

Kenya to let men have many wives

24th March, 2014



The government in Kenya has agreed on a new law on marriage. It has made many female politicians very angry. The Marriage Bill allows men to

have as many wives as they want. Men will soon be able to marry other women without even telling their wife. There was a big argument between the male and female politicians. Many female lawmakers walked out of the debate in anger. The law was going to make it illegal to have more than one wife, but male lawmakers changed their mind. One male politician said the law was fair to women. He said that for the first time, women who get divorced would have 30 per cent of the family house and other things of value belonging to the couple.

Kenyan politician Samuel Chepkong'a said the new law simply keeps alive Kenya's traditions. He told reporters: "When you marry an African woman, she must know the second one is on the way, and a third wife. This is Africa." Kenya's Nation newspaper said the law did not show Kenya as a modern country. It wrote: "This is a [backwards] move that is simply taking us back into the Dark Ages, at a time when we should be strengthening family values." Female politician Sopian Tuya said the law was unfair to the first wife because the second wife would take all the money. She also warned men about marrying in secret, saying: "We know that men are afraid of women's tongues more than anything else."

Sources: BBC / Nation.co.ke / Kenya Capital FM

Writing

A man or woman can have only one married partner in their whole life. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

law / marriage / female politicians / argument / anger / illegal / fair / family house / traditions / a modern country / family values / take all the money / in secret / tongues

True / False

- Male and female politicians welcomed Kenya's new marriage law. T / F
- Men can marry other women only after telling their wife. T / F
- A male lawmaker said the new law was fair to women. T / F
- The new law says a couple's property is split 50-50 after a divorce. T / F
- A politician said the law supports Kenyan traditions. T / F
- A newspaper said the law shows Kenya is not a modern country. T / F
- A female politician said the law was unfair to newer wives. T / F
- The politician said men were most afraid of a woman's tongue. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. agreed | a. rage |
| 2. argument | b. reinforcing |
| 3. anger | c. owned by |
| 4. illegal | d. scared |
| 5. belonging to | e. settled |
| 6. traditions | f. up to date |
| 7. modern | g. unlawful |
| 8. strengthening | h. cautioned |
| 9. warned | i. fight |
| 10. afraid | j. customs |

Discussion – Student A

- Is Kenya's 'Nation' newspaper right in saying the law is backwards?
- What is the Dark Ages?
- What family values need strengthening in your country?
- What are the biggest problems married couples have?
- Who is the new law unfair to most?
- Should there be a world law on marriage?
- Are men afraid of women's tongues?
- What questions would you like to ask the leader of Kenya?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. agreed | a. country |
| 2. have as many | b. even telling their wife |
| 3. marry other women without | c. family values |
| 4. male lawmakers changed | d. alive Kenya's traditions |
| 5. things of value | e. on a new law on marriage |
| 6. the new law simply keeps | f. the way |
| 7. the second one is on | g. their mind |
| 8. a modern | h. belonging to the couple |
| 9. strengthening | i. of women's tongues |
| 10. men are afraid | j. wives as they want |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of Kenya's new law?
- What three adjectives best describe this news for you?
- Why would a man want more than one wife?
- If some cultures allow more than one married partner, should we respect their tradition?
- Why do most people believe just one married partner is best?
- What can Kenya's women do to change this law?
- Is 30% of the house and money in a divorce still very unfair?
- Should Kenya let women have more than one husband?

Spelling

- a new law on raeamrg
- female sotcinipila
- There was a big rmeganut
- make it egllai to have more than one wife
- get dodciver
- things of value elngnionb to the couple
- the new law simply keeps alive Kenya's nrtdosiai
- a nmdeor country
- we should be nihenttrggmse family values
- the law was rinfaui to the first wife
- marrying in tcrese
- men are afraid of women's esotgnu

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. i	3. a	4. g	5. c
6. j	7. f	8. b	9. h	10. d

Role Play

Role A – Love

You think love is most important in a marriage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why these things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): conversation, respect or faithfulness.

Role B – Conversation

You think conversation is most important in a marriage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why these things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): love, respect or faithfulness.

Role C – Respect

You think respect is most important in a marriage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why these things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): conversation, love or faithfulness.

Role D – Faithfulness

You think faithfulness is most important in a marriage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them reasons why these things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): conversation, respect or love.

Speaking – More than one

Rank these with your partner. Put the things people shouldn't have more than one of at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| • spouse | • car |
| • house | • chin |
| • mobile phone | • TV |
| • job | • piece of chocolate cake |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.