



Media statement

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Dunne: NZ should back Taiwan's efforts for recognition

UnitedFuture leader Peter Dunne says it is time New Zealand took a stronger role in supporting efforts by Taiwan for political and diplomatic recognition.

Speaking at tonight's Wellington function to celebrate the 96th National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Mr Dunne noted that Taiwan was Asia's oldest democracy.

"Taiwan today is a flourishing and vibrant democracy and a powerhouse economy, capable of playing a significant part in the affairs of the region and the world generally.

"The political apartheid that countries like New Zealand practice against the people of Taiwan is intolerable.

"It is cynical hypocrisy at its worst to be keen to strengthen people to people links and general economic relationships while denying the political existence of Taiwan as an independent nation," Mr Dunne said.

Mr Dunne said New Zealand's policy towards Taiwan was weak and unprincipled.

"It is made in Beijing, not Wellington, and it is humiliating to all New Zealanders who love freedom and democracy," he said.

Mr Dunne contrasted the current New Zealand stand on Taiwan with the anti-nuclear policy.

"We became nuclear-free because we believed it was the right thing to do, regardless of our self-interest and what other countries thought.

"We have become respected for that around the world.

“We now need to take the same stand in respect of Taiwan by fearlessly and boldly supporting its bid , as a free and democratic nation, for recognition in the international community, and bringing an end to the political apartheid that has excluded Taiwan from international affairs for far too long.,” Mr Dunne said.

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