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## MUZZLED MĀORI DEPICTS COLONIAL CONTROL

### OPINION PIECE

25TH SEPTEMBER 2020

BISHOP BRIAN TAMAKI

The latest Labour television ad featuring their Māori caucus is the most awkward and cringe-worthy watch. It immediately portrays how their leader has no faith in their capabilities as Māori, as she insists on being the most dominant figure, front and centre. Why wouldn't you allow your Māori Deputy Leader to front this ad for Māori unless of course, his role is just tokenism? These Māori MPs all come across as embarrassingly carefully scripted and constrained. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1113178865743667>

This picture of Jacinda in front of the Māori MPs smacks of colonial control – the idea that there must always be a white master in control, they must always have the upper hand and the loudest voice, a white government system or agency must always be in control – that they can never allow Māori to truly take the lead.

Yet again, the white Master rules and Māori must “get in behind”. Her little pitbull, Willie Jackson, hovers, waiting online, quick to defend this ad and pounce on anyone who shuns it. He must know deep down this is demeaning, as he openly admits within the comments that he sought reassurances from friends that the ad was okay.

It's always been blatantly clear that Jacinda's Deputy is truly Grant Robertson, with Kelvin Davis always left out in the cold. It's always Robertson who steps up to the podium in Jacinda's absence, never Davis. He is Deputy Leader in name only.

Over this past term, we've never had so many Māori MPs ever in history, in parliament. This could have been monumental and a history-making game-changer for Māori – instead it's been an embarrassment. Despite their numbers, they have been completely muzzled. Why wouldn't you rise up, and exert the power you have in numbers, to fight for better solutions for Māori. Yet on every horrific issue facing Māori, the conditions for Māori have continued to slide backwards, and our Māori MPs remain silent. What a colossal missed opportunity. Where else in the world is there such an Indigenous representation in government, but the United Nations still finds us completely inadequate in how we care for Māori. Something is really not right here.

When will Māori finally rise up, and take up He Whakaputanga and Mana Motuhake?  
When will Māori fully realise the potential that lies within them, and declare Tino Rangatiratanga?  
When will Māori cut the ties of state-dependency that are keeping them in bondage, and fight for self-dependency? By Māori constantly relying on hand out, after hand out, from the government, we remain as slaves, subservient to our master. As Māori, we have been so hammered down and muzzled for so

many generations, we've been happy to just settle for any crumbs we can be thrown by our colonial masters.

When will Māori wake up and realise that despite decades of trying, colonial government agencies and structures just do not work for Māori? We need Mana Motuhake.

The statistics across every sphere of society are shocking for Māori. The compound effect of years of failure is exponentially worsening. If we don't do something drastic soon, there are very real chances that our entire Māori race will be eradicated through immense dysfunction.

I care too much about our Māori people, to remain silent, and sit back and watch this happen! I have dedicated my life's work to helping Māori & Pasifika become successful. I founded the ManUp movement to finally help Māori. They've tried to continually muzzle ManUp, even by our own, and restrict us from helping more Māori, by not allowing us to go into the prisons and more, but still, we have fought on, self-funded, and driven by our genuine heart to improve outcomes for Māori. Our volunteers just wish we had the resources to help even more Māori.

Through ManUp we have proven that Māori know what's best for Māori. Where Māori are the problem, Māori can also be their own solution. We don't need any government to tell us how to help Māori.

ManUp continues to help Māori get off drugs, alcohol and addictions. ManUp continues to help men stop being abusers in the home, and helps women heal as victims. ManUp is there for men (and women) when they hit rock bottom and want to end their lives – we are the 24/7 support network they can cry out to, and who will turn up without fail. ManUp is restoring families, preventing baby uplifts, and turning dysfunctional parents into healthy and whole whānau with tamariki returned to them from state care. ManUp practically helps whānau lift their socio-economic standing in housing, employment, education, business and more. ManUp is the massive emergency housing network that immediately takes in their own when they have nowhere to go. ManUp gets to the root issues within men, heals their hearts, heals their homes, and is well on the way to healing this Māori nation.

ManUp proves, that by Māori, with Māori, for Māori, truly does work.

It's time to throw the muzzles off. It's time for Māori to take a STAND, to take back what is rightfully ours and declare Tino Rangatiratanga.

Join me this Sunday as I support and stand with many Māori whānau as ManUp declares Tino Rangatiratanga for all Māori. Everyone who wants change for Māori is welcome to join us, regardless of what side of the political divide you sit on. We are all tired of waiting, it is time we take matters into our own hands.

### **NO MORE WAITING EVENT**

Sunday 27th September 2020

Hiko begins 2pm at Rotorua Lakefront

Hiko will proceed from Lakefront to the Reserve next to Mataatua Marae, which features:

- Live address from ManUp Founder, Bishop Brian Tamaki
- Live address from ManUp National Director, Caine Warren
- Live performances from House of Shem & Tyree
- 2,000 free hangis given away