

Proactive Release

19 July 2023

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta</i>	CAB-23-MIN-0220
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta</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:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis; and
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.



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.

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 6 June 2023, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Nanaia Mahuta under CAB-23-SUB-0220 on her travel, from 29 to 31 March 2023, to Vanuatu for a bilateral visit.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

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Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Vanuatu.
- 2 I undertook my first official visit to Vanuatu from 29-31 March 2023. My visit deepened and broadened high level relationships and positioned Aotearoa New Zealand as a unique and highly trusted partner.

Report

- 3 s6(a)
- 4 Climate change was an ever-present thread in my visit that occurred only three weeks after two category four cyclones impacted the country. The visit also coincided with the UN General Assembly's resolution to ask the International Court of Justice to consider states' obligations with regard to climate action. Led by Vanuatu and co-sponsored by Aotearoa New Zealand, this initiative provided a celebratory and positive backdrop to the visit, s6(a)
- 5 s6(a)
- 6 In addition to Government leaders, I met with the Opposition, women leaders, and cyclone-affected communities. s9(2)(g)(i)
- 7 Travelling on the RNZAF 757, a nine person Pasifika Medical Association team was able to be transported, as well as Te Toki Voyaging Trust, which is in the process of rehabilitating a waka in Vanuatu that can be used to transport relief supplies to small outer islands that lack wharf infrastructure. The plane also transported additional relief supplies following the devastating cyclones that occurred within days of each other.

Strengthening relationships with the new Government

8 After a courtesy call on President Nikenike Vurobaravu, I met with Acting Prime Minister Sato Kilman, s6(b)(i)

9 s6(b)(i)

10 s6(b)(i)

Bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Jotham Napat

11 Foreign Minister Jothan Napat shared the concept of "Nasituan" in his language, which means that we must pull together and that an individual cannot succeed on their own. I noted similarities with the concepts of mahitahi and tātou and that Aotearoa New Zealand wanted to continue to learn and reflect on how we work in partnership with Vanuatu.

12 s6(b)(i)

13 s6(b)(i)

14 s6(b)(i)

15 Following the bilateral, Minister Napat and I signed the 'Mauri' Statement of Partnership. The Statement reflects the broad-based and maturing partnership, with cooperation spanning development, foreign policy, climate change, trade and

security. This was cemented in a partnership-led approach focused on building Pacific resilience.

- 16 I made a number of announcements related to Vanuatu's economic recovery and climate change resilience priorities – including:
- 16.1 NZD12 million to expand the multi-country Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Programme;
 - 16.2 NZD18.5 million for a further phase of Vanuatu's Water Sector Partnership;
 - 16.3 NZD4 million to support the Vanuatu tourism sector; and
 - 16.4 NZD3 million in policy-based general budget support.
- 17 I also confirmed Aotearoa New Zealand's interest in the Renewable Energy Solar and Storage project, aimed at establishing renewable energy infrastructure on Efate and Tanna, and our intention to bring in new partners to co-finance it alongside New Zealand.

Aotearoa New Zealand positioned as a close and trusted partner

- 18 Aotearoa New Zealand's support of Vanuatu's ICJ campaign on climate was clearly significant for the Vanuatu Government. Our role in the campaign was highlighted by my last-minute on-stage appearance alongside Minister Napat at a public concert to mark the UNGA decision. I acknowledged Vanuatu's achievement ("it's not the size of the country but the size of its vision").
- 19 I also opened the New Zealand-funded Mind Care (mental health) centre at Port Vila Central Hospital and met with Vanuatu's Minister of Health, Rick Mahe. The Pasifika Medical Association team also attended the opening. For the duration of the Medical Association team's deployment, they worked closely with the Mind Care team providing culturally sensitive mental health support, including in relation to the ongoing impacts of the two cyclones on households and communities.

s6(a)

20 s6(a)

21 s6(a)

22 s6(a)

23 s6(a)

Proactive release

24 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO(18)4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

25 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minita Take Aorere / Minister of Foreign Affairs

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