

**REPUBLIC OF NAURU**  
**ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 2017**

**SECOND READING SPEECH**

**Honourable Baron Divavesi Waqa MP**

**27 April 2017**

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I have the responsibility of introducing to the House today a Bill for the *Electoral (Amendment) Act 2017*.

The General Elections held in July 2016 were against a backdrop of a new and untested legislation, the newly enacted Electoral Act 2016.

Despite a tight timetable, a new Electoral Act was passed by Parliament. It was pleasing that international observers commended the work of the newly established Electoral Commission.

Mr Speaker, one of the recommendations made in post-election observer reports was in relation to the method of counting.

Presently there are two methods of counting votes in the Act. The method used for a General Election is known as the Dowdall Borda count method. This is where preferences other than the first preference are fractioned and distributed.

The method used for a By-election is standard preferential. This is where, if a majority has not been received by any candidate, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and their preferences distributed. If no majority is attained after this distribution the next candidate is eliminated and their preferences distributed and so on.

Mr Speaker, it does not make sense to have members sitting in Parliament elected by different methods of counting. As a matter of good public administration and good electoral management practice, this amendment will standardise the methods of counting votes in all elections.

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.