

**REPUBLIC OF NAURU**

**LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018**

**SECOND READING SPEECH**

**Honourable David Adeang, MP**

**4 October 2018**

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I have the responsibility of introducing to the House today the *Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2018* (the “Bill”).

Due to non-availability of local lawyers, the Government continues to engage expatriate lawyers. They are selected based on their qualifications and merits. The Legal Practitioners Act 1973 governs the legal practitioners in Nauru.

Currently, Government Lawyers have been exempted from admission. When the Act was amended in 2014, the employment of lawyers in the Public Service was limited to the Department of Justice. To meet the Republic’s international commitments and obligations, the Government has undertaken substantial and continuous reforms. As a consequence, some Departments need in house lawyers. Their work will be limited to the scope of the Departments’ work.

This development will not affect the role and functions of the Department of Justice and Border Control. The Department will still be the primary provider of legal services and advice to the Government and the public service.

Mr. Speaker, the explanatory memorandum explains this Bill in more detail.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.