

President Kenyatta assents to Marriage and Heroes Bills

NAIROBI, 29 April, 2014 (**PSCU**) –President Uhuru Kenyatta has signed into law the Marriage Bill 2014.

The Marriage Act 2014 defines various types of marriages including monogamous, polygamous, customary, Christian, Islamic and Hindu marriages.

The Act --which consolidates various laws relating to marriage --provides procedures for separation and divorce. It also regulates the custody and maintenance of children in the event of separation and divorce.

According to the Act, marriage is the voluntary union of a man and a woman whether in a monogamous or polygamous union registered under the Act. It states that parties to a marriage have equal rights and obligations at the time of marriage, during the marriage and at the dissolution of the marriage. All marriages registered under the Act have the same legal status.

President Kenyatta also gave his assent to the Heroes Bill 2014, which creates a council to manage the welfare of heroes.

The Heroes Act provides for the recognition of heroes and establishes criteria for the identification, selection and honouring of national heroes. It also provides for the categories of heroes and the establishment of the National Heroes Council.

The two National Assembly Bills were presented to the Head of State for signing at State House Nairobi today by National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi who was accompanied by Solicitor General Njee Muturi, National Assembly Clerk Justin Bundi and National Assembly Leader of Majority, Aden Duale.

The National Assembly also submitted the National Flag, Emblems and Names (Amendment) Bill passed on 26th March, 2014 but President Kenyatta did not assent to it. According to State House Spokesperson, Mr.

Manoah Esipisu, the President was reviewing the Bill and "is likely to return it to Parliament with a memorandum in respect of Cabinet Secretaries."