

Proactive Release

Date: 14 October 2019

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute has been proactively released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

***Proposed Overseas Travel: Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Fletcher Tabuteau***

Ethiopia and Kenya 8–14 September 2019

(CAB-19-MIN-0441 refers)

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

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government.

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 2 September 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Fletcher Tabuteau MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 8 to 14 September 2019, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to attend the opening of the New Zealand Embassy's Chancery;
 - 1.2 Kenya to undertake bilateral discussions;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one staff member from the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- 3 **approved** the expenditure of up to \$26,446 for the expenses of the travelling party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel).

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Chair,
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: UNDER-SECRETARY FLETCHER
TABUTEAU**

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Ethiopia and Kenya from 8 – 14 September in my capacity as Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. The overarching objectives of the visit are to represent the New Zealand Government at the formal opening of the New Zealand Embassy's Chancery in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and to advance our bilateral relationships with Ethiopia, Kenya, as well as the African Union, which is based in Addis Ababa. The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle.

Travel Objectives

2 Specifically, the objectives for the visit to **Ethiopia** are:

- Officially open the New Zealand Chancery in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Political representation from the New Zealand Government at the formal opening event on 10 September would raise New Zealand's profile and help draw in high-level attendance from both Ethiopia and the African Union.
- Significantly reinforce the New Zealand/Ethiopia relationship. In particular, this would entail renewing high-level links as well as show support in the lead-up to Ethiopia's historic May 2020 election.
- Advocate for better conditions for foreign investors, including New Zealand's existing and planned dairy investments.
- Maintain high-level contacts with the African Union and draw recognition for New Zealand's partnership support, including through the AU-New Zealand Geothermal Facility and the African Union Handbook.

- Reinforce the shared value of New Zealand's ongoing commitment to the African continent following the uptick in engagement during the UN Security Council campaign and term. This would include by engaging with diplomatic alumni from the successful 'ELTO Africa' English-language training for officials programme that New Zealand hosts.

3 The objectives for the visit to **Kenya** are:

- Boost New Zealand's bilateral engagement with Kenya – our broadest relationship in East Africa. A political visit from the New Zealand Government would help deepen high-level links ^{s6(a)}
- Kenya is also a Commonwealth leader in Africa and an important partner for us on the continent as we look to deepen Commonwealth linkages. A political visit at this time would reinforce New Zealand's commitment to traditional Commonwealth partners, including Kenya, and to improving the functioning and practical value of the organisation. Neighbouring Rwanda's hosting of CHOGM next year provides further focus to this objective.
- Highlight New Zealand's development interventions, including a visit to the Kenya Avocado project (in conjunction with New Zealand investor Olivado). A visit would also enable us to give prominence to the African Union-New Zealand Geothermal Facility's support for Kenya's geothermal industry.
- A rare political visit from the New Zealand Government to Kenya would also provide a leveraging opportunity to promote the interests of New Zealand companies in the country.

Travel

4 I propose to depart New Zealand on the evening of Sunday 8 September and return to New Zealand on Saturday 14 September 2019.

Travelling Party

5 I propose to be accompanied by a Foreign Affairs Private Secretary in the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Under-Secretary Responsibilities

6 I propose that the Minister of Foreign Affairs cover my Foreign Affairs responsibilities and that the Minister for Regional Economic Development cover my Regional Economic Development responsibilities during the travelling period.

Costs of Travel

7 The projected costs of the proposed travel for the travelling party are:

Airfares:	\$21,356
Accommodation:	\$1,380
Hospitality and gifts:	\$2,450
Contingency (5%):	\$1,260
Total	\$26,446

Proactive Release

8 I plan to release this paper in part within 30 business days. All redactions will be made in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

9 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my proposed travel to Ethiopia and Kenya from 8 to 14 September 2019 in my capacity as Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs;
- b) **note** that I would be accompanied by one staff member from the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- c) **approve** expenditure up to \$26,446 for the expenses of the travelling party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel; and

- d) **agree** that my Under-Secretary responsibilities be covered by the respective Ministers from 8 to 14 September 2019.

Approved for lodgement

Fletcher Tabuteau MP
Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Under-Secretary for Regional Economic Development

Proactively released by the
Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs