

Proactive Release

04/05/2023

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta</i>	CAB-23-MIN-0191
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta</i>	



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 Nanaia Mahuta

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 22 May 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Nanaia Mahuta from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 28 May to 1 June 2023, to travel to the Republic of Korea to attend the inaugural Korea-Pacific Leaders' Summit and undertake bilateral meetings;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by one staff member;
- 3 **approved** the expenditure of up to \$23,938 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that she 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 her absence Hon David Parker act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~[IN CONFIDENCE]~~

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

1. I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the Republic of Korea from 28 May – 1 June. Prime Minister Chris Hipkins has approved this travel in-principle.

Executive Summary

Purpose of Travel

2. As previously agreed, I propose to travel to the Republic of Korea (ROK) to attend the inaugural Korea-Pacific Leaders' Summit and undertake a bilateral programme 29-31 May. New Zealand has a strategic interest in being part of discussions that involve and affect our region, and my attendance at the Summit will also strengthen our relationship with Korea, both bilaterally and in terms of regional cooperation.

3. ROK is an important bilateral partner for New Zealand in the wider Indo-Pacific region. We are likeminded and share the same commitment to the rules based international order, human rights and democracy. In 2022 we marked 60 years of diplomatic relations. Further Ministerial engagement would help signal the importance we place on this constructive and valuable bilateral relationship.

4. The addition of one day to my visit, after the Pacific Summit, will also enable me to engage with New Zealand business leaders. ROK is New Zealand's 5th largest trading partner and the market is one of our best performing. Two-way trade was NZD6.5 billion in the year to June 2022. In addition, I will have the opportunity to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the armistice of the Korean War, a conflict in which thousands of New Zealanders participated.

Outline of Proposed Programme

5. Officials are working to secure these programme elements, which will depend on the availability of my counterparts.

- In the Republic of Korea, I intend to:
 - Conduct a series of bilateral meetings with Pacific leaders and Korean counterparts including Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin
 - Take part in an event with New Zealand business to promote and support New Zealand exports to Korea
 - Attend a luncheon hosted by the Korean Prime Minister
 - Attend the Korea-Pacific Leaders' Summit
 - Attend a State Dinner hosted by the Korean President and First Lady
 - Travel to Busan with Pacific Leaders and attend a luncheon hosted by the Mayor of Busan
 - Commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Armistice of the Korean War.

Flights

POLI-162-658

6. Current flights depart Auckland on Sunday 28 May. I intend to return to New Zealand on Thursday 1 June.

Ministerial Party

7. I propose to be accompanied by one staff member paid for by ministerial resources and officials paid for by MFAT.

Estimated Cost

8. The estimated cost for this travel is:

Flights	Two staff @ NZD8,690 per person	NZD 17380
Accommodation - Minister	No cost as Korea is covering	
Accommodation – one staff member paid for by ministerial resource	No cost as Korea is covering	
Gifts	Three gifts at NZD140 each	NZD450
Transportation	Two (NZD 90pp) high speed train tickets	NZD 180
Receptions/events	Small reception for 24 pax at the Residence NZD 700 Medium reception for 70 – 80 pax at the Residence NZD 4000 Office to pay half of NZD 4700: NZD 2350	NZD 2350
Other meals miscellaneous	MFAT per diem rates for business travel: Ad-hoc meals/snacks x2: NZD400 Wreath to lay at UNMCK: NZD150	NZD 550
Subtotal		NZD 20,910
Contingency 15%		NZD 3,028
Total		NZD 23,938

Acting Ministers

9. Leave is being sought from the House.

10. If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon David Parker act as Minister for my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament and Arms Control portfolios.

11. My responsibilities as Associate Minister of Māori Development will revert to the primary Minister, Hon Willie Jackson.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1 Authorise my absence from New Zealand from 28 May – 1 June to travel to Korea.
- 2 Agree that I will be accompanied by one member of my staff paid for by ministerial services.
- 3 Note that I will also be accompanied by officials whose costs will be met the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- 4 Approve the expenditure of \$23,938 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 5 Agree that Hon David Parker will be Acting Minister in my absence.

Authorised for lodgement.

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere