

REPUBLIC OF NAURU

NAOERO CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL 2019

SECOND READING SPEECH

Honourable David Adeang, MP

14 June 2019

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Our Nauruan community is based on our family and Christian values. This country's future are the children. It is with this regard I am pleased to introduce a Bill to the House today to amend the *Naoero Citizenship Act 2017*.

The proposed Naoero Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2019 is intended to unite the children of those people who have joined us as citizens. Honourable Members, a number of people have been given citizenship in this country, who have come in to join our nation with their children. However, our current citizenship law does not allow the children to acquire citizenship based on the citizenship of the parents.

The proposed amendment is specifically to cater for the minor children of people who have acquired citizenship. In order to regulate who becomes a citizen of this sovereign country, the definition of minor in the Bill is to a child under the age of 20 years. It also requires the child of the marriage or relationship of one or both of the parents. This does not include step-children or children of other relationships who are excluded under section 14 of the Act.

The children must be of both the parents if they are granted citizenship. In case of one parent being granted citizenship, the child must be of both the parents and not of any other relationship.

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

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