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AL JAMA-AH calls on SA Ulema to comment on Bills

The Al Jama-ah Party welcomes Parliament's acceptance for a definition of "Islamic Law" on the Amendments to the Divorce Act submitted by the party. The party's leader and Member of Parliament Hon Ganief Hendricks is appealing to the South African Ulema (Religious Leaders) to comment and to provide guidance on bills and laws that serve before the National Assembly.

Hendricks has submitted a Private Members Bill which calls for amendments to the Divorce Act to remove the harm the current provisions in the Act cause to Muslim married women and children conceived in a Nikah Marriage. The bill further complies with an order from the Constitutional Court for the Divorce Act to be amended and such removing the harm caused to Muslim women and children.

This is the third Private Members Bill to have been submitted by Hendricks. The first Bill which calls for amendments to the Maintenance Act will allow women to claim a subsistence allowance to attend Maintenance Court hearings. The First Reading of this Bill took place in Parliament last month and received support from all political parties. The party's second Bill calls for the recognition of the Nikah Certificate of Muslim marriages.

"The Muslim community has taken advantage of a Constitutional Court judgement that allows Members of Parliament to draft bills and amendments to existing Acts of Parliament. We call on Muslim Religious Leaders to engage on the inclusion of the definition of "Islamic Law". It is the party's stance that on matters of Islamic Personal Law a suitable and qualified Qadi (Judge) should be tasked with matters pertaining to Islam Law. We therefore seek the advice of the Muslim Religious Leaders on the required prerequisite qualifications or experience that will allow such a person to be called a Qadi," says Hendricks.

Al Jama-ah is extremely proud of its leader's success in drafting three Personal Law Bills with the assistance of Parliament's Legislative drafting team and the party's legal team lead by lawyer Yusuf Khan Dalwai.

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