

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Economic Development

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Phil Twyford

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Dili, Timor-Leste from 27 August to 1 September to for the 20th anniversary of Timor-Leste's Independence Referendum from Indonesia.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been approved from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 Timor-Leste will shortly celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the conclusion of Indonesian occupation and creation of the independent nation of Timor-Leste. 30 August 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of Timor-Leste's Independence Referendum from Indonesia. 20 September 2019 marks the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the International Force East Timor (INTERFET) Taskforce. Both events are significant milestones.
- 4 I have been asked to attend this event on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs to represent the New Zealand Government, due to my history with the East Timor people. During my time as Director of Oxfam New Zealand, I forged a strong relationship with the country during their journey to independence and development.
- 5 The Australian Government will be represented at this event by Prime Minister Scott Morrison.
- 6 I propose to attend the 20th anniversary of Timor-Leste's Independence Referendum, while Minister Mark will seek approval to attend the INTERFET event (this will be the subject of a separate approval process). Objectives for my travel include:
 - 6.1 Acknowledge the contribution made by almost 6,000 New Zealanders who served in Timor Leste during the independence period;
 - 6.2 Reinforce the value New Zealand places on our relationship with Timor-Leste and Timor-Leste's continued security and development;
 - 6.3 Deepen links with Timor-Leste leadership, [REDACTED]
- 7 As part of this visit I will represent New Zealand while attending the ceremony to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Timor-Leste's Independence, attend a

Withheld under Section 6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982

dinner hosted by the President of Timor-Leste and an official lunch hosted by Prime Minister of Timor-Leste.

Ministerial Party

- 8 I would be accompanied by my Ministerial Advisor. An MFAT senior official will already be on the ground before my arrival and stay after I depart to support other events happening in Timor-Leste. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will be meeting the costs of the supporting official.

Travel Costs

- 9 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$14,000 (economy class)
Accommodation:	\$4,000
Hospitality and gifts	\$800
Meals and incidentals	\$1,500
Contingency (5%)	\$1,000
Total:	\$21,300

Acting Ministers

- 10 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon Megan Woods act in my Urban Development portfolio, Hon David Parker act in my Economic Development portfolio and Hon Julie-Anne Genter act in my Transport portfolio.

Proactive release

- 11 I propose to delay the release of this paper beyond 30 business days.

Recommendations

- 12 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 12.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured from Tuesday 27th August 2019 to Sunday 1st September to travel to Dili, Timor-Leste to 20th anniversary of Timor-Leste's Independence Referendum from Indonesia;
 - 12.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff, and note that I will be supported by a senior official from MFAT for this visit but they will travel separately from myself
 - 12.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$21,300 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];

- 12.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be their department
- 12.5 agree that in my absence that Hon Megan Woods act in my Urban Development portfolio, Hon David Parker act in my Economic Development portfolio and Hon Julie-Anne Genter act in my Transport portfolio If Ministers are acting for only part of the travel period, include the dates they are acting;
- 12.6 note that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Phil Twyford

Minister for Economic Development