

HON CARMEL SEPULONI, MINISTER FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Ministerial Overseas Travel 21-08-2019 to 24-08-2019 – Release of Cabinet Material

November 2019

This publication provides Cabinet documents regarding the proposal and the report for Honourable Carmel Sepuloni on her travel, from 21 to 24 August, to Samoa to attend the New Zealand and Samoa-hosted Women, Peace and Security Summit and to launch, on behalf of the Minister of Defence, Honourable Ron Mark, the Pacific Women in Defence Network.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the July 2019 Cabinet minute of decision: *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Carmel Sepuloni* [CAB-19-MIN-0347]
- the associated Cabinet paper: *Proposed Overseas Travel: Visit to Samoa from Wednesday 21 August to Saturday 24 August 2019* [CAB-19-SUB-0347]
- the September 2019 Cabinet minute of decision: *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Carmel Sepuloni* [CAB-19-MIN-0495]
- the associated Cabinet paper: *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Carmel Sepuloni* [CAB-19-SUB-0495]

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at:

www.defence.govt.nz/publications.

Certain information has been withheld. Where information is withheld in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the relevant sections of the Act are indicated in the body of the document. Information is withheld where making it available would be likely to prejudice:

- the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand [section 6(a)]
- the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on the basis of confidence by an international organisation [section 6(b)(ii)].



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 Carmel Sepuloni

Portfolio **Social Development**

On 22 July 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Carmel Sepuloni from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 21 to 24 August 2019, to travel to Samoa to host and attend the New Zealand and Samoa-hosted Women, Peace and Security Summit and to launch, on behalf of the Minister of Defence, the Pacific Women in Defence Network;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to [REDACTED] for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 [REDACTED]
- 5 **agreed** that in her absence Hon Poto Williams act as Minister for Social Development and Minister for Disability Issues.

Martin Bell
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Office of the Minister for Social Development

Chair, Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: VISIT TO SAMOA FROM WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST 2019 TO SATURDAY 24 AUGUST 2019.

Proposal

I seek your approval in principle to travel to Samoa from Wednesday 21 August to Saturday 24 August.

Travel Objectives & Background

The purpose of my travel is to attend and host the New Zealand and Samoa-hosted Women, Peace and Security Summit in Samoa at which I will launch, on behalf of the Minister of Defence Hon Ron Mark, a New Zealand initiative, the Pacific Women in Defence Network. The network will promote ongoing support for Pacific security agencies, in accordance with the values of the Government's Pacific Reset, and enable cross-regional interagency information sharing on how to promote and implement UN resolution 1325 and complementary resolutions.

In 2017 the South Pacific Defence Minister's Meeting (SPDMM) agreed to support progress on a Women in Pacific Defence Forces initiative and Ministers accepted the offer made by New Zealand to implement an initiative and establish a Women in Defence Network.

To meet this objective New Zealand and Samoa have agreed to work in collaboration to host a Women, Peace and Security Summit in August 2019 in Apia and launch the Pacific Women in Defence Network.

The target audience for this Summit will be Pacific leaders across a range of spheres, including political leaders (ministerial-level), senior officials, academics and NGOs as well as police and military personnel. The Ministry of Defence is also exploring participation by civil society representatives and local youth in Samoa. Appendix 1 provides an initial list of proposed participating countries and selected speakers. One objective of the event is to bring leaders from a broad range of backgrounds together to promote wider understanding of Pacific Women Peace and Security issues as well as inter-regional learnings and the establishment of new connections and networks.

This would be the first New Zealand-led regional event pitched at this level in support of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the Pacific region. Both the Summit and the launch of the Pacific Women in Defence network will be tangible steps

towards realising the human security pillar of the “Boe Declaration”, signed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in September 2018.

Travel

I propose to leave New Zealand on Wednesday 21 August and arrive back in New Zealand on Saturday 24 August. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Acting Ministers

If you approve my travel, I propose that the Hon Poto Williams to act as Minister for Social Development & Minister for Disability Issues.

[REDACTED]

Recommendation

I recommend that you:

- a) **approve** in principle my proposed travel to Samoa from Wednesday 21 August to Saturday 24 August [REDACTED]
- b) **note** that Hon Poto Williams will act as Minister for Social Development and Minister for Disability Issues; and
- c) **approve** expenditure up to [REDACTED] for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

Approved for Lodgement

Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Social Development
Minister for Disability Issues
Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Portfolio **Social Development**

On 23 September 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Carmel Sepuloni under CAB-19-SUB-0495 on her travel, from 21 to 24 August 2019, to Samoa to co-host the Women, Peace and Security Summit and support the launch of the Pacific Defence Gender Network on behalf of the Minister of Defence.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Office of the Minister of Social Development

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Carmel Sepuloni

1. I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Apia Samoa 21 August 2019 to 24 August 2019 on behalf of Minister of Defence Ron Mark to
 - co-host the Women, Peace and Security Summit on 22-23 August 2019 alongside the Samoan Prime Minister
 - support the Launch of the Pacific Defence Gender Network by Vice Chief of Defence Force
 - participate in the opening of the influenza memorial at Vaimoso Village
 - engage in bilateral meetings
 - visit the Salvation Army drug rehabilitation programme
2. An outcomes report capturing discussions and proposed initiatives from the Women Peace and Security Summit has been publicly released. The report will help to inform the development of Pacific regional frameworks on Women, Peace and Security. The report is attached.

Report

Co-Host the Women, Peace and Security Summit

3. On 22 August I opened the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Summit alongside the Samoan Prime Minister with a key note address. The Summit was jointly hosted by New Zealand and Samoa governments.
4. The Summit was convened to support the promotion and implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 and complementary resolutions, as well as action under the Boe Declaration on Regional Security, endorsed by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2018.
5. The two-day Summit programme focused on:
 - the WPS agenda;
 - understanding the unique cultural context of the region;
 - the importance of meaningful participation of women in the security sector through women in leadership positions;
 - gender mainstreaming;
 - the benefits of WPS National Action Plans;

- practical applications of the WPS agenda in the military and police contexts;
 - the importance of civil society organisations and community groups;
 - climate change and the WPS agenda and the need for further discussion on the gender climate change nexus.
6. Approximately 150 participants attended, representing 24 countries, including 16 Pacific Island countries. The United Nations, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Pacific Community were also represented. The participants were a diverse group of political and community leaders, civilians, police and military personnel (air force, army, navy), civil society organisations and youth representatives.
 7. I delivered a key note address that outlined New Zealand's approach to the global, regional and national Women Peace and Security agenda. It also included a New Zealand Defence perspective.
 8. Following the opening there was a joint press conference between myself, Secretary of Defence Andrew Bridgeman, and Vice Chief of Defence Force, Air Vice-Marshal Tony Davies. Media were interested in the Summit but also in New Zealand's commitment to address the effects of climate change in the region. Media coverage of the Summit was extensive and positive.

Meeting with Hon. Leao Dr Talalelei Tuitama, Minister of Women, Community & Social Development

9.

s6(a)

10.

11.

12.

Meeting with Dame Meg Taylor, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Forum

13.

s6(a)

14.

15.

16.

s6(a)

Welcome Event and the Launch of the Pacific Defence Gender Network

17. The New Zealand High Commission hosted a reception welcoming everyone participating in the Women Peace and Security Summit.
18. Also in attendance was the Samoan Head of State and the Masiofo, Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Fiame Naomi Mata'afa and other senior Ministers, judicial representatives, and public sector leaders.
19. I delivered a welcome to the Summit participants and reaffirmed New Zealand's commitment to the Pacific region and to working in partnership to progress the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the region.
20. During the reception the Pacific Defence Gender Network was launched by Vice Chief of Defence Force, Air Vice-Marshal Tony Davies – an initiative promoting gender equality through collaboration between Pacific defence forces.
21. Current members of the Network include the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, His Majesty's Armed Forces of Tonga, the Papua New Guinea Defence Force, the Vanuatu Mobile Force, the Australian Defence Force and the New Zealand Defence Force.

Unveiling of the Vaimoso Influenza Memorial

22. Alongside the Prime Minister of Samoa I participated in the official opening of the influenza memorial at Vaimoso Village signalling New Zealand's acknowledgment of and appreciation for our shared history (New Zealand committed funds to create a national memorial site, refurbishing and landscaping existing mass graves).
23. The event was attended by Samoa's Cabinet, CEOs of Government agencies, members of the Diplomatic Corps, the chiefs and committees of Vaimoso Village, and other invited guests.
24. The Samoan Prime Minister said the memorial was an opportunity to acknowledge and frame a pivotal time in New Zealand and Samoa's relationship and to move forward. I said on behalf of New Zealand that we appreciated that even in the wake of such a tragedy, New Zealand and Samoa have continued to forge strong cultural, social and familial links for more than 100 years.
25. Media coverage of the event was positive and extensive.

Meeting with the Prime Minister of Samoa Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi

26. In my meeting with the Prime Minister we discussed the co-hosting of the WPS Summit and the unveiling of the Vaimoso Influenza Memorial.

27. s6(a)

Salvation Army Visit

28. I visited The Salvation Army (TSA) Headquarters in Apia alongside representatives of the Samoa High Commission to discuss the impacts of drug and alcohol addiction and family violence in Samoa, and the role of The Salvation Army in the region.. In August 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade entered into a five year NZD\$2.5 million Grant Funding Arrangement with The Salvation Army New Zealand (TSA) to reduce alcohol and drug addiction and family violence in Samoa. TSA's programme is in response to a development opportunity identified by the Samoan Drug and Alcohol Court, in order to address a gap in the availability of addiction counselling and rehabilitation services in Samoa.

29. I met with TSA drug and alcohol clinicians and also a former client. The programme while in its early stages is tracking very well. There have been s6(b)(ii) referrals for the period August 2018 – February 2019, with all referrals responded to within 24 hours. s6(b)(ii)

Self-referrals are beginning to increase and a new community outreach programme is expected to raise further awareness of TSA's work.

30. s6(b)(ii)

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Carmel Sepuloni