

REPUBLIC OF NAURU

RESCUE AND FIRE SERVICE BILL 2019

SECOND READING SPEECH

Honourable Baron Divavesi Waqa MP

10 May 2019

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to introduce to the House today the *Rescue and Fire Service Bill 2019*.

This Bill reforms an essential public service which keeps the people of this nation out of harm's way. A service made up of individuals which I have the privilege of overseeing - the Rescue and Fire Service.

Mr Speaker, members of the Rescue and Fire Service are a passionate and committed group of people who serve their communities, to protect and preserve life, property and the environment. In doing so, it is important that firefighters have the tools to appropriately respond to fires or emergency situations.

The main objectives of this Bill are to define, within legal parameters, the roles and functions of the Rescue and Fire Service with respect to the prevention of and response to fires and other incidents. The Bill clearly sets out the powers the Rescue and Fire Service may exercise in the course of performing its functions. In addition, the Bill contains a number of general clauses pertaining to fire prevention and fire safety certificates.

Mr Speaker, this is the first legislation specific to the Rescue and Fire Service in our country therefore a preventative approach is a key consideration in this Bill. The functions additional to the traditional functions of firefighters are to deal with the aftermath of road traffic accidents, to promote fire safety and to prepare for, and respond to, emergency situations. This new legislative structure is integral to a modern rescue and fire service that enables better protection of the public.

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

I commend the Bill to the House.