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OFFICE OF THE KIINGITANGA: Approved by the: Principal Private Secretary

TE KOHAO HEALTH WITH KIINGI TUHEITIA POTATAU TE WHEROWHERO TE TUAWHITU LAUNCHES THE HYPER-BARIC CHAMBER TREATMENTS.

May it please your Majesty

I would like to acknowledge Makau Ariki Atawhai the Patron of Te Kohao Health, along with the Chairman, CEO, Management and staff of this organization Teena Koutou. To other invited guests, greetings to you all and thank you for your attendance today.

This is an exciting day for Te Kohao Health, for Maaori, for the entire Waikato Community and indeed the health sector, thank you for the invitation and the opportunity to speak here at this launch. My name is Rangi Whakaruru and in the recent 12 months, I have had the fortunate experience of being introduced to these Hyper-baric chamber machines and the related treatments that they have delivered. This is the focus of this occasion and my key note address to you today.

To understand my experience, I need to recount and recall the last seven years that were the life struggles of King Tuheitia. As the King's Principal Private Secretary and Master of his Household, it was to be one of the most profound learning experiences that I would ever have while in my 28 year association and service with the Whare Ariki. It was a journey into the unknown and I wish I could say that it was a great and wonderful journey, but it wasn't wonderful or even near wonderful, however, key to that point is that it didn't need to be such a traumatic and emotional experience for the King, his wife, whanau and others.

The things that could have been avoided and/or greatly improved upon started with the King himself, then the primary health sector where early detection and treatment would have made a huge difference, the specialists and how they work, the Hospital staff and other health consultants, right to the pharmacists. They were all part of the problem that we experienced.



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The system we are all acutely aware of and subject to, didn't make it any better when we were confronted with crucial and critical decisions that had to be made. These specific issues and challenges are not isolated just to the health sector but in my experience, are similar across the entire public sector. Those issues are;

1. Not working together and correlating each others work, test results and subsequent treatment recommendations,
2. Speaking directly to the patient and in a language that one can comprehend and understand,
3. Removing from those patient conversations, all ambiguity that creates confusion, worry and a general sense within the patient of being a test case or a lab experiment,
4. Improving bedside manners,
5. Having one case Manager or professional who can and will deal with the specialists, nurses, clinicians and other consultants, that one person who can then convey that information to the patient.
6. The time it takes to see a Specialist, get a test, have a consultation, get a recommendation, than get the treatment,

In one sense, I am so grateful for that experience across the sector but most of all for the experience in Waikato Hospital. This is what drove us to take King Tuheitia overseas. So out of this not so good experience, we were able to go to Taiwan and simply admit and engage the King into that medical system.

Taiwan is a tremendous metropolis including everything they do as a nation. They are an oppressed country struggling for recognition and inclusion in the global and united system of nations. It has a population of 26 million people spread across an island that can fit into Northland here in NZ. It is governed by a parliament that is its own and has emerged from three (3) invasions and administrations that conquered the island nation over a period of 100 years or thereabouts. They are a young nation with ancient beginnings.

The Indigenous people make up 18% of that population and are not too dissimilar to Maaori, and it is not a wonder as it is the original home of Polynesian and Maaori people. Our people left Taiwan and migrated to the Pacific just under 2000 years ago and there are remnants of that time in our history still prevalent in the Tribal areas of Taiwan around the West Coast of the country. In particular the Amiss and Puyuma People who are among the largest of the 16 tribes in Taiwan. The Museum of Pre-history in the city of Taidong was built over the top of an archaeological dig that a Maaori tribe inhabited pre-migration, and many Maaori academics and scholars have visited this place over the past 30 or so years.

This along with other opportunities is what prompted and drove the relationship between the Kiingitanga and the longest serving indigenous legislator in the Taiwanese Parliament, Ms Ying Chen of the Puyuma tribe. In her capacity as Legislator, Ms Chen is the equivalent of the Minister of Health here in NZ.



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She recommended and set up the treatments, the specialists, the hospital and the facilitation of the Kings entire engagement across four (4) Government agencies. Those agencies included their Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Civil Aviation & Airports Authority, the Hospital and Health Ministry and the Minister of Indigenous Affairs.

