

**REPORT BY THE HONOURABLE THOMAS GEORGE MP  
DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
REPRESENTING THE PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
AT THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF FR ANTOINE TARABAY LMO AS  
4<sup>TH</sup> MARONITE BISHOP OF AUSTRALIA**

**MISSION PURPOSE**

- To attend the Episcopal Ordination of Fr Antoine Tarabay LMO, Maronite Bishop of Australia, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 5pm at The Maronite Patriarchal See, Bkerke, Lebanon. *Invitation was extended by The Maronite Eparchy of Australia*
- To continue to highlight the importance the NSW Government is placing on Lebanon as a valued friend and growing trading partner.
- To continue the cultural ties between the NSW Government and Lebanon, especially those forged during the Presidential visit to NSW and the Premier's official visit to Lebanon in 2012.

**ITINERARY**

**Wednesday 22 May**

2.50 pm Depart Sydney on Etihad EY 451

11.40 pm Arrive in Abu Dhabi

**Thursday 23 May**

12.40 am Depart Abu Dhabi

3.25 am Arrive Beirut

Met by relatives and toured the towns of Ehden and Zgharta, staying at the Palace Hotel in Zgharta.

Meeting with Father Frangie. Discussed the possibility of NSW Government support of used hospital medical equipment to be donated for use by Zgharta Hospital.

*\*\* (Any expenses for this part of the trip has been covered and paid for by me personally)*

**Friday 24 May**

Travelled to Beirut to Hotel Le Royal.

2.00pm Arrived at Le Royal Hotels & Resorts, Leisure Hill Complex, Dbayeh.  
*Greeted on arrival by the organising committee*

4.00pm Travelled with Steve Stanton & Danny Ja Ja to Hardine to attend mass and dinner hosted by Mr Joe Asaf in honour of Fr Antoine Tarabay where I met with the Hon Tony Burke, Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and Minister for the Arts, representing Prime Minister Julia Gillard, and Lex Bartlem, Australian Ambassador to Lebanon.

We discussed and confirmed the travel arrangements and official programme for the trip of Father Tarabay, organised by Joe Asaf.

10.00pm Travelled back to accommodation - Le Royal Hotel

### **Saturday 25 May**

9.00am Breakfast with Delegation

12.30pm to 3.00pm Met with Agarth and May Fahd to discuss concerns with Lebanon and also to discuss possibilities of employment in government departments or MP offices in Lebanon or New South Wales. May has already done work experience in the Department of Foreign Affairs in Beirut. May will forward her resume.

4.00pm Embassy transport picked us up at the Le Royal Hotel to attend the Episcopal ordination of Father Antoine Tarabay (celebrated by His Beatitude & Eminence Mar Bechara Boutros Cardinal Rai, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, at the Patriarchal See, Bkerke, Lebanon with Ambassador Lex Bartlem, Hon Tony Burke and Scott Morrison MP).

9.30pm The Delegation attended a dinner in honour of Bishop Antoine Tarabay.

11.30pm Returned to Le Royal Hotel with delegation

### **Sunday 26 May**

9.00am Breakfast

11.00am Travelled to Tannourine attended delegation lunch at Anthony Hasham and family's residence.

5.00 pm Attend the thanksgiving mass at St Anthony's Church, Tannourine followed by a reception in the church grounds.

10.00pm Travelled back to Beirut with the Ambassador and delegation

### **Monday 27 May**

9.00am Breakfast

Late Checkout Depart hotel for downtown Beirut to visit the Australian Embassy where I met with Ambassador Lex Bartlem and Luke Heilbuth who arranged for the Embassy transport to take me to the airport.

3.55 pm Depart Beirut on Etihad EY538

8.50 pm Arrive in Abu Dhabi

10.00 pm Depart Abu Dhabi on Etihad EY454

### **Tuesday 28 May**

6.10 pm Arrive Sydney airport, Airport transfer to 40-42 Bridge Street, Sydney

**OFFICIAL INVITATION TO ATTEND THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF THE  
4<sup>TH</sup> MARONITE BISHOP OF AUSTRALIA BY  
THE HONOURABLE THOMAS GEORGE MP  
REPRESENTATING THE PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
22 TO 28 MAY 2013**

**ESTIMATED COSTS AND DETAILS**

Premier's Representative	The Honourable Thomas George MP
Portfolio	Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Countries visited	Lebanon
Date of travel	22 to 28 May 2013
Number of accompanying:	
(a) Ministerial Staff	(a) Nil
(b) Government Officials	(b) Nil
Accompanied by spouse in an official capacity	N/A
Air fares	
(a) Minister and Ministerial Staff	(a) \$6685.28
(b) Government Officials	(b) N/A
Accommodation and meals	
(a) Minister and Ministerial Staff	(a) \$875.35
(b) Government Officials	(b) N/A
Official hospitality expenses	
(a) Minister and Ministerial Staff	(a) N/A
(b) Government Officials	(b) N/A
Other expenses (including some meals, refreshments, surface travel and travel allowances)	
(a) Minister and Ministerial Staff	(a) Incidentals were paid for by Mr George.
(b) Government Officials	(b)
Total estimated travel costs	
(a) Minister and Ministerial Staff	(a) \$7560.63
(b) Government Officials	(b) N/A