

# Proactive Release

16/10/2023

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b><i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta</i></b>	CAB-23-MIN-0425
<b><i>Report to Cabinet: Hon Nanaia Mahuta – Visit to South Africa, 1-8 August 2023</i></b>	ERS-22-MIN-0035

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; and
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Portfolio

Foreign Affairs

On 4 September 2023, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Nanaia Mahuta under CAB-23-SUB-0425 on her travel, from 1 to 8 August 2023, to travel to Pretoria, Johannesburg, and Cape Town, South Africa to hold bilateral meetings and support the New Zealand Silver Ferns.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

## **Report to Cabinet: Hon Nanaia Mahuta – Visit to South Africa, 1-8 August 2023**

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Pretoria, Johannesburg, and Cape Town, South Africa, 1-8 August 2023.

### **Report**

- 2 The focus of my visit to South Africa was to deepen bilateral ties with one of Aotearoa New Zealand's highest priority relationships in Africa. As well as a comprehensive engagement with my South African counterpart, Naledi Pandor, my visit allowed me to deepen whanaungatanga and people-to-people links with a broad range of stakeholders in our bilateral relationship across foreign policy, trade, international development cooperation and sports diplomacy, including key South African Ministers, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, academics, women leaders, Manaaki New Zealand scholarship alumni, and indigenous representatives.
- 3 Promoting and developing trade and economic opportunities was another focus of my visit. South Africa as a G20 member, a diverse trading partner and a critical point of entry to the African continent (including as a gateway market to the new African Continental Free Trade Agreement Area), offers many opportunities for New Zealand business. Engagements in Johannesburg in particular afforded opportunities to advance this priority.
- 4 In addition, a further purpose of my visit was to represent the Minister of Sport, Hon Grant Robertson at the Netball World Cup, where I was able to support the New Zealand Silver Ferns and promote Aotearoa New Zealand through sports-diplomacy-focused meetings, including meetings with the South African Sports Minister and Tongan Internal Affairs Minister, and my participation in events with the Silver Ferns and New Zealand Netball.
- 5 My visit delivered on the following objectives:
  - s6(a)
  - Exploring opportunities to deepen cooperation in sustainable development; climate change; and other multilateral areas in which Aotearoa New Zealand and South Africa share common views;



- Supporting Aotearoa New Zealand's trade and economic activity in Africa, and learning more about potential opportunities, and challenges, for New Zealand businesses operating in Africa;
  - Building Aotearoa New Zealand's sports diplomacy (already an important aspect of the bilateral relationship), through supporting the Silver Ferns in the latter stages of the Netball World Cup hosted by South Africa in Cape town.
- 6 The programme – in Pretoria, Johannesburg, and Cape Town – included activities encompassing foreign policy, trade, international development cooperation, indigenous people to people links, and sports diplomacy.

*Pretoria programme*

- 7 In Pretoria, I participated in a roundtable of Emerging African Women Leaders in acknowledgement of Women's Month in South Africa which allowed me an opportunity to engage on some of the key challenges facing South Africa and the southern African region, and hear from a cross-sectoral group of women leaders. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- 8 The importance of the Manaaki New Zealand Scholarships Programme and its alumni was also underscored in a morning tea I hosted with scholarships alumni, in particular mid-career officials who had completed online courses in 'good governance' and 'trade', and underscoring the value proposition of Manaaki scholarships and our focus on long-term relationships with recipients (thereby continuing to build deeper ties between our two countries). This provided a unique opportunity to hear directly from scholars, who overwhelmingly found the scholarships rewarding and positive for their career development, and leveraging opportunities for future scholarships opportunities.

*Johannesburg programme*

- 9 In Johannesburg, I attended a roundtable with representatives from three New Zealand businesses operating successfully on the African continent, based in South Africa. This was useful in learning about the opportunities, as well as the challenges, that exist for New Zealand businesses in the region. <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>
- 10 I met with the Chief Executive of the African Union (AU) Development Agency's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), an economic implementing arm for the African Union's development strategy. During this engagement, I announced Aotearoa New Zealand's support to the initiative to enable the development of an accelerator programme supporting accelerating

regional trade in agriculture (NZD6.45 million), that would target the development of small to medium agribusiness across the region and allow Aotearoa New Zealand an opportunity to utilise our experience to provide SMEs with skills to access and maximise opportunities from free trade agreements, with the potential that links could also be established with New Zealand businesses operating in the region.

- 11 I visited Soweto to learn about the history and contemporary challenges facing the Townships. As part of this visit, I paid respects at the Hector Pieterse Memorial in Soweto, which has significant symbolic importance for South Africa as a key site of the anti-apartheid struggle. I also visited the Oprah Winfrey Leadership School to see the opportunities being made available to gifted girls from disadvantaged backgrounds.

*Cape Town programme: Bilateral meetings*

- 12 In Cape Town, I held four bilateral meetings: three with South African Ministers and one with Tonga.
- 13 I held a comprehensive bilateral meeting with the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Minister Naledi Pandor, which was the first formal bilateral between foreign ministers since 2015. This bilateral was timely in terms of helping to strengthen the Aotearoa New Zealand – South Africa relationship and reinforcing our value proposition as a trusted partner.

- 14 s6(a)

- 15 Our meeting also provided the opportunity for us to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation between our countries, which had been under discussion at officials' level since 2017. The Memorandum is a non-binding instrument that sets out key principles underpinning the bilateral relationship, and areas of future focus for our two countries moving forward. Minister Pandor also thanked Aotearoa New Zealand for its support during the apartheid struggle.

- 16 In addition to Minister Pandor, I met with:

- *South African Minister of Sport Zizi Kodwa*, with whom I discussed potential bilateral sports cooperation and the potential for sports to provide a pathway

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<sup>1</sup> Grouping of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.



out of poverty, as well as to enhance efforts to address gender inequality, and exchanging information on using sports to help disadvantaged groups.

- *Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Zolile Burns-Ncamashe*, where we discussed South Africa's perspective on indigenous peoples. I shared information about our Māori-Crown partnership journey. My meeting with Deputy Minister Burns-Ncamashe took place after I visited Khwattu San heritage centre – set up by a New Zealander – where I heard from indigenous San representatives on their way of life, the impact of colonialism, the contemporary challenges faced by indigenous peoples in South Africa, and their efforts to revive their traditional culture and practices.
- *The Tongan Minister of Internal Affairs Lord Albert Vaea*, where we exchanged views on supporting Pacific aspirations for women and girls in sport and Tonga's renewed interest in netball following the qualification of the Tongan team to the Netball World Cup, and how we might work with Tonga to collaborate in this area.

#### *Cape Town: Other programme elements*

- 17 In Cape Town I also represented the Minister of Sport and Recreation, Hon Grant Robertson, at the Netball World Cup. In addition to supporting the Silver Ferns in the latter stages of the tournament, I met with Netball New Zealand's CEO, Board Chair, and Head of Commercial as well as the President of New Zealand and members of the Māori Netball community. I also attended the Silver Ferns whānau event at the conclusion of the tournament, where I relayed support for the players and acknowledged the Silver Ferns' efforts in the tournament.

#### **Proactive Release**

- 18 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 redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

#### **Recommendations**

I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1 Note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere