

REPUBLIC OF NAURU
NAURU COURT OF APPEAL (AMENDMENT) BILL
SECOND READING SPEECH

Hon. Lionel Rouwen Aingimea, MP

26 November 2024

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I introduce to the House today the *Nauru Court of Appeal (Amendment) Bill 2024*.

Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, our complete judicial autonomy began in 2018. It was in 2018 when the Government rescinded its arrangement with the Government of Australia for our final appellate Court then being the High Court of Australia. The amendment to the *Constitution* in 2018 specifically established the Nauru Court of Appeal. The *Nauru Court of Appeal Act 2018* provides for the establishment, operation, powers, functions, jurisdiction and other responsibilities. Since its establishment in 2018, the Court has been able to hear and determine 25 appeals. This number is an increase in the number of appeals ever filed in the High Court of Australia by litigants who were not satisfied with the Supreme Court decision.

Mr. Speaker, this is a simple amendment. Firstly, the Bill proposes to clarify the definition of the term '**Court**' to include where the Court is constituted by a single Justice of Appeal. Secondly, the Bill proposes to establish the position of a Deputy Registrar. The amendment is necessary because the Deputy Registrar also needs to be given the functions and powers and, in some instances, it is quasi-judicial in nature.

Mr Speaker, the explanatory memorandum summarises the Bill's provisions. Sir, I respectfully request that the accompanying memorandum be read and incorporated into the Hansard Reports.

I commend the Bill to the House.