

REPUBLIC OF NAURU
BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2020

SECOND READING SPEECH

Honourable Lionel Rouwen Aingimea MP

22 October 2020

Mr Speaker Sir,

I have the responsibility of introducing to the House today the *Births Deaths and Marriages Registration (Amendment) Bill 2020*.

Mr Speaker, the *Births Deaths and Marriages Registration Act* came into effect in 2017. It is a relatively new Act. In implementing the Act, the Registrar has encountered some difficulties.

This Bill is to rectify these emerging issues so that the records of births, deaths and marriages are properly recorded in the various Registers.

The *Funeral Burial and Cremation Act 2017* provides for the funeral ceremony to be conducted by an authorised person or religious minister. This will now be changed to the Funeral Officiator, which has been our practice in the Republic.

The Marriage Officers as well as the Funeral Officiators are appointed under the *Births Deaths and Marriages Registration Act*. Normally, the Marriage Officers and Funeral Officiators are the same approved persons and largely religious ministers. Their appointment is under this Act. Unfortunately, it appears that the Funeral Officiators' approval for being listed under Section 79 of the Act was overlooked. This Bill is to rectify that oversight.

A consequential amendment is also effected to the *Funeral Burial and Cremation Act* so that all funeral ceremonies are conducted by Funeral Officiators. Funeral Officiators is defined in the Bill as persons who are authorised under the Act to carry out funeral ceremonies.

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.

I commend the Bill to the House.