

Maori Party Press Release

15 April 2020

Maori Party Pou Support Leadership

Maori Party founders Dame Tariana Turia and Dr Sir Pita Sharples are excited by the John Tamihere-Debbie Ngarewa-Packer leadership team announced today.

Dame Tariana said she was confident this new leadership would return the Maori Party to Parliament.

“The hopes for many of our people sits on the shoulders of John and Debbie and I am delighted they have been appointed the co-leaders,” Dame Tariana said.

The pair were confirmed at a Special General Meeting of the Maori Party National Executive.

“When you are in war, like we are now, you need strong warriors. John and Debbie are warriors and in all the time I have known them, they have never been afraid to stand up for what is right,” she said.

“Debbie’s mahi as an Iwi Leader is impeccable and beyond reproach. I am right behind this announcement and can’t wait to see these two in action.”

Sir Pita, who beat John in 2005 to enter parliament for the Maori Party and left in 2014, echoed Dame Tariana’s korero.

“As Maori, we will often offer an olive branch hoping that we can work as one,” he said.

“We need John and Debbie to support the government in defending our communities from Covid-19.

“That requires the Government to work with us as well.”

Former Maori Party President Dame Naida Glavish said a refreshed and rejuvenated party would play a vital role in defending the Maori community from Covid-19, as we head into winter.

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