

**REPUBLIC OF NAURU**  
**PASSPORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020**

**SECOND READING SPEECH**

**Honourable Maverick Eoe MP**

**22 October 2020**

Mr Speaker Sir,

I have the responsibility of introducing to the House today the *Passports (Amendment) Bill 2020*.

Mr Speaker Sir, the *Passports Act 2011* is an important legislation dealing with travel documents. Recently, the Republic has been undergoing a review of its international travel documents and facilities by the *International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)*.

The travel documents and operations of the Passports Office was also part of the review. The Department of Justice has made provisions to secure new passports. With the assistance of the Australian Government, a shredder was provided to shred the expired, returned or damaged travel documents. On a constant basis, this exercise is undertaken so that none of these documents are capable of being used by anybody.

One of the concerns of the review by ICAO was the record keeping of the travel documents. Ordinarily, all Government records are kept for 7 years. However, travel documents are special types of documents which need to be kept for longer than 7 years. Clause 5 of the proposed Bill provides for the record keeping of all travel documents separately, that is, Presidential passport, diplomatic passports, official passports, Nauruan ordinary passports, travel-related documents, refugee travel documents and certificates of identity.

Furthermore, the Clause requires the records to be kept permanently and not to be destroyed without the prior approval of the Cabinet. In addition to the Register, the proposed Bill also makes provision for keeping records in electronic and digital form. This is to maintain enduring records.

The other proposed amendment is to define the ‘Minister’ and the ‘Secretary’. The Act is assigned to the Minister for Justice and Border Control. However,

the Act does not make reference to the respective Minister. For clarity, it is important to ensure that this is amended.

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.