

REPUBLIC OF NAURU

QUARANTINE (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 *Quarantine (Amendment) Bill 2020*.

Mr Speaker Sir, the *Quarantine Act* (the Act) came into force on 1st July 1909. It was an ‘*Ordinance*’ when it came into effect. The applicable currency then was the pounds and shillings. The currency changed in 1967. There is an *Ordinances Revision Ordinance 1967* revised all the currency rates from pounds to dollars. The associated Ordinances namely the *Quarantine Area Ordinance 1921-1967* and *Quarantine (Plague) Ordinance 1922-1967* which had the currencies changed from pounds to dollars. However, for some reason, the then Quarantine Ordinance was not amended.

This needs to be rectified as the applicable currency in the Republic is dollars and not pounds. Mr Speaker, the respective fines in the Ordinance has not been reviewed since 1908. The issue of quarantine is a serious one. Everyone entering the Republic must declare and comply with the biosecurity requirements under the Quarantine Act. These fines and penalties needs to be reviewed to make it consistent with the current levels of fines and penalties in other statutes.

Mr Speaker, the relevant Sections of the Act have been considered with the fines and penalties. The Bill provides for the same. The primary fines and penalties changed are, *inter alia*, as follows:

- ‘Ten pounds’ which is substituted with ‘a fine not exceeding \$500’;
- ‘Twenty pounds’ which is substituted with ‘a fine not exceeding \$500’;
- ‘Fifty pounds’ which is substituted with ‘a fine not exceeding \$500’;
- ‘One hundred pounds’ which is substituted with ‘a fine not exceeding \$1,000’; and
- ‘Five hundred pounds’ which is substituted with ‘a fine not exceeding \$5,000’.

Furthermore, all the fines will be in Australian dollars and not in pounds.

Also, it is appropriate that quarantine officers are able to issue fixed penalty notices for any failure by a traveler to declare on the spot at the quarantine declaration areas. This will ensure better enforcement of the laws. This is also the practice in other jurisdictions. Clause 87 provides for the creation of fixed penalty offences. The power is given to the Cabinet to

provide for this. This is similar to the fixed penalty offences which have been used in the *Motor Traffic Act*.

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.