

REPUBLIC OF NAURU

COPYRIGHT BILL 2019

SECOND READING SPEECH

Honourable David Adeang MP

12 July 2019

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I am pleased to introduce to the House today the *Copyright Bill 2019*.

Mr Speaker, the Waqa Government over the past 5 years has initiated a number of reforms in all sectors of the economy. All these reforms are Nauru centric. These reforms have taken Nauru to a different level in the international community. This Bill is yet another initiative in another area of the economy.

For so long, Nauruans have attended meetings organised by the World Intellectual Property Organisation, a United Nations organisation administering and developing intellectual property law. Intellectual property is a bundle of rights referring to the property rights through patents, copyrights and trademarks. Many in the past who attended the seminars and workshops tried to establish the administrative and legislative framework but have fallen short of this.

This Government is now determined to take the necessary step for the establishment of a section in the Department of Justice for an Intellectual Property Office. This Office will generate more revenue for the Government by registering trademarks, designs and patents. In addition, in the future, Nauruans have an opportunity to undertake post graduate degrees in intellectual property areas offered by the World Intellectual Property Organisation. Further, it will also now protect our intellectual property. Last but not the least, Nauru is part of the global trading community. It is a signatory to Pacer-plus which is currently in the process of being implemented.

Mr Speaker, this Bill introduces the protection of copyright of a person over their literary, artistic or scientific work in Nauru. Nauruans who are creative will be able

to take advantage of this statute to advance their creation and innovation. This Bill will give them the protection of their intellectual rights.

Art, music, literature, film and television are an integral part of culture and contribute significantly to the economies of most countries. These things that are valued do not exist without creators. These creators need incentives and rewards for their endeavours and a robust copyright framework is needed to provide these incentives and rewards.

The dawn of the internet has gifted societies with the ability to access and share information and ideas to an extraordinary point. Digital disruption, globalisation, convergence and mass connectivity are upheaving the world around us and basically changing the way we work, interact and especially how we are entertained. To get a sense of the pace, think that just 15 years ago no-one had a smartphone. Today, smart phones have become a household name and combined with the internet, gives an individual countless hours of downloading music, movies and books.

Mr Speaker, it is important to protect the rights of creators, authors or publishers of a work in order for all of us to enjoy such creativity and novelty. Whilst the rights are protected, the Bill provides the economic rights to harvest and enjoy those rights in a legitimate manner.

This Bill is a small step in today's challenging technological world which has no geographical boundary.

This Bill introduces the protection of copyright and establishing a legitimate process of using the copyright material for entertainment, education and building on such creativity.

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

I commend the Bill to the House.