

EMBARGOED UNTIL THE FIRST READING OF THE AMLA (AMENDMENT) BILL IN PARLIAMENT

ANNEX C: SUPPORT FOR MUSLIM MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Support for couples across the marriage journey

The Registry of Muslim Marriages (ROMM) supports couples in their marriage through initiatives such as Bersamamu, which provides guidance before and during the early years of married life. Couples facing marital difficulties also have access to Marriage Counselling Programmes by the Syariah Court (SYC) to strengthen their relationships and, where possible, preserve their marriage.

Reviews of AMLA

The Administration of Muslim Law Act is regularly reviewed to ensure that Muslim marriage and divorce processes remain responsive to the community's evolving needs. The amendments are guided by two priorities:

- a. Enhancing marriage and divorce processes; and
- b. Strengthening child-centricity in Muslim divorce cases.

Enhancing marriage and divorce processes

Where a marriage is irreconcilable, the SYC adjudicates marital or family disputes, guided by the principles of therapeutic justice for all parties involved. The AMLA continues to be reviewed to improve marriage and divorce processes for the Muslim community, so as to reduce the administrative burden on Muslim couples during an emotionally challenging period, while upholding the integrity and rigour of the divorce process under Muslim law.

Strengthening child-centricity in Muslim divorce cases

Divorce can have a significant impact on children. The SYC has consistently placed child-centricity at the forefront of its work, with children's welfare as a paramount consideration. The proposed amendments further these efforts to minimise the harmful impact of divorce on children.