

# Proactive Release

Statutory Publication Date: 31/10/2023

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b><i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Rino Tirikatene</i></b>	CAB-22-MIN-0301
<b><i>Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Rino Tirikatene Indonesia 20 – 26 August 2023</i></b>	

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- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Rino Tirikatene

Portfolio                      Trade and Export Growth

On 18 September 2023, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Rino Tirikatene under CAB-23-SUB-0432 on his travel, from 20 to 26 August 2023, to Semarang and Jakarta, Indonesia to attend the signing of the Upgrade of the Agreement to establish the ASEAN-Australia New Zealand Free Trade Area and hold bilateral discussions.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Office of the Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth

Chair, Cabinet

## **Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Rino Tirikatene**

1. I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Indonesia 20 – 26 August 2023.

### **Report**

2. The focus of my visit to Indonesia was to advance New Zealand's trade and export growth interests in my capacity as Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth.

3. New Zealand's interests include:

- a. Signing the Upgrade of the Agreement to establish the ASEAN-Australia New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA);
- b. Attending the annual suite of ASEAN-related ministerial meetings involving members of ASEAN and ASEAN Dialogue Partners; and
- c. Meeting ministerial counterparts to support the government's Trade Recovery Strategy.

4. My thanks to the New Zealand Ambassador to Indonesia Kevin Burnett and the NZ Inc agencies based Wellington and Jakarta, for the incredible support that helped to ensure my visit to Indonesia was a success.

### *AANZFTA Upgrade*

5. The signing of the AANZFTA Upgrade was one of the key events in the travel programme. The AANZFTA Upgrade streamlines trade processes and seeks to reduce non-tariff barriers. Significantly, it includes a framework for cooperation on sustainable trade issues, including the environment, labour standards, and women's economic empowerment. This is a first for any ASEAN agreement and provides a potential template for ASEAN in negotiations with other ASEAN Dialogue Partners.

6. Ministerial attendance at the signing ceremony reaffirms the high value that New Zealand places on this Agreement, signals the hard work that all Parties committed to delivering the Upgrade, and supports Indonesia's efforts to deliver one of its Priority Economic Deliverables as ASEAN Chair 2023.

### *ASEAN-Related Ministerial Meetings*

7. The ASEAN-related ministerial meetings included:



- a. ASEAN Closer Economic Relations Partners (Australia and New Zealand) Consultation - New Zealand's primary Ministerial meeting with ASEAN on trade and economic matters;
- b. East Asia Summit (EAS) Economic Ministers Meeting – important for New Zealand's trade and export growth interests, due to the diverse and strategically important membership including the USA, Japan, China and Russia; and
- c. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministers Meeting – the second annual meeting that continued momentum on governance and implementation issues important to New Zealand.

8. New Zealand's attendance at ministerial level reinforced our commitment to our partnership with ASEAN, and to ASEAN-centrality in the Indo-Pacific region. I was also able to build relationships with trade ministers face to face, highlighting the importance of our trade relationship with ASEAN, and demonstrating our commitment to the ASEAN-led regional economic architecture.

#### *Semarang – Bilateral Meetings*

9. During my time in Semarang, I held bilateral meetings with Indonesia (ASEAN Chair), the ASEAN Secretary General, Brunei Darussalam, Timor-Leste, the United Kingdom, and Australia. These meetings were an opportunity to reaffirm our close relationships with ASEAN and ASEAN Dialogue Partners, and better understand how likeminded countries are approaching their engagements with ASEAN.

10. Notably, during my meeting with the ASEAN Secretary General, I reaffirmed New Zealand's desire to elevate the relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, to align with the upcoming 50th Anniversary of New Zealand ASEAN relations in 2025. Officials were asked to submit this as a written request.

#### *Jakarta*

11. My time in Jakarta included bilateral meetings with key Indonesian Ministers, roundtable discussion with New Zealand business representatives based in Jakarta, and engagements with Indonesian officials from the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesian think tanks, and Indonesian Asia New Zealand Foundation Young Business Leaders Initiative alumni.

12. The Jakarta programme helped to support the Government's Trade Recovery Strategy and advance New Zealand's trade and economic interests in our second fastest growing export destination amongst our top markets (export growth of 26% over the last year alone).

#### *Jakarta – Bilateral Meetings*

13. In Jakarta I met with Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Airlangga Hartarto,<sup>s6(a)</sup>

I reiterated our strong bilateral and trade relationship,

and took the opportunity to highlight that New Zealand is waiting on a response from Indonesia on the halal cooperation arrangement.

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

16. I was also able to reiterate the benefits of greater co-operation on halal certification with Indonesian counterparts from Indonesia's House of Representatives and the Minister of Religious Affairs. New Zealand exports significant quantities of halal meat and dairy products to Indonesia (Indonesia is our second largest market for dairy products, worth \$1.4 billion), and a halal co-operation arrangement would ensure that we continue to meet the needs and requirements of the Indonesian regulatory system.

17. In a meeting with the Minister of Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia, Budi Karya Sumadi, I signalled New Zealand's interest <sup>s6(a)</sup> in the context of the ASEAN-New Zealand Regional Air Services Agreement (ASA) as a means to facilitate two-way trade, tourism and people-to-people links. The next officials' level negotiating round on the ASA will occur in September. I was also able to discuss tourism sector opportunities and the importance of 'connectivity' between our countries at a dinner with representatives from Indonesia's Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

*Jakarta – New Zealand Business and Indonesian Think Tanks*

18. During a New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) led roundtable with New Zealand business representatives (in sectors including food and beverage, geothermal, construction, and banking) I discussed the real impacts of non-tariff barriers to trade, and the importance that the New Zealand Government places on supporting New Zealand business interests in region.

19. A meeting with Indonesian Think Tank representatives facilitated closed-door discussions on Indonesia's post-election economic prospects, and economic policies such as 'downstreaming' and 'energy transition'.

20. My visit demonstrated the importance of having Ministers visit the region kanohi ki te kanohi, to ensure that New Zealand continues to be visible as an active and constructive partner to our ASEAN partners on trade and economic issues.



### **Proactive release**

21. This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

### **Recommendation**

22. I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement.

Hon Rino Tirikatene

Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth

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