

IN THE MATTER of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Hauraki Inquiry District

AND

IN THE MATTER of a claim by **Florence Te Paea Watene Gurnick; Mita Eparaima Watene; Billy Wi Te Koha Williams; Bill Wiremu Te Moananui; Ropata Te Wharetoitoi Rare; Harata McCaskill Williams; Toi Te Akeake and Aporo Hikitapua Reedy** on behalf of themselves and all the descendant whanau and hapu and the constituent whanau and hapu of the ancestor **TAMATEPO** of the **MARUTUAHU TRIBAL CONFEDERATION**

**STATEMENT OF ARAPETA FORTUNATE WATENE
IN SUPPORT OF WAI 970 CLAIM
Dated 10 June 2002**

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1. My name is Arapeta Fortunate Watene. I am a direct descendent of Tamatepo through my father Mita Pirimoana Watene.
2. Tihei Mauri ora! - That is the extent of my reo.
3. Your honour and respective colleagues as a reminder I invite your attention to: "Third article of the treaty" which states:

In consideration thereof, her Majesty the Queen of England extends to the natives of Aotearoa her royal protection, and imparts to them all the rights and privileges of British subjects. (W. Hobson Lieutenant - Governor).

4. To emphasise points I wish to make during my letter I will refer often to this Third Article.
5. First and foremost I am a child of Heavenly parents, therefore of noble decent. God blessed me with gifts and talents to grow and develop that I may have joy and happiness.
6. The Crown stole my birth right from me, through a process of assimilation with a projective view of symbiosis. Assimilation meaning to absorb, amalgamate. The use of words such as integration to combine, segregation to force. But in reality, the underlying evil of it all; destroy culture/then control. A merciless system hell bent on suppression, depression and possession according to the Hunn report referenced from the AJHR journals pg. 29/57.
7. In 1960 this program was made law allowing simulation free reign as if by giving it a coat of respectability made it acceptable. The effects of its future intent was already embedded deeply in a young boy's soul 9 years previously.
8. For 52 years, I have carried a heart filled with hatred, guilt, suspicion, pain, anger, frustration and prejudice. This was my legacy at birth.
9. Born into a situation that was already flamed with hatred, division, anger, frustration and suspicion, it was deeply entrenched long before I came onto the scene.

10. The ninth child of 18 children raised in a little bush village three miles from Thames, in disgusting and appalling conditions. Compared to the standards of that time, they were sub-zero. Our home had holes in the roof, floor and walls. Glass-less windows had coal sacks for curtains, sleeping in a single room with 12 brothers and sisters just to keep warm, was forced on us because Mum and Dad weren't able to get a loan to buy a decent house, they were natives, (*third article of the Treaty*)
11. Dad worked in town biking 3 miles either way. We would work together in the garden till 2 in the morning just to provide food for the family. Rivers, streams and drains were places we would set our henakis to catch eels, lands we once worked on for years were suddenly fenced with trespass notices hanging from them threatening prosecution. Logging trucks carrying Kauri logs passed our home regularly for years. Then one day bulldozes were pushing a road over our land to the other side of the mountain. I didn't understand. It was never explained to me. All I knew was the land where I once roamed freely was gone, (*third article of the Treaty*)
12. I felt at an early age what it feels like to be called a black nigger, bastard, mongrel, thief and a useless bugger that will amount to F... All in life, to become a jail bird and a convict were some of the vicious tags that the Crown forced on me even before I could spell the words. Pain from these hurtful insinuations would remain with me to this day and set the path for my future. (*Third article of Treaty*).
13. I have cried countless tears, for the opportunities denied me through no fault of my own. Stigmas hurled at me constantly during my most impressionable years were too deep rooted in my soul to dislodge at will. The Crown had done to me what it was deliberately designed to do, it had wounded my wairua, bruising me in the most horrible way possible by destroying my will power to think, lift, stretch and reach. I had nothing in reserve to draw from when I needed help the most. To a boy of 14 years who should have been prepared as the Crown promised me - *go forth embrace the world with confidence and enthusiasm* - yet instead I was

contemplating suicide as I had done previously on many occasions, I was so afraid. (*The third article of the Treaty*)

14. I've always known that I could excel in most anything I set my mind to. Life experiences have proved that time and again. Instead, going to school was the most traumatic period of my whole life. Nothing since has ever compared exactly with that time. (*The third article of the Treaty*)
15. I was abused, accused and ridiculed so often that I feared every day I went. I came to hate school with an intensity that leaves me shaking even now. The Crown taught me nothing but hate and I learnt nothing as expected. (*The third article of the Treaty*)
16. On more than one occasion a teacher Jock Mansfield ordered me to stand on a chair in front of the class, turning me around for all to see. He told the class what a dirty kid I was. He took great delight pointing out that my school pants and shirt were sewn from sugar and flour bags. Open sores on my feet and knees prompted the class to nickname me scabby which has stuck to this day. I was not yet 8 years old for heavens sake! Mental torture and spiritual pain from that experience alone would cause me nightmares for years to come. (*The third article of the Treaty*)
17. Whenever there was a crime around the area police would pull me out of class and accuse me of being the culprit, amusing themselves at the expense of my tears and denials. Hell, I was only 3 ft tall and 10 years old. Coppers would continue to dog me year after year. The effects of their relentless harassment destroyed what little self esteem I had left. My hatred for all authorities began to simmer like a raging volcano bursting to get out. I remember the very second I turned my back on any discipline that would give direction, value and meaning in my life, even now I shudder at the thought. How did I survive all these years. (*The third article of the Treaty*)
18. I had become withdrawn, an old man in a young man's body, sneaky, sly and devilish. My head hung low with the weight of misery. I had turned into the imaginations of all who accused me. I could handle abuse from the pakeha's, but not from my own

family. Most thought me guilty (with the exception of my Mum and My God, neither of them ever gave up on me. They were my true love). We were all victims - divided as planned. (*The third article of the Treaty*)

19. I had been called a mongrel too long for too many years, stunted physically, mentally, spiritually I couldn't vision anything beyond revenge for all the hurt locked inside my heart. I was on the fast track to nowhere. (*The third article of the Treaty*)
20. Penalised for speaking reo at school and English at home, I was told to "shut up and keep quiet, dumb bastard". During this 9 years of suspended animation not knowing whether I was coming or going. Its little wonder I've become good at pidgin this and pidgin that. I struggle even now to converse correctly. (*The third article of the Treaty*)
21. I excelled in a crime spree spanning 35 years, making hundreds of thousands, and the irony of it all was we were protected by the very system designed for total annihilation. I spit on your system and remind you that the devastation afflicted on my brothers and sisters, ended with 12 of us in prison. The accumulating effect on our mother, our wives, my children, nieces and nephews is just too stressful for words. It may be too late for me. But if I leave any one thing behind, let it be said of me that I didn't bow down. (*The third article of the Treaty*)
22. Conclusion: I seek two outcomes:
 - a) Crown to admit your guilt
 - b) Crown to honour the second article of the Treaty.

ARAPETA FORTUNATE WATENE

DATED: