

**REPUBLIC OF NAURU**  
**CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020**

**SECOND READING SPEECH**

**Honourable Maverick Eoe MP**

**4 June 2020**

Mr Speaker Sir,

I have the responsibility of introducing to the House today the *Crimes (Amendment) Bill 2020*.

Mr Speaker, our country reviewed the entire criminal law which was adapted from Queensland being the *Criminal Code 1899*. In 2016, a new *Crimes Act* was passed which repealed the *Criminal Code*. The new Act provides for a number of offences and various penalties.

Sir, this Bill further enhances the progressive approach taken to modernise our criminal laws. The proposed amendment has a number of different offences and also deals with the penalties for some of those. A hallmark of the amendment is that it is about offences against the Republic itself. The first offence is in relation to disturbing Parliament. Under the *Constitution*, the Parliament has a number of functions which includes the making of laws and appropriating public finance. In doing so, it is important that the Parliament is not in any way hindered in the performance of its duties. For that purpose, there are 2 offences now created or further enhanced which are firstly, that no one should interfere with a Member of Parliament from attending Parliament and secondly, the Parliament is not to be disturbed in any way from sitting or carrying out its functions. The penalty for any interference with the Members of Parliament or the functioning of Parliament is now increased to 10 years imprisonment.

Mr Speaker, an additional offence of sedition which is part of any criminal justice system is now included. This was part of the *Criminal Code 1899*. However, the proposed amendment is redrafted to ensure that the offence of sedition committed as a result of technological advancement is covered. The penalty is also reviewed and increased up to 10 years imprisonment.

Sir, the rationale for criminalising attempted murder is because of the grave harm that is caused by one person to another. This is introduced in light of the changing nature of crime which results in severe injuries or life threatening attacks on innocent people. The penalty for this offence is similar to that of murder which is life imprisonment.

Mr Speaker, we are committed to making our community feel safe. A vital part of delivering this commitment is ensuring that our laws are effective, current, and provide appropriate punishments.

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.