

# Proactive Release

Date: 31 January 2022

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Aupito William Sio, 6-9 December 2022, Indonesia	PR 2022 0523

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Aupito William Sio

Portfolios                      Pacific Peoples / Associate Foreign Affairs

On 21 November 2022, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Aupito William Sio from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 6 to 9 December 2022, to travel to Bali, Indonesia to attend the Indonesia-Pacific Forum for Development and the 15<sup>th</sup> Bali Democracy Forum;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$31,200.00 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that he will also be accompanied by officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their department;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1      Hon Kiri Allan act as Minister for Courts;
  - 5.2      Hon Carmel Sepuloni act as Minister for Pacific Peoples;
- 6        **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Pacific Peoples  
Office of the Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Chair, Cabinet

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Aupito William Sio**

- 1 I am seeking Cabinet approval to travel to Bali, Indonesia to represent Aotearoa New Zealand at the Indonesia-Pacific Forum for Development (IPFD) and the 15th Bali Democracy Forum (BDF).
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip. The dates of travel are from the 6 to 9 December 2022.

### **Purpose of Travel**

- 3 Indonesia has invited Aotearoa New Zealand to participate in two Ministerial meetings being held in Bali on the 7 and 8 December 2022: the Indonesia Pacific Foreign for Development, and the Bali Democracy Forum.
- 4 I propose to attend these meetings as the Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Pacific Peoples. Hon. Mahuta, Minister of Foreign Affairs, as recipient of these invitations, has asked me to attend.

### *Benefits of Aotearoa New Zealand's attendance at Indonesia-Pacific Forum for Development (7 December)*

- 5 Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi has invited Ministers from 19 Pacific Island countries and territories, alongside the Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the Melanesian Spearhead Group, for a High Level Dialogue focused on development issues in the Pacific. Representatives from other partners in the Pacific (such as the US, China and Japan) will also be invited <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>
- 6 Ministerial attendance at this Forum is important as an opportunity to demonstrate Aotearoa New Zealand's support for Indonesia's engagement with the Pacific, while also encouraging engagement which aligns with Pacific priorities and our Pacific Resilience approach.
- 7 Given Pacific Island Countries and the PIF Secretary-General have been invited to the Forum, my attendance is also important to maintain Aotearoa New Zealand's solidarity with our fellow PIF members as our region expands its relationships with new partners.
- 8 My attendance <sup>s6(a)</sup> also strongly aligns with my appointment as Aotearoa New Zealand's UN-Commonwealth Small States Advocacy Champion, wherein I will lead and

enhance our current work to amplify the interests of Small Island Developing States.

- 9 In-person Ministerial attendance will also give the Aotearoa New Zealand delegation access to a wider range of meetings, including with Ministers from other Pacific countries. I see this as an opportunity to lead and enhance our current engagement to amplify interests for our Pacific whānau, into international fora.

*Benefits of Aotearoa New Zealand attendance at Bali Democracy Forum (8 December)*

- 10 Aotearoa New Zealand has supported the annual Bali Democracy Forum, one of Indonesia's flagship foreign policy initiatives, since its inception in 2008. Since 2018 our representation has been at Ministerial-level. I attended the Forum in 2018 and 2019 and Minister Mahuta participated virtually in 2020 and 2021.
- 11 The theme for this year's meeting is "**Democracy in a Changing World: Leadership and Solidarity**". Aotearoa New Zealand has been asked to speak on the issue of 'Democracy at the Crossroad: Shaping Governance in the New Global Landscape'.
- 12 Aotearoa New Zealand's participation at the Bali Democracy Forum allows us to demonstrate support for Indonesia's efforts to promote democracy, and the democratic values of good governance in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond. Indonesia's demonstration of effective democracy and broadening of its democratic values are important for the stability and prosperity of the region. Indonesia also played a critical role in supporting New Zealand in the Islamic world in the aftermath of the Christchurch attacks.
- 13 Having in-person Ministerial attendance will give the Aotearoa New Zealand s6(a)

**Ministerial Party**

- 14 I would be accompanied by one staff member from my office. MFAT staff from the New Zealand Embassy in Jakarta would also support my participation in the meetings in Bali.

## Travel Costs

- 15 The estimated cost of for this travel is: \$31,200.00 This will be charged to Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel, as follows:

Airfares	\$19500.00
Accommodation	\$3700.00
Gifts	\$600.00
Other expenses, including meals	\$1600.00
Transport	\$600.00
Contingency (20%)	\$5200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$31,200.00</u></b>

## Acting Ministers

- 16 For the period of my absence:

16.1 Hon Kiri Allan will be Acting Minister for Courts, and

16.2 Hon Carmel Sepuloni will be Acting Minister for Pacific Peoples.

## Proactive release

- 17 I propose to proactively release this paper.

## Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:

1.1 Authorise my absence from New Zealand, from the 6 to 9 December 2022, subject to leave from Parliament being secured to travel to Bali, Indonesia;

1.2 Agree that I be accompanied by one staff member from my office;

1.3 Approve the estimated expenditure of \$31,200.00 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party; as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs: [Members of the Executive – Travel];

1.4 Note that I will be accompanied by officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their travel costs will be met by their own department;

1.5 Agree that in my absence, Hon Kiri Allan will be Acting Minister for Courts and Hon Carmel Sepuloni will be Acting Minister for Pacific Peoples;

- 1.6 Note that House leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Aupito William Sio  
**Minister for Pacific Peoples**  
**Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs**

Proactively Released by the Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs