

REPUBLIC OF NAURU

SUPREME COURT BILL 2018

SECOND READING SPEECH

Honourable Baron Divavesi Waqa MP

10 May 2018

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I am pleased to introduce to the House today the Supreme Court Bill 2018.

Mr Speaker, we have reached a milestone since independence in 1968 where we have decided to sever ties with the High Court of Australia and stand in our own two feet to have a full functional Court system in the Republic providing quality legal service and easy access to justice.

Our aim is to ensure that as we transition into final appeals being heard and tried in a newly established Nauru Court of Appeal, that we don't lose that access to high quality courts in the Republic.

The Supreme Court will remain continue as it is currently composed and functioning being a court with the jurisdiction vested to it under the Constitution and under any written laws. The Supreme Court has inherent and appellate jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court being the highest court located in the Republic for past 46 years will now transition into transferring matters of appeals to the newly established Nauru Court of Appeal.

The Bill will continue the current power and jurisdiction of the Supreme Court but at the same time align with the District Court and Nauru Court of Appeal practice and procedures to ensure consistency.

The Bill intends to simplify and streamline process to avoid delays and produce efficiency in the Court system.

Mr Speaker, the explanatory memorandum explains the provisions of the Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House.

The pursuit of justice requires that cases be processed efficiently and heard in a timely manner. The increase in the number of resident magistrates will improve the proper administration of justice in relation to both civil and criminal causes in the District Court.

Mr Speaker, the objective of the judiciary remains the same: that is, the efficient delivery of service and ultimately justice from the courts to the people of Nauru.