

Proactive Release

Date: 22 April 2022

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

Title	Reference
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon. Jenny Salesa on behalf of Hon Nanaia Mahuta</i>	
<i>Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Jenny Salesaa on behalf of Hon Nanaia Mahuta</i>	CAB-22-MIN-0079

Proactively Released
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs



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: Hon Jenny Salesa on behalf of Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 21 March 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Jenny Salesa from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 24 March to 2 April 2022 to travel on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to:
 - 1.1 Doha, Qatar to participate in the Doha Forum;
 - 1.2 Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) to participate in the World Government Summit;
 - 1.3 Manama, Bahrain for bilateral meetings;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by one staff member from her office;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$53,624 for the travel expenses of the party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that she will be supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) officials from the New Zealand Embassies in UAE and Saudi Arabia, whose travel costs will be met by MFAT;
- 5 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon. Jenny Salesa

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval for Hon. Jenny Salesa to travel as my delegated representative from 24 March to 2 April, 2022. Travel will be to Doha, Qatar; Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE); and Manama, Bahrain. The purpose of the travel is to participate in the Doha Forum in Qatar from 26-27 March 2022 and the World Government Summit from 29-30 March in the UAE as well as hold bilateral meetings with key regional representatives on the margins. She will also visit Bahrain for bilateral meetings, to meet Shura Council representatives, and to discuss regional strategic issues of relevance with the three NZDF personnel assigned to the Combined Maritime Forces.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought/approved from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The primary purpose of this travel is to participate in the Doha Forum. This is the 20th year of the Forum which brings together thinkers, policy makers and journalists to discuss global challenges and offer solutions. Our participation demonstrates the importance Aotearoa New Zealand attaches to its relationship with the Gulf region. It is an opportunity to reinvigorate our political and economic partnerships that were limited during the pandemic. Hon. Salesa will speak on a panel entitled *Governing the Global Climate Crisis: The New Frontier* about the Government's Pacific Resilience Strategy with a focus on small states, vulnerabilities and climate change. This is another opportunity to reinforce Aotearoa New Zealand's values.
- 4 Hon. Salesa will also participate in the World Government Summit which is in tandem with the closing of "Expo 2020 Dubai". The UAE remains our largest trading partner in the region. The World Government Summit will be a major global event focused on the theme of "Shaping the Future of Governments". She will also likely speak on a panel to discuss our Pacific Resilience Strategy.
- 5 Hon. Salesa will seek bilateral meetings with DFAT Secretary Kathryn Campbell, Representatives from other GCC countries, and the Representatives from Pacific Island countries including resident Ambassadors from Tonga, Fiji, and Tuvalu in the United Arab Emirates (depending on availability). If time allows she will also engage with civil society on issues such as human rights, including the rights of women and persons with disabilities and countering violent extremism.

6 As well as Doha and Dubai, I propose that Hon. Salesa undertake a short working visit to Bahrain (Manama). A member of the GCC, Bahrain is a small but relevant regional player, with an active parliament. MFAT considers that a visit would be valuable as Bahrain has not benefited from a Wellington-based official visit since prior to the pandemic.

Ministerial Party

7 Hon. Salesa will be joined by one staff member from her office, Salote Austin, Parliamentary Communications/Policy Adviser and will be assisted by staff from our Embassy in the United Arab Emirates for the Doha and Dubai leg of the trip and our Embassy in Saudi Arabia for the Bahrain portion of the trip.

8 The travel costs for Hon Salesa's staff member are included below. The travel costs for Embassy staff will be met by MFAT.

Travel Costs

9 List the estimated costs of the travel for two people:

Airfares:	\$28,426
Accommodation:	\$4,800
Per diems	\$2,940
Facilitation	\$2,000
Other transport	\$1,200
Representation	\$3,000
Gifts	\$500
Covid tests	\$1,820
Contingency (20%)	\$8,938
Total:	\$53,624

Acting Ministers

10 Hon. Salesa as chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade committee will be serving as the delegate for Hon. Minister Mahuta but not serving as Minister. Travel will fall during a sitting week, her duties as Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, as well as her duties as Assistant Speaker, will be covered during her absence.

Proactive release

- 11 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 redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

1. authorise Hon. Salesa's absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured from 24 March to 2 April to travel to Doha, Qatar to participate in the Doha Forum and Dubai, UAE to participate in the World Government Summit and Manama, Bahrain for bilateral meetings.
2. agree that Hon. Salesa be accompanied by one member of her staff.
3. approve the estimated expenditure of \$53,624 for the travel expenses of the party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
4. note that Hon. Salesa will be supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) officials from our Embassies in UAE and Saudi Arabia, whose travel costs will be met by MFAT;
5. note that as travel will fall during a sitting week, Hon. Salesa's duties as Chair of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, as well as her duties as Assistant Speaker, will be covered during her absence;
6. note that leave from Parliament for Hon. Salesa has been sought from/approved by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta,

Minister of Foreign Affairs