

**REPUBLIC OF NAURU**  
**TOBACCO CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 2024**

**SECOND READING SPEECH**

**Honourable Charmaine Scotty, MP**

**15 August 2024**

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I introduce to the House today the *Tobacco Control (Amendment) Bill 2024*.

Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, in 2009, the Parliament enacted the Tobacco Control Act. The introduction of a law to restrict the selling of tobacco and when and where to consume it was a challenge back then. But over the years more and more people have come to understand the reasons for the restrictions. That is, there is a huge impact on the health of our people. Now there are other forms of cigarettes which has become popular in society and it is mostly popular among young people, all over the world, including Nauru.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the electronic cigarette or e-cigarette or vape as it is known among our young people has become a favourite consumption product. This is probably because the product comes in sweet smelling flavours. The problem with these products is that they also contain nicotine and other chemicals which causes addiction. The Bill before this august house intends to completely ban the manufacture, importation, possession, selling, distribution and using or smoking of e-cigarettes. There are penalties that will be introduced to discourage the breach of the requirements of the Bill.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, the Bill will also completely prohibit the manufacture, importation, possession, selling or distribution of tobacco imitation products. These are products that look like tobacco or cigarettes but they are actually lollies, chocolate or toys. These products target children. There are so many studies that have shown the connection between exposure of children to tobacco imitation products and the high likelihood of them actually taking up smoking in future. The Bill aims to prevent this from happening to our children, by completely banning their presence in Nauru.

Mr. Speaker Sir, this is not a difficult ask. Already the cigarette packets have warnings on them with gruesome pictures of how harmful smoking is. The

warnings say “Smoking Causes Cancer” or “Smoking Causes Lung Disease”. We know what the bad effects are. It is a well-established fact. What this Bill is proposing to do, is to prevent other harm that can come to our society by targeting our children and young people to become addicted to products that are either the same as being addicted to tobacco and products that will lead them to trying tobacco later on life and risk addiction.

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members, because the Bill proposes a complete ban, this includes prohibiting sponsorship and advertisement of anything relating to e-cigarettes and imitation tobacco products.

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.