

Proactive Release

04/07/2023

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Carmel Sepuloni</i>	CAB-23-MIN-0189
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Carmel Sepuloni</i>	

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 OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA 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 OIA redaction codes:

- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy; and
- 9(2)(f)(ii): maintain the constitutional conventions to protect collective and individual responsibility.



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: Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Portfolio Associate Foreign Affairs (Pacific Region)

On 22 May 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Carmel Sepuloni from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 30 May to 5 June 2023, to travel to Samoa to represent Aotearoa New Zealand at the 61st Independence Day Celebrations;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by one staff member;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$12,880 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – travel);
- 4 **noted** that she will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by their department;
- 5 **agreed** that in her absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan act as Minister for Social Development and Employment;
 - 5.2 Hon Willow-Jean Prime act as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Carmel Sepuloni

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Samoa from 30 May to 2 June to represent Aotearoa New Zealand at the 61st Independence Day Celebrations and to mark the conclusion of the 60th anniversary year of diplomatic relations.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 If approved, I will travel Samoa to represent Aotearoa New Zealand at the 61st Independence Day celebrations and to participate in activities to mark the conclusion of the 60th anniversary year of our formal diplomatic relationship with the signing of the Treaty of Friendship in 1962.
- 4 Aotearoa has a close and multi-faceted relationship with Samoa, built on a foundation of our shared history and whanaungatanga. This 60th anniversary year has been a particularly important year in our relationship. Building on visits to Samoa by the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, the Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro and Hon Nanaia Mahuta, my attendance would underscore the importance of the bilateral relationship.
- 5 The visit will also provide opportunities to engage with senior political leaders to build and strengthen in-person relationships and to undertake activities in support of my responsibilities as Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs (Pacific Region).

- 6 s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a),
s9(2)(f)(ii)

Outline of Proposed Visit

- 7 I plan to undertake high-level bilateral engagements with the Government of Samoa, including meetings with Samoa's Head of State, the Prime Minister and senior Government Ministers. I will also take the opportunity to meet with Pacific leaders who are attending Independence Day events.
- 8 In recognition of the conclusion of the 60th anniversary year of our formal diplomatic relationship with Samoa, I am planning to host an event at the New Zealand High Commission to reinforce the close friendship between our countries.

Travel

- 9 If travel is approved, I will depart Aotearoa New Zealand for Samoa by commercial means on Tuesday 30 May and return on Monday 5 June.

Ministerial Party

- 10 Should Cabinet approve my travel, my Press Secretary will accompany me, along with officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Estimated Costs

- 11 The indicative costs of this travel are approximately \$12,880. This will be charged to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 12 An estimated breakdown of the costs are as follows:

Airfares	\$4,100
Accommodation	\$3,000
Per Diems	\$600
Representation	\$2,500
Gifts	\$1,000
Subtotal	\$11,200
Contingency (15%)	\$1,680
Total	\$12,880

Acting Ministers

- 13 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan act as Minister for Social Development and Employment and that Hon Willow-Jean Prime act as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1 Authorise my absence New Zealand from 30 May to 5 June to travel to Samoa;
- 2 Agree that I be accompanied by my Press Secretary;
- 3 Note that I will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- 4 Approve the expenditure of \$12,880 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – travel.

- 5 Agree that in my absence:
- 5.1 Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan act as Minister for Social Development and Employment;
 - 5.2 Hon Willow-Jean Prime act as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Social Development and Employment
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs (Pacific Region)

Proactively Released by the Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs