



REPUBLIC OF NAURU

# PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES BILL 2020

No. of 2020

A Bill for an Act to establish the Office of Parliamentary Services, to provide support services to the Parliament of Nauru, to provide for the autonomous administration and funding requirements for Parliamentary purposes and for related purposes.

Certified: [ ]

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Enacted by the Parliament of Nauru as follows:

## PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

### 1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Parliamentary Services Act 2020*.

### 2 Commencement

This Act commences with effect from 1 July 2021.

### 3 Objectives

The objectives of this Act are to:

- (a) facilitate the separation of powers of the Legislature and the constitutional autonomy of the Parliament as a branch of the Government;
- (b) provide administrative and functional efficiency of the services provided for the operations of the Parliament;
- (c) provide a framework for the employment, leadership and management of employees of the Office and for the good governance of the administration of the Parliament; and
- (d) provide for the financial and budgetary mechanisms for Parliamentary purposes.

### 4 Interpretation

In this Act:

**‘Clerk’** means the person appointed as the Clerk of Parliament pursuant to *Article 33* of the *Constitution*;

**‘Committee’** or **‘Committees’** unless specifically referred to by its name, refers to one or more of the Committees established under the *Standing Orders of the Parliament of Nauru* or any other written law;

**‘employee’** means any staff or officer of the Office;

**‘Office’** means the Office of Parliamentary Services established by Section 5;

**‘Parliament’** refers to the Parliament of Nauru established as the Legislature under *Article 26* of the *Constitution* and the Office established under this Act to provide services to the Parliament;

**‘precinct’** has the same meaning it has in the *Parliamentary Powers, Privileges and Immunities Act 1976*;

**‘responsible Minister’** has the same meaning it has in Section 2 of the *Public Finance (Control and Management) Act 1997*;

**‘Speaker’** means the Speaker of Parliament referred to in *Article 34* of the *Constitution*; and

**‘Standing Orders’** refer to the *Standing Orders of the Parliament of Nauru*.

## **PART 2 – OFFICE OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES**

### **5 Establishment of the Office of Parliamentary Services**

- (1) There shall be established an Office of Parliamentary Services, which shall provide autonomous Parliamentary Services independent of the other branches of the Government.
- (2) The Office may:
  - (a) sue and be sued;
  - (b) enter into contracts and other legal obligations;
  - (c) acquire, hold, manage and dispose of real or personal properties; and
  - (d) have all such powers, functions, duties and responsibilities of a corporation established under the *Corporations Act 1972*.
- (3) For the purposes of this Act, the Speaker shall have the power to execute agreements, receive documents for court proceedings, and such other matters except for any matter specifically provided for under this Act or any other written law.
- (4) The Office consists of the:
  - (a) Clerk of Parliament; and
  - (b) employees of the Office.

### **6 Functions of the Office**

- (1) The functions of the Office shall include:
  - (a) providing impartial legal, financial or other advice and support to the Parliament, its Committees and Members of Parliament;
  - (b) providing impartial legal or other advice on the Standing Orders and parliamentary practice and procedure;
  - (c) developing and conducting public education programs and awareness on Bills and legislation;
  - (d) conducting public awareness on the role and functions of the Parliament and its Committees;
  - (e) providing administrative and support services to the Parliament, its Committees and Members of Parliament;
  - (f) ensuring the accurate and efficient reporting of the proceedings of Parliament and meetings of its Committees;
  - (g) maintaining an official record of proceedings of the Parliament and its Committees;