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MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION: EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENT ON ISSUE PAPER 35 ON A SINGLE MARRIAGE STATUTE (PROJECT 144) UNTIL 31 AUGUST 2019 AND QUESTIONNAIRES POSTED

On 8 April 2019 the South African Law Reform Commission (the Commission) announced the availability for general information and comment of its project 144 Issue Paper 35 dealing with the question of the possible adoption of a single marriage statute. Respondents were requested to submit comment to the SALRC by 31 July 2019.

Issue Paper 35 is available on the Internet at the following site:
<http://www.justice.gov.za/salrc/ipapers.htm>

The Issue Paper is the first document published during the course of an investigation. It aims to announce the investigation, initiate and stimulate debate, seek proposals for reform, and will serve as a basis for further deliberation by the Commission in the form of consultations leading to a Discussion Paper. At this present stage the Issue Paper does not contain proposals for law reform. After the closing date for comment the committee will host consultative meetings or workshops in all the provinces with all stakeholders and respondents. The responses to the Issue Paper will assist the Commission in identifying the respondents and stakeholders to be invited to participate in the committee's consultation phase. The details of the workshops will be announced to the general public in due course.

Taking many factors into account, including the time factor and the logistical intricacies of the country-wide consultations that must follow the Issue Paper, it has been decided to extend the closing date for comment until **31 August 2019**.

The Commission further wishes to announce that the questions it posed in its Issue Paper 35 have been consolidated into the format of a questionnaire. The questionnaire has also been translated into Afrikaans, isiNdebele, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, Setswana, Tshivenda and Xitsonga. The questionnaires have now also been posted on the Commission's website at <http://www.justice.gov.za/salrc/qnr.htm>

Respondents are requested to submit written comment, representations or submissions to the Commission for the attention of Pierre van Wyk to the following address:

The Secretary
South African Law Reform Commission
Private Bag X668
Pretoria
0001

E-mail: pvanwyk@justice.gov.za

Issue Paper 35 can also be obtained free of charge from the SALRC on request. Kindly contact Mr Jacob Kabini at Jakabini@justice.gov.za or (012) 622 6346 in this regard.

Contact for enquiries in respect of media statement: Pierre van Wyk

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ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY, S A LAW REFORM COMMISSION, CENTURION

DATE: 24 July 2019