

Proactive Release

Date: 13 February 2020

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Aupito William Sio

(CAB-19-MIN-0665 refers)

[© Crown Copyright, Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\)](#)



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 and Hon Aupito William Sio

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 9 December 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters and Hon Aupito William Sio, from New Zealand, from 13 to 14 December 2019, to travel to Samoa to give support as it contends with a serious measles outbreak;
- 2 **agreed** that the Rt Hon Winston Peters be accompanied by two members of staff from his office and Hon Aupito Sio be accompanied by one member of staff from his office;
- 3 **approved** the expenditure of up to \$17,233 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **agreed** that in the absence of both Ministers:
 - 4.1 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for State Owned Enterprises;
 - 4.2 Hon David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
 - 4.3 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister for Racing;
 - 4.4 Hon Carmel Sepuloni act as Minister for Pacific Peoples;
- 5 **noted** that the House is not sitting in their absence.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Hon Aupito William Sio

Chair,
Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: SAMOA: 13-14 DECEMBER 2019

I seek Cabinet approval to travel with the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Hon Aupito William Sio, to Samoa from 13-14 December 2019.

Travel Objectives

1 The key objective for the visit is to demonstrate, at the highest levels, New Zealand's support to Samoa as it contends with a serious measles outbreak. The outbreak has caused significant loss of life and seen a substantial and growing proportion of the population contract measles. To assist Samoa contain the outbreak, New Zealand has to date provided three packages of assistance, worth up to \$NZD 4 million. In line with Samoa's needs, this has supported the deployment of medical personnel, and the provision of medical equipment, supplies, and medication. New Zealand has also provided essential support to Tonga and Fiji, as those countries seek to manage smaller outbreaks of measles. New Zealand continues to monitor the risk of a measles outbreak occurring in other Pacific countries by working closely with host-country Governments.

2 Samoa and New Zealand share a close and special partnership. The two countries have a longstanding relationship and work closely together in the region on a range of issues, including on climate change, security, and on enhancing the prosperity of the region. New Zealand's development assistance programme in Samoa is focused on economic development, education and health. The two countries also share significant people-to-people and cultural links. The Samoan diaspora in New Zealand is the largest Pacific Peoples ethnic group in the country.

3 A short visit by myself and Minister Sio would enable New Zealand to:

- Convey, at the highest levels, our condolences and sympathy to Samoa for the loss of life caused by the measles outbreak.
- Reinforce our continued support to Samoa and the wider Pacific, as we work collectively to combat the measles outbreak.
- Assess, first hand, the short and long term social, economic and political impact of the measles outbreak in Samoa.
- Gauge the effectiveness of the assistance that New Zealand and other donors have provided to Samoa to date and identify future areas of need.
- Engage with Samoan Prime Minister, Rt Hon Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, and other senior Samoan Ministers on the direction of New Zealand's long term support to Samoa's health sector.
- Determine whether the delivery of New Zealand's aid programme in Samoa will be impacted by the measles outbreak.

4 Our proposed programme in Samoa would involve joint calls with Prime Minister Tuilaepa and Samoa's Minister of Health, Hon Faimalotoa Kika Stowers-Ah Kau. We would also have the opportunity to engage with Samoa's Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, and the heads of the Government agencies leading on Samoa's response to the outbreak. This is likely to include the heads of the Samoan Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministry of Health.

5 The programme will also include a visit to a local hospital in order to engage with New Zealand medical personnel operating on the ground. There would also be opportunities to meet separately with international and local non-governmental organisations to hear their perspectives on the response to the outbreak, support provided by donors and future areas of need.

Travel

6 I propose that Minister Sio and I depart New Zealand on the morning of Friday 13 December and return on the evening of Saturday 14 December 2019. We would not miss any Cabinet meetings.

Ministerial Party

7 I would be accompanied by a Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs) and a Press Secretary from my office. Minister Sio would be accompanied by a Private Secretary (Pacific Peoples.)

Acting Ministers

8 If approval is granted, Hon Dr David Clark would act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio; Hon David Parker would act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament and Arms Control Portfolios, Hon Shane Jones would act in my Racing portfolio, and Hon Carmel Sepuloni would act in Minister Sio's Pacific Peoples portfolio from 13 to 14 December.

Costs of Travel

9 The projected costs of the proposed travel for the Ministerial Party are:

Airfares:	\$ 10,505
Accommodation and other expenses:	\$ 3,861
Hospitality and gifts:	\$ 1,300
Contingency	\$ 1,567
Total	\$ 17,233

Proactive Release

10 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.

Recommendations

11 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) approve my proposed travel with Minister Sio to Samoa between 13-14 December 2019;
- b) Note that I would be accompanied by a Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs) and a Press Secretary from my office and Minister Sio would be accompanied by a Private Secretary (Pacific Peoples) from his office;
- c) agree that Hon Dr David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio; Hon David Parker act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament and Arms Control Portfolios, Hon Shane Jones act in my Racing portfolio, and Hon Carmel Sepuloni act in Minister Sio's Pacific Peoples portfolio from 13-14 December; and
- d) approve expenditure up to \$17,233 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

Approved for lodgement by

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs