



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Phil Twyford

Portfolio **Trade and Export Growth**

On 12 September 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Hon Phil Twyford from New Zealand from 14 to 21 September 2022, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, to travel to Siem Reap, Cambodia, for engagements focused on the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meetings;
- 2 **noted** that logistical challenges related to COVID-19 may impact the planning of this event, and should this be the case, alternative means for New Zealand's participation will be explored;
- 3 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one staff member from his office;
- 4 **approved** the estimated expenditure of \$42,600.00 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence Hon Aupito William Sio act as Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Rachel Hayward
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth
Chair, Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA, 14-21 SEPTEMBER 2022

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Siem Reap, Cambodia, 14-21 September 2022. The purpose of travel is to attend the annual ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meetings. I will be out of New Zealand from Wednesday 14 September to Wednesday 21 September.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS' MEETINGS

- 3 The primary purpose of this travel is to attend, in my capacity as Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth, the annual ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meetings, involving members of ASEAN and their dialogue partners. New Zealand's attendance at ministerial level will reinforce our commitment to our partnership with ASEAN and to ASEAN-centrality in the Indo-Pacific region.
- 4 The main interest for New Zealand will be securing substantive conclusion of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) Upgrade, through the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand dialogue meeting, of which we are a co-chair, and bilateral engagements with ASEAN Ministers. Outstanding sensitive issues will be elevated to Ministers for on-the-ground discussion and negotiation. We have prioritised the achievement of a high-quality upgrade by the end of 2022 to ensure that AANZFTA remains a modern, fit-for-purpose FTA. s9(2)(j)

- 5 I will also be co-chairing the first Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) ministerial meeting since the Agreement entered into force. This will be an

important opportunity to highlight the significance of RCEP and discuss with my counterparts how we can best leverage the largest FTA in the world and ensure its effective implementation.

6 Whilst in Siem Reap, I will:

- Undertake a schedule of bilateral meetings with attending Ministers from ASEAN and ASEAN's dialogue partners (which include Australia, Japan, Korea, China, USA, and UK);
- Meet with the ASEAN Secretary-General;
- Attend the gala dinner alongside all other attending Ministers and senior officials;
- Attend the ASEAN-East Asia Summit Economic Ministers working lunch;
- Co-chair the inaugural RCEP Ministers Meeting;
- Co-chair the ASEAN-Closer Economic Relations partners (Australia and New Zealand) Ministers Meeting, at which Ministers will discuss remaining sensitive issues of the AANZFTA upgrade;
- Visit a water supply development project funded by New Zealand.

7 Logistical challenges related to COVID-19 may impact the planning of the conference. Should this be the case, alternative means for New Zealand's participation will be explored.

Travel

8 If travel is approved, I propose to depart New Zealand for Siem Reap on 14 September and will return to New Zealand on 21 September 2022, returning to Parliament on 22 September.

Ministerial Party

9 I would be accompanied by one staff member from my office.

Costs of Travel

The projected costs of the proposed travel for the Ministerial Party are:

Airfares	\$30,000
Accommodation and other expenses	\$4,000
Hospitality and gifts	\$1,500

Contingency	\$7,100
Total	\$42,600

10 Contingency costs are based on 20% of the overall cost of this trip, due to the uncertainty caused by COVID-19.

11 Expenditure of up to \$42,600 for travel expenses is proposed to be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

Acting Ministers

12 If travel is approved, I propose that Hon Aupito William Sio act in my Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control portfolio.

Proactive release

13 I propose to release this paper proactively.

Recommendations

14 I recommend that Cabinet:

- authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 14-21 September to travel to Siem Reap, Cambodia, for engagements focused on the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meetings;
- note that logistical challenges related to COVID-19 may impact the planning of this event. Should this be the case, alternative means for New Zealand's participation will be explored;
- agree that I be accompanied by one staff member from my office;
- approve the estimated expenditure of \$42,600 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];

- agree that in my absence, Hon Aupito William Sio act in my Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control portfolio;
- note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement.

Hon Phil Twyford

Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth

Proactively Released by the Minister
of State for Trade and Export Growth