

# Ministry wants crucial points in Islamic family laws

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**PETALING JAYA:** The Women and Family Development Ministry will push for several "crucial points" to be included in the planned standardised Islamic family laws.

Among others, they relate to Muslim marriage, divorce and child custody rights, minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said.

Her ministry had given its feedback to ministers in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim and Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin, and the issues would be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Islamic Family Law on Feb 18.

"Our feedback includes the views of women's groups and other interested parties," she told reporters after launching TV3's *Romancing TV3: Love Peace Not War* campaign at the 1-Utama shopping complex here yesterday.

She said the ministry's proposals, once cleared by the committee headed by Dr Rais, would be submitted to all states

for their consideration.

The need to standardise the family laws followed controversies over differing state laws related to polygamy and custody of children.

Shahrizat's ministry has since proposed that the Federal Territory's syariah regulations be used as the basis for the standardised law and Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that there was no need to amend the Constitution to compel the states to accept the proposed streamlining.

The Prime Minister said all the Malay Rulers were in agreement with the Government, in reference to Terengganu, which had reportedly wanted the *hudud* and *qisas* laws incorporated into the uniform syariah laws before it would accept the Government's proposal.

On the Malaysians for Peace campaign, she said Malaysians must continue their anti-war campaign despite the growing likelihood of war in Iraq.

"As Malaysians who live in peace, we should spread the message of peace in the world."