



MEDIA RELEASE

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Tau Gagana Tokelau – Goes Live

A Tokelau language website, “*Tau Gagana Tokelau – Learn Tokelau*”, will be launched by the Minister of Pacific Island Affairs, Hon Luamanuvao Winnie Laban at a function to be held at the Horticultural Hall, Laings Road, Lower Hutt, this Friday, 3 October 2008 at 2pm.

This resource is the second phase of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs’ Mind Your Language (MYL) Tokelau project which addresses concerns about the declining use of Pacific languages in New Zealand.

This interactive website www.learntokelau.co.nz is a creative tool to encourage the learning and use of the Tokelauan language.

Pacific Island Affairs Acting Chief Executive, Magila Annandale says this is an innovative learning opportunity for Tokelauans in New Zealand and around the world.

“The ability to speak your heritage language has significant cultural and social implications for young Tokelauans. It gives them a greater sense of cultural identity and enables them to participate fully in family and community life.”

“Tokelauan communities in New Zealand outnumber those living in Tokelau, and sadly those raised here are not able to speak their language well. This website aims to celebrate Tokelauan culture and deliver a unique Tokelauan learning experience.

“A number of cultural and learning resources were developed in close association with the community and will feature on this site.

The 2001 Census showed that 30 per cent of New Zealand-born Tokelauan people spoke their mother tongue and that had fallen from 38 per cent in 1996.

“We trust that Tokelauan communities make use of this valuable new resource,” said Acting Chief Executive, Magila Annandale.

The Mind Your Language Tokelau website has been developed by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs in association with the Tokelau Mind Your Language Board.

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