

REPUBLIC OF NAURU
SHIPPING REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2017

SECOND READING SPEECH

Honourable Tawaki Kam MP

1 August 2017

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I am pleased to introduce to the House today the *Shipping Registration (Amendment) Bill 2017*.

Mr Speaker, based on the principle of open vessel registry, a foreign vessel that is registered in Nauru will be accorded Nauruan nationality. This will allow the foreign vessel to travel internationally under the flag of Nauru and be bound by our relevant laws. An open vessel registry has been in the pipeline for some time now and I am pleased to say that this proposed amendment will allow for the establishment of a Nauruan open vessel registry bringing into fruition a long held dream.

The details of the administration and operations of the registry will be provided by Regulations made under the Act and, changes are expected in the near future which will benefit the Republic.

Mr Speaker, while the proposed amendment is primarily aimed at establishing an open vessel registry, this amendment will ensure that foreign vessels that wish to register with the Registrar of Foreign Vessels must meet the required standards. This will boost Nauruan recognition at the international arena as a flag state and consequently contribute to government revenue.

The Bill will ensure that the same rules applicable to Nauruan vessels also apply to foreign vessels.

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

I commend the Bill to the House.