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Shahrizat to meet Jakim over Bill

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil will meet the Islamic Development Department (Jakim) to ensure that amendments will be made to the controversial Islamic Family Law (Federal Territories) (Amendment) Bill 2005.

The Women, Family and Community Minister said: "I will sit down with the Minister (in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdullah Mohd Zin) and Jakim, and I will demand that all objections (to the Bill) be adopted."

She said her ministry had earlier objected to almost all the clauses of the Bill, which discriminated against women.

"But we had to agree earlier for the Bill to be passed so that we could complete the uniformity.



NEW BUSINESS: Shahrizat cutting the ribbon to open the Mediterranean fusion restaurant S.A Marrakech in Bangsar yesterday. restaurant owner Datuk Mohd Nazir Mohd Ali and his wife Datin Nataliya Kyrlylnk. — Bernamapic

"But the decision made was based on the condition that immediately after the amendments, Jakim has to look at all the objections (and ensure that they) will be implemented," she said after opening a restaurant at Bangsar yesterday.

On Friday, Dewan Negara unanimously passed the Bill at 11pm after four hours of debate.

Several women senators had on Wednesday threatened to vote against the Bill that discriminated against Muslim women but were ordered by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz not to break ranks.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who acknowledged on Thursday the fears expressed by some women that the Bill threatened their rights as spouses, said the Cabinet had decided that amendments to the Bill could still be made to rectify any shortcomings.

On the proposal to revamp the Syariah court system, Shahrizat said they included the provisions of polygamy, Nafkah (financial support), issue of Syariah court, attitude of judges that discriminated against women and the ineffectiveness of the Syariah system.

"We are looking at the reform of implementation of Syariah (court system) and it is in keeping up with the spirit of the Syariah," she



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