

**REPUBLIC OF NAURU**

**NAOERO NATIONAL ANTHEM EMBLEM AND FLAG PROTECTION BILL  
2018**

**SECOND READING SPEECH**

**Honourable Baron Divavesi Waqa, MP**

**25 January 2018**

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I have the honour to present in such timely manner a Bill which embodies independent nationhood.

Mr Speaker, the National Anthem, Emblem and Flag provided for in this Bill condenses the knowledge, values, history and memories associated with our nation. They are inherent to our identity. They are symbolic of our country's unity and independence. They engender patriotism in all of us.

Some of you may know that the official Flag was chosen in a local design competition and was adopted on Independence Day in 1968. Our Flag is more than cloth and dye. It is a universally recognised symbol that stands for freedom. Our flag is the brand image of our country and it is the face of this country at international fora.

We also adopted our National Anthem when we became a sovereign nation. The National Anthem is not made up of just mere words. It is an expression by people of the love and loyalty to their country. National pride and solidarity is expressed with deep emotions of the love and passion we have for our country.

Mr Speaker, while globalism increases due to technology, economics and politics, national symbols remain powerful tools for socialisation and inspiration.

It is for these reasons that our National Anthem, Emblem and Flag must be respected and protected.

Mr Speaker, the explanatory memorandum details the provisions of the Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House.