

**REPUBLIC OF NAURU**

**AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNT INFORMATION  
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2024**

**SECOND READING SPEECH**

**His Excellency the President, Hon. David W.R. Adeang, M.P.**

**26 November 2024**

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I introduce to the House today the *Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information (Amendment) Bill 2024*.

Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, Nauru joined the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group Institutions in 2016 pursuant to the *International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group Institutions Act 2016*. As a consequence of its joining with these organisations, the requirement for exchange of information in relation to financial accounts became a crucial element. The Parliament during the same year also enacted the *Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information Act 2016*. The latter Act has not been amended since 2016 despite developments in the Organisation for OECD Common Reporting Standards.

Nauru currently is rated as largely compliant under its OECD common reporting standards. This rating was based on the assessment undertaken in 2018. This rating has been consistently maintained after 2018. The proposed amendments to the Act are in furtherance to maintaining Nauru's good rating with OECD.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the amendments are in relation to the extension of liability to persons who actually are party to any agreement, understanding or arrangement or are members or owners of legal entities. This is now explained and clarified for corporations, trusts, partnerships, joint ventures and other forms of legal relationships. The second amendment is in relation to any agreements which are designed to avoid reporting under the Act. Any such agreements would be deemed a nullity.

Mr Speaker, the explanatory memorandum summarises the Bill's provisions. Sir, I respectfully request that the accompanying memorandum be read and incorporated into the Hansard Reports.

I commend the Bill to the House.