

**REPUBLIC OF NAURU**  
**PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES**  
**(AMENDMENT) BILL 2019**

**SECOND READING SPEECH**

**Honourable Lionel Rouwen Aingimea MP**

**28 November 2019**

Mr Speaker Sir,

I introduce to the House today the *Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill 2019*.

Sir, as you and all other Honourable Members are aware, the salaries and allowances of the President, Speaker, Ministers, Deputy Speaker and now Deputy Ministers are fixed by this House under the *Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances Act 2008*. This Bill is not to change the existing salaries as contained in the Schedule to the Act.

Mr Speaker, before I proceed to explain the contents of the Bill, let me provide an explanation and foundation for the purpose of this Bill. Honourable members, you may all recall this august House passed the *Deputy Ministers Act 2019*, which was certified on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The *Deputy Ministers Act* repealed the *Assistant Ministers Act 2016*. The designation and title of the office Assistant Ministers was changed to Deputy Ministers. However, this was not the only change. When I moved the Bill in August this year following the general election, I highlighted the material difference between the *Assistant Ministers Act* and the *Deputy Ministers Act*. The material difference between these Acts is contained Sections 6, 7 and 9 of the *Deputy Ministers Act 2019*.

I am pleased to inform this House that the *Deputy Ministers Act* has been fully implemented and the Deputy Ministers have been assigned various powers, duties and functions. They have been assisting my office and other Ministers. The reporting requirements require them to be at work no different to the Ministers. Their inclusion has enhanced the work of the Ministers by allowing the Ministers to devote time and effort in more pressing matters of national interest. Additionally, this has enabled each Minister to be able to ensure that

all respective portfolios assigned to him or her are performed concurrently with the assistance of the Heads of Departments and other public servants working together with the Deputy Ministers. The relationship of the public servants with the Cabinet is enhanced in that they have more access and time with the Deputy Ministers, who on a regular basis are able to keep the Ministers informed. This also applies when the substantive Ministers are on official travel.

The increase of the responsibilities and duties both administratively and under the *Deputy Ministers Act*, requires this House to consider that the Deputy Ministers are adequately compensated for such responsibilities and duties. This is no different to the higher duty allowance paid to public servants.

The Bill proposes the fixing and payment of responsibility allowance to the Deputy Ministers. The allowance contained in the Bill is \$1,000.00 a fortnight. This amount remains constant irrespective of the additional responsibilities which the Deputy Ministers may be required to perform by the President or Ministers.

The Bill introduces a second Schedule, which deals specifically with allowances only. The current Schedule which provides for the salaries remains the same except it is now referred to as Schedule 1.

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.