I made five (5) visits to Taiwan, one of which was official and on behalf of King Tuheitia made almost exactly to this date, 12 months ago. The others were simply to foster and seed the relationship, advance visits to sort medical treatment, and again to pre-arrange the medical excursion.

The best way to describe that entire engagement is to get straight to the end, which for the purpose of my address today, will come in the next 2 to 3 months when the King will journey back to Taiwan again for a check up. The end can best be characterised by the measure and improvement to the King's general health state, and by his mobility and ability to get around now and resume his duties. These measures are typical of a person who has a diagnosed condition and seeks treatment, then starts along the pathway to recovery. The real trap is in the maintenance of ones condition that has to be done.

Some years ago, Wintec initiated the Te Arikini Dame Te Atairangikaahu Nursing Scholarship for Maaori. This scholarship has seen in excess of 230 people train and graduate as fully qualified and engaged nurses. On the 10th anniversary of the ascension of King Tuheitia to the Te Wherowhero Throne, the scholarship was increased from one to 10 placements per year for three years. This was made possible by the generous contributions and support of private companies and individuals who shared in the inspiration that King Tuheitia did of getting our people into the Health Sector where they could participate and aid the care, treatment and maintenance of people. This year 21 Waikato Tainui people have applied for the scholarship. The King and Wintec Management will decide the successful applicants very soon.

One such graduate of this scholarship was a young lady from Turangawaewae Marae, Awhina, who now works for the Waikato DHB as a fully engaged Nurse. Getting back to the issue of maintenance of ones personal health state; it truly is a trap if you choose to ignore it. So Makau Ariki Atawhai sought the services of Awhina and she accompanied the King to Taiwan for the period of his treatments. She took part in the consultations, was taught by the lead specialist and head of the team treating the King. Incidentally, Dr Soo is the Chief Physician & GP for the Head of the Country Madam President Tsai. He and a roster of other duty Doctors accompany President Tsai on her carrier both nationally and internationally whenever she travels. Dr Soo is highly regarded and consulted.

Awhina remains focused on the daily maintenance and condition of King Tuheitia. She changes his dressings to the amputated area, she monitors any changes, she then video skypes Dr Soo in Taiwan and conveys her findings and observations to him for his diagnosis and recommendations. It is a classic case of working together in collaboration to get the best outcome for the Patient. If we can do collaborate with a specialist



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as far away as Taiwan, then we must be able to do it among yourselves and others here. (Surely). The care the King received in Taiwan was exemplary. The Kings treatments in the Hyper-baric chamber made the real difference to his recovery.

Today we will launch the start of these hyper-baric chamber treatments here in Hamilton. Thanks to the vision and drive of Lady Moxon, who travelled to Taipei while the King was receiving treatment, she visited the various hospitals and professionals. One of the observations was to the Hyper-baric unit of the Veterans General Hospital in Taipei. Eight other Maaori Providers from across New Zealand accompanied Lady Moxon to Taipei and they had as much exposure as the Legislator Ms Chen could arrange. The result of that visit is today.

One interesting fact told to us by the VG Hospital Head was that the last Amputation performed due to Diabetes, was 19 years ago. They do not default automatically to amputations in Taiwan, they treat the illness to avoid that. The Doctors and Specialists work in tandem with Chinese Herbal practitioners and apply the use of Chinese herbs blended with western medicines and disciplines. An integral part of the King's treatment and subsequent recovery was the 2 hour daily exposure in the hyper-baric chamber. While in Taipei, we discovered that they do have a chamber here in Takapuna Auckland but it is only accessed by the Navy for deep sea divers. We were further advised on the King's return from Taiwan, they the treatment he received in Taiwan was in fact available here but no one told us that during his 5 month stay in Waikato Hospital. Te Kohao can now promote this treatment and its availability to our people free of charge. For those who can afford it, they will pay. What a wonderful positive that came out of a real negative.

Can I say that I want to acknowledge today those bold, calculated and advanced decisions Lady Moxom made those months ago, have to be recognised and supported for what it is. That is what our people need if we are to improve our health outcomes and our lives. That strong and committed advocacy, the championing and belief of and for our people is what Te Kohao has done and today is evidence of that effectiveness.

Congratulations.

End

Rangi Whakaruru — Principle Private Secretary to the Maori King