

REPUBLIC OF NAURU
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) NO. 2 BILL 2018

SECOND READING SPEECH

Honourable David Adeang MP

18 December 2018

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I have the responsibility of introducing to the House today the Criminal Procedure (Amendment) No.2 Bill 2018.

Mr Speaker, it was not too long ago that we enacted our comprehensive Crimes Act 2016. That Act simplified, modernised and strengthened not only the criminal offences in Nauru, but the corresponding penalties.

The Crimes Act 2016 contains updated and higher criminal penalties for a wide range of offences. Such cases are more often than not heard in the District Court where the District Court even after a finding someone guilty of a certain offence, cannot impose a high sentence due to the limits of its jurisdiction.

There is no point having tough penalties when they cannot be imposed by the court because its hands are tied. The jurisdictional limits are to be fixed by Parliament to ensure consistency in the legislative framework and additionally, that the appropriate sentence is passed for the relevant offence.

The intention of the proposed Bill is to increase the jurisdictional limits of the Republic's District Court. It will complement the provisions of the Crimes Act 2016 and other legislation which contain criminal offence provisions which are in the purview of the District Court.

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

I commend the Bill to the House.