

REPUBLIC OF NAURU

PUBLIC SERVICE (AMENDMENT) No. 2 BILL 2020

SECOND READING SPEECH

Honourable Lionel Rouwen Aingimea

3 December 2020

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I introduce to the House today a Bill for an Act to amend the *Public Service Act 2016*.

Mr Speaker, this is a short Bill. This Bill is to clarify the eligibility of the public servants for long service leave and furlough leave. These are leave provisions in the Public Service Act which are simply designed to reward those hard working employees of the public service. Their commitment to public service is recognised by the number of years they serve.

The essential requirements for long service leave and furlough leave is that there is a need for continuous service. Sir, the furlough leave eligibility is for all public servants who continuously provide service after serving for ten years as public servants. Upon completion of every subsequent year after the first ten years, a public servant is eligible to nine days additional leave which is classified as furlough leave.

There is a gap for those who have served for any shorter period than ten years. For these people, there is a provision to allow for long service leave. The current position is maintained. Long service leave is only available for those who will retire or resign from the public service before ten years of continuous service. The proposed Bill provides for the number of days of such leave.

Mr Speaker, it is important to note that the distinction between the furlough and long service leave is that long service leave will only be paid upon retirement or resignation whereas furlough leave can be granted as and when it accrues. Furthermore, long service leave is available for those who have served less than ten years and will not be eligible for furlough leave. On the other hand, any public servant who works for more than ten years and qualifies for furlough

leave, will be eligible to forty days of long service leave only upon resignation or ultimate retirement from the public service.

Sir, it is my Government's commitment to recognise the work and devotion of those individuals who choose their career in the public service.

Mr Speaker, the explanatory memorandum details the provisions of the Bill. Sir, I request that the explanatory memorandum be read and recorded in the Hansard Reports.

I commend the Bill to the House.