

REPUBLIC OF NAURU

BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION BILL 2017

SECOND READING SPEECH

Honourable Baron Divavesi Waqa, MP

19 December 2017

Mr. Speaker Sir,

No legal system can remain stagnant. This year marks a significant change in law reform for the Republic as anticipated from the last year's general elections. From Funerals Burials and Cremations to Births Deaths and Marriages, we have definitively dealt with the circle of life from beginning to end.

The current Act has been in effect for 60 years recording and registering births, marriages and deaths occurring in the Republic. However, the law is outdated and does not adequately address or reflect the changes that have occurred in our society.

Mr Speaker, this Bill while fairly predictable is in fact very significant. It covers a number of matters that will augment the functions of the Births, Deaths and Marriages registry. It will ensure that the registry continues to be the trusted custodian of the life event records held by it. It will also ensure that the Republic has correct and up to date records.

This Bill provides for the registration of information about births, deaths, and marriages. Information on adoptions, change of names, dissolution of marriages, stillbirths and national identity cards are also registered under the Bill. The Bill provides for access to the registered information. These functions are administered by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The Bill is accompanied by an explanatory memorandum explaining the Bill in more detail.

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