

Proactive Release

Date: 7 May 2019

The following Cabinet paper/s and related Cabinet minute/s have been proactively released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters: Malaysia [CAB-19-SUB-0094 refers]

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters [CAB-19-MIN-0094 refers]

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.

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 25 March 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand from 26 to 28 March 2019, to make a bilateral visit to Malaysia;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$15,675 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 4.1 Hon David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
 - 4.2 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister for Racing;
 - 4.3 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for State Owned Enterprises.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair
Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: RT HON WINSTON PETERS: MALAYSIA

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Malaysia from 26 March – 28 March 2019 for bilateral meetings. The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle.

Travel Objectives

2 Objectives are:

- To build New Zealand's relationship with the new Government in Malaysia, including meeting with Malaysia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Saifuddin Abdullah, and other senior Ministers.
- Convey New Zealand's support for the new Malaysian Government's institutional reform process and position New Zealand as a valuable partner in providing experience in such areas as multi-party coalition governments and electoral process.
- Reaffirm the importance of Malaysia to New Zealand and advance specific bilateral initiatives such as counter-terrorism engagement and irregular migration.
- Reaffirm the importance of Malaysia as a regional partner for New Zealand and seek insights into regional matters (ASEAN, Indo-Pacific architecture, South China Seas, Rohingya situation, transnational crime).
- Encourage Malaysia to ratify the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Travel

4 I propose to depart New Zealand for Malaysia on the morning of Tuesday 26 March and then return to New Zealand on Thursday 28 March 2019. I would not miss any sittings of Cabinet.

Ministerial Party

5 I will be accompanied by a foreign affairs private secretary from my office. The travel costs for the private secretary and I will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

Acting Ministers

6 If Cabinet approves my travel, Hon Jones will act in my Racing portfolio, Hon Dr Clark will act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio and Hon Parker will act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios.

Costs of Travel

7 The projected costs of the proposed travel (including accompanying staff member) are:

Airfares	\$ 13,628
Accommodation and other expenses:	\$ 850
Hospitality and gifts:	\$ 450
Contingency	\$ 747
Total	\$15,675

Proactive Release

8 I plan to release this paper in part within 30 business days. All redactions will be made in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

9 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my proposed travel to Malaysia from 26 March to Thursday 28 March 2019;
- b) **note** that I will be accompanied by one staff member from my office (a foreign affairs private secretary);
- c) **approve** expenditure of up to \$15,675 for travel expenses for the official delegation as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- d) **agree** that Hon David Parker act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios, Hon Shane Jones act in my Racing portfolio, and Hon David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio from 26 March to 28 March 2019;

Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactive Release

Date: 11 July 2019

The following Cabinet paper/s and related Cabinet minute/s have been proactively released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters: Malaysia
[CAB-19-MIN-0217 refers]

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 international relations of the New Zealand Government.



Cabinet

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Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 13 May 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-19-SUB-0217 on his travel, from 26 to 27 March 2019, to Malaysia for bilateral meetings.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair

Cabinet

**REPORT ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL: RT HON WINSTON PETERS: MALAYSIA,
FROM 26 – 27 MARCH 2019**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 26 – 27 March 2019.

Report

2 Our decision to continue with a previously planned visit to Malaysia shortly after the Christchurch terrorist attack on 15 March was based on the critical importance the New Zealand Government attached to communicating directly to key partner countries New Zealand's response to the attack. The visit was successful in this respect. In Malaysia, we received a gracious, welcoming and engaged reception at the highest levels of Government, underlining that Malaysia and New Zealand are old friends with a history of solidarity in times of need. Through the tragedy, which sadly included Malaysian casualties, we reinforced our determination to strengthen our partnership.

Bilateral Meetings with Malaysia

3 The one-day programme in Kuala Lumpur included a meeting, joint press conference and lunch with Deputy Prime Minister Wan Azizah Wan Ismail; a meeting with Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah; a meeting with Anwar Ibrahim^{s6(a)}

alongside 10 Parliamentarians; and a visit to Parliament. Our programme also included an informal gathering with NZ Inc. staff at

the New Zealand High Commission, in part to hear their experiences in Malaysia following the 15 March attack. Malaysia's Deputy Trade Minister, Ong Kian Ming, also accompanied our delegation for much of the visit.

4 The Christchurch terrorist attack was a central component of all engagements and counter-terrorism was a key theme of the visit. All interlocutors, including the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, expressed their solidarity and appreciation for New Zealand's response to the attack. This included the assistance offered with respect to Malaysians caught up in the attack. Both the attack, and New Zealanders' response, had received considerable media attention in Malaysia, with one Malaysian teenager having lost his life, and three others injured. New Zealand's response to the abhorrent attack was described positively by all, ^{s6(a)}

5 In addition to advancing cooperation on countering terrorism and violent extremism, the visit enabled us to convey New Zealand's support for the still relatively new Government in Malaysia's institutional reform processes. ^{s6(a)}

Minister Saifuddin also discussed the Malaysian Government's Parliamentary reform, anti-corruption efforts and human rights. We reiterated the invitation that, where we could, New Zealand stood ready to support Malaysia in a practical sense with its reform efforts – an offer that was appreciated by the Malaysian Government. New Zealand also sought an update on reforms for women in Malaysia, which Deputy Prime Minister Wan Azizah spoke to, including the positive strides the new Government had made in its first nine months in office.

6 During the meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, we took the opportunity to advance New Zealand's interests in trade, investment, education and tourism, as well as discuss greater linkages between our two countries in these respects. On trade relations, we discussed the need for closer cooperation between New Zealand and Malaysia as relatively small countries and the importance of supporting the rules-based system at a time when international trade tensions among bigger players had the potential to threaten our interests. The visit was also an opportunity to share the New Zealand Government's perspectives

on the merits of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) s6(a)

reflecting on our own debate.

7 Other topics usefully canvassed with the Malaysian Government during the short visit were the Rakhine crisis, including human rights and justice issues, ASEAN centrality in the region, which New Zealand reaffirmed its support for, and regional developments s6(a). On human rights issues in Malaysia, Minister Saifuddin outlined the Government's reform agenda but emphasised that in order to be successful it was necessary to take an incremental approach.

8 There was significant Malaysian media interest in the visit. This focused heavily on the Christchurch terrorist attack and the New Zealand Government's response. A joint press conference with the Deputy Prime Minister enabled New Zealand to reinforce key messages that ours was a society that valued diversity, tolerance and compassion and that the attack on 15 March was completely abhorrent and foreign to these values. We publicly reaffirmed New Zealand's appreciation for the strong support from Malaysia in the wake of the terrorist attack, from His Majesty the King and the Government itself.

Proactive Release

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Recommendation

10 I recommend that Cabinet **note** this report.

Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs