

Report on Travel to the Sabah International Expo

Kate Worden, MLA
Member for Sanderson

Intent of Travel

As the Assistant Minister for Bringing Back the Arafura Games (the Games), on Tuesday 13 September 2016 I joined a Northern Territory Government delegation travelling to Sabah in Malaysia to attend the Sabah International Expo.

This travel was the first step in re-engaging with the Government of Sabah to demonstrate the Northern Territory Government's commitment to the Games, and to get an early indication of potential support for the return of the Games.

It was also an opportunity to support the delegation that was organised by the Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Trade, Business and Innovation.

Travel

I travelled to Sabah via Perth and Singapore to enable me to arrive and attend the Opening Ceremony and Welcome Dinner.

I liaised with senior staff from the Office of Asian Engagement, Trade and Investment to prepare and inform me in the lead up to this travel.

Ministerial support has previously been provided to such delegations. The Expo provided a good opportunity for the Northern Territory Government to begin the task of reviving the Games and to ensure organisations in South-East Asia are aware of the Northern Territory Government's commitment to the Games, and key inter-Governmental relationships in the region.

This is a key part of my role as the Assistant Minister for Bringing Back the Arafura Games, and providing support and advice on the resumption of the Games to the Chief Minister in his capacity as Minister for Business and Trade.

Malaysia was a key competitor at the Games, and is a valued trading partner with whom the Northern Territory Government is keen to expand economic and social ties.

My key focus was to make the Malaysian business community aware the Games are coming back, and we want Malaysia to participate.

Travel Details

I travelled to Sabah via Perth and Singapore to enable me to arrive and attend the Opening Ceremony and Welcome Dinner.

Total Flight Costs (Economy Class): \$2373.42 inc. fees.

Sep 13 - Darwin to Perth: \$363.55

Sep 14 - Perth to Sabah: \$640.31

Sep 16 - Sabah to Darwin: \$1216.56

Kate Worden

<p>PAPER TABLED</p> <p>25/10/16</p> <p>CLERK: <i>[Signature]</i></p>

Total Accommodation Costs: \$990.00

Perth – 1 night: \$129.00

Sabah – 2 nights: \$861.00

Meetings

Labor’s promise to bring back a new and improved Games requires sustained engagement from Governments, businesses and individuals.

During the Expo, I met with the YB Datuk Tawfiq Abu Bakar Titingan, the Minister for Youth and Sport in Sabah, some of his senior advisors and his General Manager for Sports who had himself previously competed at the Arafura Games.

This meeting went very well and laid a strong foundation for future discussions based on an acceptance that the Games would return in 2019 - and the Northern Territory Government would like to see a delegation from Sabah as part of that competition.

I also met briefly with Mr Anthony Cheng the Northern Territory Business Development Manager who is based in Singapore, and attended a business lunch with Datuk Andrew Sim Men Kin, the Honorary Consul for Australia who is based in Kota Kinabalu. Both are interested in the return of the Games and could be key contacts in the region to ensure that future trade opportunities are maximised through the Games.

Other key contacts were made during the Expo with the Sabah Deputy Chief Minister, the Brunei Consul General, and the Assistant Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment, along with Ms Hiroko Matsuo the Head of Consul for Japan in Sabah. I raised the prospect of the Games with each of them and they showed great interest in the Games returning to the Asian region.

This visit was very much a ‘toe in the water’ for the incoming Labor Government to seek feedback on the concept of the return of the Games. It was also a strong show of support for the trade delegation, and their efforts in leveraging new opportunities for business and education through the Expo.

Initial feedback from all future stakeholders was that they would welcome the Games return in 2019, that the lead up time was appropriate to get the model right to ensure strong buy-in from all competitor countries, and that they looked forward to being a part of discussions and planning.

