



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Aupito William Sio

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 30 May 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Aupito William Sio from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 1 to 4 June 2022, to travel to Fiji as New Zealand's government representative at a Special Ministerial meeting relating to the US Tuna Treaty;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one staff member from his office;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$14,040 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 Carmel Sepuloni act as Minister for Pacific Peoples;
 - 4.2 Hon Kris Faafoi act as Minister for Courts;
- 5 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

In Confidence

Office of the Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed overseas travel: Nadi, Fiji 1-4 June 2022

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Nadi, Fiji on Wednesday 1 June and return on Saturday 4 June to represent New Zealand at a Special Ministerial Meeting hosted by the Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Government of the Republic of Fiji.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

Special Ministerial meeting, Nadi, Fiji (2-3 June 2022)

- 3 A Special Ministerial meeting is being held in Nadi, Fiji on 2-3 June 2022. The purpose of the meeting is for the Ministers of the Pacific Island Parties to the US Tuna Treaty¹ t

s6(a)

- 4 The Treaty is a key means of US engagement in the region, and provides a platform for broader cooperation in areas such as regional security, fisheries governance, and economic development opportunities s6(a)

Aotearoa New Zealand's current mandate for the renegotiation of the Treaty is to advocate for continuation of a Treaty that supports Pacific regional solidarity, delivers economic benefits for Pacific Island countries and promotes positive US engagement in the region.

- 5 It is necessary for New Zealand to have Ministerial representation at this meeting as the US Tuna Treaty is an important regional issue between the Pacific and the US. At the meeting, I would seek to:

- 5.1 reinforce New Zealand's close partnership with the Pacific;

s6(a)

¹ The Pacific Island Parties to the Treaty are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

IN CONFIDENCE

5.3 advocate for continuation of a Treaty that supports Pacific regional solidarity, delivers economic benefits for Pacific Island countries and promotes positive US engagement in the region; and

^{s6(a)}

5.4

6 The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries have agreed to the recommendation by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Ministry for Primary Industries that I attend the meeting.

7 The proposal to attending a key Pacific regional meeting aligns with my responsibilities as Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs. I also attended the US Tuna Treaty discussions between Pacific Ministers and the US delegation in the margins of the Our Ocean Conference.

Travel

8 If travel is approved, I propose to depart New Zealand for Fiji on Wednesday 1 June 2022 and return to New Zealand on Saturday 4 June 2022. As I will not be required to undertake self-isolation, I will return to Parliament on 7 June 2022.

Ministerial Party

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

Acting Ministers

10 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon. Carmel Sepuloni act in my Pacific Peoples portfolio, and Hon. Kris Faafoi act in my Courts portfolio.

Costs of Travel

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

Airfares	\$5100
Accommodation	\$4000
Ground transportation	\$800
Hospitality and gifts	\$1000
Meals	\$800
Contingency	\$2340
Total	\$14,040

12 Expenditure of up to \$14,040 for travel expenses is proposed to be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

Proactive release

- 13 I propose to delay the release of this paper beyond 30 business days, until the Treaty renegotiation is concluded, to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.

Recommendations

- 14 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 14.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 1 June 2022 to 4 June 2022 to travel to Fiji as New Zealand's Government representative at a Special Ministerial meeting relating to the US Tuna Treaty;
 - 14.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member from my office;
 - 14.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$14,040 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial Party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
 - 14.4 agree that in my absence, Hon. Carmel Sepuloni will act as Minister for Pacific Peoples and Hon. Kris Faafoi will act as Minister of Courts; and
 - 14.5 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon. Aupito William Sio
Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs