

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 3 July 2024

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

Title	Reference
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – June 2024</i>	<i>CAB-24-MIN-0175</i>
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Viet Nam, Malaysia, Philippines, and Timor-Leste, 4 to 13 June 2024</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(e)(vi) to avoid damage to the New Zealand economy by the premature disclosure of decisions relating to entering into of overseas trade agreements;
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy;
- 9(2)(b)(ii): to avoid prejudice to the commercial position of another party; and
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.



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: Rt Hon Winston Peters - June 2024

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 20 May 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 4 to 13 June 2024, to travel to Viet Nam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Timor-Leste to undertake bilateral engagements;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$65,751 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that he will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Judith Collins KC act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 5.2 Hon Chris Bishop act as Minister for Racing;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

~~Restricted~~

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Viet Nam, Malaysia, Philippines, and Timor-Leste, 4 to 13 June 2024.

- 1 I seek Cabinet's approval to undertake official travel to Viet Nam, Malaysia, Philippines, and Timor-Leste from Tuesday 4 June to Thursday 13 June 2024.
- 2 The Prime Minister's office has approved this travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 My visit to South East Asia supports the government's plan to increase New Zealand's focus on our important relationships in South East Asia, a region critical to New Zealand's prosperity and security. If approved, we intend to travel to Viet Nam, Malaysia, Philippines, and Timor-Leste for bilateral engagements with my Foreign Minister counterparts and other relevant political leaders. We will register New Zealand's ambition to rejuvenate engagement with key partners in the Indo-Pacific, and note our shared values, interests, and strategic direction in the region.
- 4 A visit to the region, so quickly after the Prime Minister's mission, will underline to our partners that South East Asia matters to New Zealand, and will further signal the high tempo of engagement New Zealand intends to carry forward in the coming years. The destinations selected for this travel both maintain momentum gained from the recent visits (Viet Nam and Philippines) and renew face-to-face engagement where high-level visits are long overdue (Malaysia and Timor-Leste).
- 5 We will use this visit to pursue a number of objectives in each country.

Viet Nam

- 6 Viet Nam and New Zealand will celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations in 2025. In the same year New Zealand will commemorate 50 years of dialogue relations with ASEAN. Viet Nam will take over as New Zealand's country coordinator with ASEAN in July 2024, making it a critical partner during our 50th anniversary year with ASEAN ^{s6(a)}

- 7 While in Viet Nam we will seek to:
- capitalise on the momentum arising from the Vietnamese Prime Minister's visit to New Zealand in March 2024;
 - advance our ambition to further elevate our bilateral Strategic Partnership; and
 - seek a political commitment to enhance air services arrangements between New Zealand and Viet Nam ^{s6(e)(vi), s9(2)(b)(ii)}

Malaysia

- 8 Malaysia will chair ASEAN next year, when we look to hold a Commemorative Summit with ASEAN Leaders, likely in the margins of the East Asia Summit in late-2025.
- 9 While in Malaysia, we will seek to:
- further deepen the New Zealand-Malaysia bilateral relationship, building on the foundations laid through the bilateral Strategic Partnership signed in 2023; and
 - participate in the inaugural annual Foreign Ministers talks, agreed under the Strategic Partnership in 2023.

Philippines

- 10 The Philippines under the current Marcos administration is a country both youthful and dynamic offering opportunities for New Zealand business and labour market alike. ^{s6(a)}
- 11 While in Philippines, we will seek to:
- build on momentum gained from the Prime Minister's mission to the Philippines in April;
 - reiterate New Zealand's commitment to strengthening our bilateral relationship, including launching discussions on the Roadmap to elevating our bilateral relationship to a Comprehensive Partnership;
 - seek agreement on the main pillars of the roadmap to achieve Comprehensive Partnership Status with the Philippines and a timeframe for launching the Roadmap;

- progress timeframes for concluding a Status of Forces Agreement with the Philippines;
- secure support from Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs for regaining market access for onions;
- confirm a contribution to the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, hosted in the Philippines;
- witness the signing of a memorandum of arrangement with the Philippines Anti-Red Tape Authority and New Zealand consultancy Creative HQ; and
- s6(a)

Timor-Leste

- 12 No Foreign Minister from New Zealand has visited Timor-Leste for a decade, despite the close relationship established during the forging of the country's independence. Timor-Leste now stands at an inflection point, poised to become a member of ASEAN, yet with significant development challenges and diminishing oil and gas revenues.
- 13 While in Timor-Leste, we will seek to:
- re-connect with the political leadership of Timor-Leste and demonstrate New Zealand's continued support for Timor-Leste's development and regional integration;
 - s9(2)(f)(iv)
 - extend New Zealand support for English Language Training for Timor-Leste officials in support of that country's membership of ASEAN.

Outline of Proposed Visit

- 14 During my visit to Viet Nam, we intend to travel to Ha Noi and seek the following calls and undertake the following engagements:
- Meet Minister of Foreign Affairs Bui Thanh Son;
 - Courtesy meeting with Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh;
 - Meet Chairman Le Hoai Trung, Central Commission for External Relations; and
 - Engagement with New Zealand and Vietnamese business leaders.

- 15 During my visit to Malaysia, we intend to travel to Kuala Lumpur to seek the following calls and undertake the following engagements:
- Meet Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamad bin Haji Hasan;
 - Meet Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and his wife Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, who I have remained in contact with for many years.
 - Breakfast with New Zealand business leaders; and
 - Engagement with the Malaysian racing sector which is a market for New Zealand bloodstock.
- 16 During my visit to the Philippines, we intend to travel to Manila and seek the following calls and undertake the following engagements:
- Meetings with Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique Manalo, and Secretary of National Defense Gilbert Teodoro;
 - Courtesy call on President Ferdinand Marcos; and
 - Reception at the Official Residence for alumni and bilateral relationship stakeholders.
- 17 During my visit to Timor-Leste, we intend to travel to Dili and seek the following calls and undertake the following engagements:
- Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Bendito dos Santos Freitas;
 - A New Zealand alumni breakfast; and
 - Wreath laying at the New Zealand plaque to commemorate New Zealanders who died in the fight for Timor-Leste's independence.
- 18 In Viet Nam, the Philippines and Timor-Leste we will use the opportunity of my engagements to assess the effectiveness of New Zealand's International Development Cooperation programme.
- 19 We will transit overnight in Indonesia (Bali).^{s6(a), s9(2)(a)}
- 20 If travel is approved, we will depart for Ha Noi on Tuesday 4 June, and return to New Zealand on Thursday 13 June via Bali.

Travel Costs

21 The estimated cost for this travel is:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
Flights	\$37,626
Total:	\$37,626
Viet Nam	
Accommodation	\$1,350
Airport facilitation	\$0
Transport	\$0
Meals	\$240
Hospitality/representation costs [50% of total representation costs]	\$2,625
Gifts	\$1,700
<i>Viet Nam Subtotal</i>	\$5,915
Malaysia	
Accommodation	\$2,229
Airport facilitation	\$0
Meals	\$390
Hospitality/representation costs [50% of total representation costs]	\$3,041
Gifts	\$800
<i>Malaysia subtotal</i>	\$6,460
Philippines	
Accommodation	\$592
Airport facilitation	\$0
Transport	\$163
Meals	\$200
Hospitality/representation costs	\$0
Gifts	\$1,050
<i>Philippines subtotal</i>	\$2,005.00
Bali (overnight transit)	
Accommodation	\$280
Airport facilitation	\$143
Transport	\$83
Meals	\$0
Hospitality/representation costs	\$0
Gifts	\$0
<i>Bali subtotal</i>	\$506
Timor-Leste	

Accommodation	\$800
Airport facilitation	\$0
Transport	\$354
Meals and miscellaneous	\$217
Hospitality/representation costs [50% of total representation costs]	\$4,188
Gifts	\$1,450
Interpretation	\$252
<i>Timor-Leste subtotal</i>	\$7,262
Overall subtotal	\$59,774
Contingency 10%	\$5,977
TOTAL	\$65,751

Ministerial Party

- 22 If my travel is approved, I will be accompanied by my Senior Specialist Ministerial Adviser and our costs will be charged to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel. I will also be accompanied by my Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser, seconded to my office from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be covered by the Ministry.
- 23 MFAT officials to join include South and South East Asia Divisional Manager. Their costs will also be covered by the Ministry.

Acting Ministers

- 24 If travel is approved, in my absence Hon Judith Collins will cover my foreign affairs portfolio, and Hon Chris Bishop will cover my racing portfolio.

Proactive release

- 25 This Cabinet 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 redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet
- 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from Tuesday 4 June to Thursday 13 June, for travel to Viet Nam, Malaysia, Philippines, and Timor-Leste;
 - 1.2 agree that I will be accompanied by my Senior Specialist Ministerial Adviser and our costs will be charged to Vote Internal Affairs – Members of the Executive – Travel;

- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of NZD \$65,751 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 1.4 note that I will be accompanied by my Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser who is seconded from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to my office and the Divisional Manager for South and South East Asia Division, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 1.5 agree that in my absence;
 - i. Hon Judith Collins will cover my foreign affairs portfolio; and
 - ii. Hon Chris Bishop will cover my racing portfolio, from 4 to 13 June.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs