

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE MARRIAGE ACT AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

*Sponsored by HON. CHIEF EKEDOZIE OKORIE CHUKWU,
Okigwe North Federal Constituency, Imo State*

[] Commence-
ment.

1 BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal
2 Republic of Nigeria as follows :—

3 1. Section 33 of the principal Act is amended by *repealing* sub-
4 section (1) and *substituting* therefor the following subsection—

Amendment
of section 33
of principal
Act.

5 “(1) A marriage under this Act shall be valid where either of the
6 parties thereto at the time of the celebration of such marriage is
7 married under Islamic Law or Customary Law—

8 (a) to the person with whom such marriage is had ; or

9 (b) to any person other than the person with whom such marriage
10 is had.”

11 2. Section 35 of the principal Act is repealed and there shall be
12 substituted therefor the following new section—

Repeal and
substitution
of section 35
of principal
Act.

13 “Islamic and 35 Any person who is married under this Act or whose
14 Customary law marri- marriage is declared by this Act to be valid shall be capable
15 ages valid. during the continuance of such marriage of contracting a valid
16 marriage under Islamic Law or Customary Law”.

17 3. Sections 36, 40, 47 and 48 of the principal Act are hereby
18 repealed.

Repeal of
sections 36,
40, 47 and 48
of principal
Act.

Interpreta-
tion.

4. In this Act—

“principal Act” means Marriage Act.

Short title.

5. This Act may be cited as the Marriage (Amendment) Act 1981.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Marriage Act was originally passed in 1914 by the then Colonial Administration in a calculated attempt to impose the English form of marriage on Nigeria and in utter disregard of Nigerian culture and traditions, with the result that marriages under the Marriage Act were regarded by the said Administration as being superior in status to marriages under Islamic Law or Customary Law. This Bill seeks to eliminate the stigma which the Marriage Act attaches to marriages under Islamic Law or Customary Law and to treat those marriages as being of equal status with those contracted under the Marriage Act.

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL CODE AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

*Sponsored by HONOURABLE CHIEF EKEDOZIE OKORIE CHUKWU,
Okigwe North Federal Constituency, Imo State*

[]

Commence-
ment.

1 BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal
2 Republic of Nigeria as follows :—

3 1. Section 370 of the Criminal Code contained in the Schedule to
4 the Criminal Code Act is hereby repealed.

Repeal of
section 370
of Criminal
Code : Cap.
42.

5 2. This Act may be cited as the Criminal Code (Amendment)
6 Act 1981.

Short title.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to repeal the law relating to bigamy.