

**REPUBLIC OF NAURU**

**DOG MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018**

**SECOND READING SPEECH**

**Honourable David Adeang, MP**

**25 January 2018**

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I have the responsibility of introducing to this House today a Bill for an Act to amend the recently enacted *Dog Management and Control Act 2017*.

This Bill relates to dog fighting and the responsibility of dog owners for the welfare of their dogs. There is nothing I would like more than to be able to tell the House that this Bill will halt dog attacks, dog fighting or cruelty to dogs once and for all. Unfortunately, that is not something I can do. As long as we have dogs in our community and as long as we have irresponsible owners, some attacks or fights will occur. It is simply inevitable.

Mr Speaker, the question before us is, - is dog fighting a serious issue in our community? Unfortunately, yes. I am not referring to a dog fighting in a ring like a boxing ring although dog fighting contests too is a terrible practice. It has recently come to light that there are videos circulating in our community of unspeakable cruelty being perpetrated locally on dogs by our own people. Videos showing certain people encouraging and provoking dogs to be vicious and hurt the other. This conduct and behaviour is appalling and will not be tolerated.

Mr Speaker, the Bill proposes measures aimed at the prevention of encouraging and inciting dog fighting as well as stopping the practice of cruelty to dogs.

The Bill also aims to ensure that dog owners are responsible for the welfare of their dogs.

Mr. Speaker, accompanying the Bill is an explanatory memorandum that explains the Bill in clearer detail.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.