

**REPUBLIC OF NAURU**  
**BAIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021**  
**SECOND READING SPEECH**  
**Honourable Maverick Eoe MP**  
**30 March 2021**

Mr Speaker Sir,

I introduce to the House today the *Bail (Amendment) Bill 2021*.

Mr Speaker, I stood before this House on 22<sup>nd</sup> October last year to table significant amendments to the *Bail Act 2018*. These amendments included the addition of a new Section 4B of the Act to provide for *a category of offences for which bail will not be granted except in exceptional circumstances*. In this Section, the obligation is on the accused person to satisfy the court as to why he or she should be granted bail.

Sir, police officers are on the frontline of protecting the community and have often been on the receiving end of harmful behaviour by members of the public. To that end, one of the offences listed in Section 4B of the Act is the traditional *'assaulting a police officer in the execution of the police officer's duties'*. However, there is no corresponding offence under the *Crimes Act 2016*. The offence in Section 77 of the *Crimes Act* is *'causing harm to police officer'*. Harm is defined in the *Crimes Act* to mean *'physical harm and mental harm'*. The intent in the *Crimes Act* is beyond the common assault to also include physical or mental harm. This Bill rectifies the error in Section 4B(1)(iii) of the Act so that it references the correct corresponding offence under Section 77 of the *Crimes Act 2016*.

Mr Speaker, the explanatory memorandum details the provisions of the Bill. Sir, I request that the explanatory memorandum be read and recorded in the Hansard Reports.

Mr Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.