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Muis' response to media queries on the proposed Obedient Wives' Club

We refer to questions from the media and reactions of the Muslim community on proposed Obedient Wives' Club. Muis disagrees with the basis or objectives of the aforementioned Club as reported by the media.

The Club's view that a satisfying sex life is the main solution to solving marital and social problems in the community is one that is myopic, and does not accurately portray the complexity of the problems faced by married couples. Such simplistic view is in fact demeaning to women and the institution of marriage and family which are held in high esteem in Islam.

This position is further strengthened by the findings of the Statistics of Marriages and Divorces 2009, which show that causes of divorce among Muslim marriages include personality difference, infidelity, inadequate maintenance, verbal abuse and assault, and not just sexual dissatisfaction.

The institutions of marriage and family are two of the most important and sacred institutions of Islam. Among the objectives (*maqasid*) of marriage in Islam are to produce pious and filial children, protect oneself from sexual vices, and to achieve tranquility of heart and affection towards the spouse as described in the Holy Qur'an.

The strength of the family institution in Islam is the shared responsibilities and rights of both husband and wife. The concept of obedience in a marriage also relies on the balance of those rights and responsibilities between the couple. The wife's obligations towards the husband need to be reciprocated with a respectable and kind treatment towards her by her husband. Similarly for the husband, in order to be

worthy of being the leader of the family and earning the respect of his family, he must lead them to do good deeds and protect their welfare and well-being. On this basis, Muslims are taught in the Qur'an that husbands and wives complement one another in attaining good, as mentioned in Surah Al-Baqarah verse 187

“They (your wives) are garments for you and you (husbands) are garments for them”

Happiness in a marriage goes beyond receiving sexual fulfillment from one's wife. The Prophet himself (Peace be upon him) taught Muslims to engage in spousal sexual relations in a manner that is full of love and respect towards each other. This is because sexual relations are a form of *ibadah* (blessed deed in Islam) which requires consent and willingness from both parties.

Muis will continue to support initiatives by any organization which aims to uphold and protect the sanctity of women and the institution of family through positive and holistic means.

MAJLIS UGAMA ISLAM SINGAPURA