of New Zealand's cultural history. But above all of this, *Ka Mate* is a taonga of Ngati Toa Rangatira and we as an iwi have an obligation to protect it. One of the iwi's long standing concern is that *Ka Mate* has been used in a belittling and culturally offensive way.

"Fortunately the NZRU respects this position and has agreed to work with us to ensure that the integrity of *Ka Mate* is protected. This landmark occasion signals the beginning of a formal and long term relationship where we will cooperate to ensure *Ka Mate* is respected and its use is appropriate. The iwi does not wish to restrict the use of the haka *Ka Mate* by any New Zealand representative sports teams who wished to perform it or on other appropriate occasions."

NZRU CEO Steve Tew said the signing of the agreement was a significant step for the NZRU in its relationship with Ngati Toa, and its 100-year association with Te Rauparaha's haka.

"The All Blacks have been performing *Ka Mate* for more than 100 years and it has a very special place in the team's history and culture.

"We have been privileged to be able to perform *Ka Mate* with the blessing of Ngati Toa Rangatira but it is great to give that understanding some status, to recognise the significance of *Ka Mate* and the special relationship we share with Ngati Toa," Mr Tew said.

Today's signing ceremony was preceded by NZRU representatives including Chairman Mike Eagle, New Zealand Maori Rugby Board Chairman Wayne Peters and CEO Steve Tew being formally welcomed on to Takapūwāhia, Ngati Toa's marae in Porirua.

Images from Ceremony:

Photos of the signing ceremony will be available for download free of charge for editorial use.

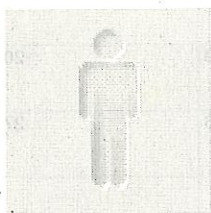
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