

REPUBLIC OF NAURU
NATIONAL HERITAGE BILL 2017
SECOND READING SPEECH

Honourable Baron Divavesi Waqa, MP

1 August 2017

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I introduce to this House today a Bill for an Act to repeal the Antiquities Act 1935. This Bill provides for the protection and conservation of places and objects of significance to Nauruan heritage as well as for the registration of such places and objects.

Most, if not all of us were not around during the occupation of our country by foreign powers. While we did not personally experience what happened then, the remnants of that occupation still exist and a reminder of what our country has endured. Those remnants or war relics have become a significant part of our national heritage.

Mr Speaker, the proposed Bill not only provides for the preservation of antiquities, it aims to protect any object of heritage significance in the Republic. Our heritage and history is a reminder of who we are, where we came from and what we are made of. These antiquities and objects are very central to our sense of place and identity as Nauruan, in Nauru and to the world.

It is important that we have a law in place to protect our identity by preserving all our historical objects of significance to the Republic's heritage inclusive of war relics.

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

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