

## The role of President and Cabinet

The President has many important powers and functions, and also leads the Cabinet. The Constitution lays down the basic rules that the President and Cabinet have to follow.

The *Constitution of Nauru (Referendum Amendments) Bill 2009* seeks to give clearer direction to the President and Cabinet about their responsibilities to Parliament and to the Nauruan people. This would increase accountability and transparency of government in Nauru.

## Stabilising our Government

Frequent change in the Presidency has created a level of instability of government in Nauru that has made it difficult to achieve long-term goals and projects.

The *Constitution of Nauru (Referendum Amendments) Bill 2009* proposes changes that would ensure greater continuity and stability in the office of President.

These changes include making it clear when the President must leave office, and creating a new Council of State to make sure that the government runs smoothly until a new President is elected by the people of Nauru.

## Ada kae tsiminet Referendum?

Murana Naoero Constitution eiy okor dogorrit eb ngea magit ogoda ian Eben Naoero. Ean naramwa eiu Pebuwarr 2010, nan kudaiyu tsinya epo tubum ean iwuden worra Constitution ea murane *Constitution of Nauru (Referendum Amendments) Bill 2009*. Wo nim ijij, e (Yes), tsinya epo tubum ean mungana ikiwiwud ian murana Bill, oa keo (No) tsinya eo epo tubum. Naoero ijamwan megen ian beta.

## Ikiwiwud ngana meg ian murane Bill

**Bitune bill quoqon nim:** Oadaburrida rangaen me oanganameiyen an memeori etangan makurr ngana meg ijongin bett Edogorr ean ngea enim tsimine ere'en angogen mungane ememeori me enim riring iat deden ngea nungida me gaaro. Me ememeori memak enim odegerion murane Constitution.

## Mungane ikiwiwud nan quoqon nim akawong mungane:

- oaioeidaen mungana keimwieiyet engame
- iwud deden ata ijij wora Pretiden
- oagaaro an makurr Pretiden me ran wan Cabinet
- oadaburrida onuweiyet Edogorr

**AM DAEN KIJIJ NGAGE,  
DOGIN AN WIEJO OAIO EBEN NAOERO  
IJAMWAN**

For more information go to:

[www.naurugov.nr](http://www.naurugov.nr)

and visit the referendum tent when it comes to your District.

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# Republic of Nauru

Referendum 2010



**The Constitution:  
It's in our hands**

It's time to vote for  
a stronger future

Saturday 27 February, 2010



## Why is Nauru having a Referendum?

**The Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic of Nauru.**

After a long process, Parliament has decided it is time to amend our Constitution to make improvements to the way Nauru is run.

This is why Nauru is holding its first ever referendum. A referendum is a vote by the people on whether the Constitution should be changed.

**On 27 February 2010, you will be asked if you support the *Constitution of Nauru (Referendum Amendments) Bill 2009*, and you must vote 'Yes' or 'No'.** The future of the Constitution of Nauru is now in our hands.

## Proposed Referendum Amendments

**The main aims of the amendments contained in the Bill** are to improve the transparency and accountability of public institutions, make government more stable, and ensure the relevance of the Constitution.

**The Bill seeks to achieve these aims by:**

- strengthening our human rights;
- changing the way we elect our President;
- clarifying the roles of President and Cabinet; and
- stabilising our Government.

### Strengthening our Human Rights

The protection of human rights is basic to an effective democratic society. The *Constitution of Nauru (Referendum Amendments) Bill 2009* strengthens existing constitutional rights and ensures that people can bring a claim to enforce these rights in the Supreme Court.

The amendments also propose to include the following rights and freedoms in the Constitution of Nauru:

- Protection of right to privacy and personal autonomy
- Right to information
- Right to health services
- Right to education
- Environmental protection
- Employment rights
- Women's rights
- Children's rights
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities

These proposed amendments to the Constitution would strengthen and advance the human rights of the people of Nauru.

### Changing the way we elect our President

The Constitution lays down the rules about how the President must be elected. During public consultations in 2006, the majority of participants expressed the view that it should be the people of Nauru and not the members of Parliament who have the final say in who becomes their President.

The *Constitution of Nauru (Referendum Amendments) Bill 2009* proposes the following changes:

**The President of Nauru will be elected by the people of Nauru.**

- After a general election, or when the office of President is vacated, Parliament must nominate from among its members two to three candidates for election as President
- An election for President must then be held, either 28 days after the general election, or not later than 35 days after the President's office is vacated.
- Every person who is entitled to vote in a general election is entitled to vote in an election for President.

Making this change would increase the stability of the electoral process in Nauru, and would better reflect the democratic values of freedom and equality.

