

# PM: Deliver divorce, alimony decisions concurrently

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government will propose that Syariah Court judges deliver divorce and alimony decisions simultaneously, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

This is to prevent issues from being dragged too long to the point that ex-wives and the children are victimised.

“Right now, after the divorce has been finalised, the case is brought up to hear alimony issues only later. Sometimes, this takes time.

“And that is why we have agreed for both divorce and alimony (hearings) to be decided simultaneously, and this will allow all processes involving alimony to be expedited,” he told a media conference at the Parliament building yesterday.

Earlier, Ismail Sabri held a meeting with representatives of the Malaysian Syariah Lawyers Association (PGSM) to discuss issues involving Syariah laws, reported Bernama.

The Prime Minister said the government has also proposed that alimony payment via direct deductions for civil servants based on decisions made by the court.

He said courts can take action against employers for contempt if they declined to have salaries deducted directly for alimony payments.

“As announced during the Umno general assembly recently, the (bank) accounts of (ex) husbands will be frozen for direct (alimony) payments to be made to the ex-wife and children.

“We are also proposing the Syariah court act sternly against



**It's official:** Ismail Sabri signing a plaque for the launch of the Social Protection Database at the Parliament building. - Bernama

(ex) husbands who defy court decisions, and that a contempt of court order be issued so that further legal action can be taken towards the (ex) husbands,” he said.

In view of this, Ismail Sabri said he will hold talks with the Finance Ministry and Bank Negara to direct

banks to act on alimony payments as decided by the Syariah courts.

Meanwhile, Ismail Sabri also announced the establishment of a Syariah Legal Aid Centre (Bagus) which aims to ensure that Muslims in the country, especially the B40 group, have better access to seek

justice, especially in the Syariah Court.

He said the centre will provide two basic services, namely free legal advice to Muslims who wished to seek legal advice on the claims processes and procedures in the Syariah Court.