

PRESS RELEASE

Waitakere Indian Association
For Immediate Release

Waitakere Indian Association Condemns Racist Remarks by Shane Jones

The Waitakere Indian Association strongly condemns the recent remarks made by New Zealand First Minister Shane Jones, referring to a "butter chicken tsunami" in the context of discussions around a New Zealand India Free Trade Agreement.

These comments are deeply offensive, racially insensitive, and entirely unacceptable in a country that prides itself on inclusion, respect, and fairness. Language of this nature reduces a vibrant and diverse community to a stereotype and undermines the dignity of Kiwi Indians.

This is not an isolated incident. It reflects a pattern of rhetoric that falls short of the standards expected from elected leaders in a modern, multicultural democracy.

The Indian community in New Zealand is one of the fastest-growing and most contributing communities in the country. According to the Waitakere Indian Association's 2020 report, Kiwi Indians contribute more than \$10 billion to the New Zealand economy. That contribution has only grown since. Kiwi Indians are highly skilled, entrepreneurial, and deeply embedded in sectors that drive productivity and innovation, including healthcare, IT, education, hospitality, construction, and small business.

Beyond economic contribution, the community plays a vital role in strengthening the social fabric of this nation. From volunteering and food distribution initiatives to cultural events and youth development, Kiwi Indians are active participants in building stronger, more connected communities.

New Zealand is a peace-loving nation. It is built on mutual respect and shared values. In an election year, it is even more important that public figures choose their words carefully. Political discourse must elevate, not divide. It must bring people together, not single out communities for ridicule.

The Waitakere Indian Association calls on all political leaders to show responsibility, uphold respectful dialogue, and ensure that New Zealand remains a country where every community feels valued and respected.

We will not accept language that diminishes our people. We will continue to stand up for dignity, inclusion, and the true spirit of New Zealand.

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