

# Proactive Release

Date: 25 September 2023

The following Cabinet paper has been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Rino Tirikatene	CAB-23-MIN-0371
Overseas Travel: Hon Rino Tirikatene Jakarta, Indonesia from 20 – 26 August.	

There is a Cabinet Minute associated with this Cabinet Paper. This paper was approved by Ministers with Powers to Act outside the Cabinet schedule.

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 section of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reason for withholding it.

Key to redaction code:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;



# 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 Rino Tirikatene

Portfolio                      Trade and Export Growth

On 14 August 2023, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Rino Tirikatene from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 20 to 26 August 2023, to travel 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 for bilateral discussions;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one staff member;
- 3        **approved** the expenditure of up to \$43,618.56 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 their department;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence Hon Ginny Andersen act as Minister for Courts;
- 6        **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~[RESTRICTED]~~

Office of the Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth

Chair, Cabinet

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

1. I seek Cabinet's approval to travel to Semarang and Jakarta, Indonesia from 20 - 26 August.
2. The Prime Minister previously approved in-principle my travel to:
  - a. Semarang, Indonesia (20-23 August), and
  - b. Suva, Fiji (23-28 August).
3. My travel to Semarang includes ASEAN Ministerial meetings, and the signing of the Upgrade of the Agreement to establish the ASEAN-Australia New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA).
4. My planned travel to Fiji included attending the Pacific Island Forum Trade Ministers' Meeting (FTMM). However, due to a s6(a) postponement of the FTMM meetings, I am seeking Cabinet's approval to:
  - a. drop Fiji from the travel programme, and
  - b. amend the Indonesia programme to include an additional stop in Jakarta. This would allow me to conduct bilateral business and would make the most of having a Minister in the ASEAN region.
5. The proposed new itinerary allows me to maximise the bilateral relationship benefits of my visit to Indonesia and reduces my overall time out of New Zealand by two days compared to the original itinerary.

### **Reasons for Travel**

6. The purpose of my travel to Indonesia is to advance New Zealand's trade and export growth interests in my capacity as Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth.
7. New Zealand's interests include the Upgrade of AANZFTA, and attending the annual suite of ASEAN-related ministerial meetings, involving members of ASEAN and their dialogue partners.
8. I will also look to support the government's Trade Recovery Strategy and progress New Zealand's trade and economic interests in Indonesia's capital of Jakarta, where I will seek engagement with Ministerial counterparts and further New Zealand's business interests.

### **Semarang Programme**

#### *AANZFTA Upgrade*

9. Significantly, the signing of the AANZFTA Upgrade will take place during this visit. This Upgrade will modernise the Agreement, further reduce barriers impacting imports, and boost trade in the Indo-Pacific region.

10. I will alongside my ministerial counterparts take part in the public ceremony, and signing of the Agreement. This will be important to signal the hard work that all Parties have committed to deliver on and will reaffirm the high value that New Zealand places in this Agreement.

*ASEAN-Related Ministerial Meetings*

11. The ASEAN-related ministerial meetings will include:

- 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 will continue momentum on governance and implementation issues important to New Zealand.

12. New Zealand's attendance at ministerial level at the ASEAN-related meetings will reinforce our commitment to our partnership with ASEAN, and to ASEAN-centrality in the Indo-Pacific region. Ministerial travel, and building relationships with leaders face to face, is essential to protect and promote New Zealand's interests in the region.

13. The visit will highlight the importance of our trade relationship with ASEAN. It will be an important opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to, and help influence, the ASEAN-led regional economic architecture.

14. It will also acknowledge and deepen our relationship with Indonesia as a unique and highly trusted partner, as 2023 is Indonesia's year as ASEAN Chair.

*Jakarta Programme*

15. A bilateral programme in Jakarta will help 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).

16. A programme is proposed to include the following:

- a. Ministerial-counterpart calls with Indonesian ministers;
- b. Engagement in events with market experts, New Zealand companies (business roundtable/informal networking) and informal briefings with NZ government agencies in-market teams; and
- c. New Zealand export-relevant site visits.

## Outline of Proposed Visit

Meeting	Date	Location
Depart: New Zealand	20 August	
Working Lunch: 11 <sup>th</sup> EAS Economic Ministers' Meeting	21 August	Semarang, Central Java Indonesia
28 <sup>th</sup> AEM-CER Consultation	22 August	
2 <sup>nd</sup> RCEP Ministerial Meeting	22 August	
AANZFTA Upgrade Signing	21-22 August	
Ministerial Counterpart Calls, meetings with market experts, New Zealand businesses, and export-relevant site visits	23-25 August	Jakarta, Indonesia
Arrive: New Zealand	26 August	

## Travel

17. I will depart New Zealand by commercial means on Sunday 20 August, and return to New Zealand by commercial means on Saturday 26 August.

## Ministerial Party

18. I propose to be accompanied by one staff member from my office, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Costs for Ministry officials will be met by the agency.

## Acting Ministers

19. In my absence, Hon Ginny Andersen will act as Minister for Courts, and Hon Damien O'Connor will act as Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth.

## Costs

The following costs for travel, revised since the Prime Minister's initial approval, reflect the change in travel arrangements including the extension of the Indonesia programme, and the time that has lapsed since receiving initial travel quotes:

Airfares, taxes and change/cancellation fees:	\$ 35,072.26
Accommodation:	\$ 2,531.00
Representation/Events:	\$ 1000.00
Meals, gratuities and incidentals:	\$ 500.00
Transport:	\$ 300.00
Gifts:	\$ 350.00
Contingency (10%):	\$ 3,965.30
Total	\$ 43,618.56

The total costs are similar when compared to the original itinerary (\$42,091.50 for Indonesia and Fiji).

## **Recommendations**

I recommend that Cabinet:

1. Authorise my absence from New Zealand from 20 – 26 August, to travel to Semarang and Jakarta, Indonesia;
2. Agree that I be accompanied by one staff member from my office, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
3. Approve the expenditure of \$43,618.56 for the travel expenses, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
4. Agree that in my absence Hon Ginny Andersen act as Minister for Courts, and Hon Damien O'Connor act as Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth; and
5. Note that leave from Parliament is being sought from the Chief Whip.

– Authorised for lodgement –

**Hon Rino Tirikatene**

Minister for Courts

Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth