

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

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BILL

further to amend the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997

WHEREAS it is expedient to further amend the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 (XXVII of 1997), in the manner, hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. Short title and commencement. (1) This Act may be called the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Act, 2018.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Insertion of new section in Act No. XXVII of 1997.- In the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 (XXVII of 1997), after section 21A, the following new section shall be inserted, namely:-

"21AA. Protection of Judges, Prosecutors, Witnesses and persons concerned with Court Proceedings.- (1) For the purposes of protecting the Judges, Prosecutors, Witnesses and persons concerned with Court proceedings, the Court may make such necessary orders or take such measures, as it deems fit, which may also include the following:-

- (a) Proceedings may be held in camera, or under restricted entry, where necessary, to prevent persons from crowding or storming the Court to intimidate the Judge and/or Prosecutor or to create a threatening atmosphere which may impede the trial;
- (b) Witness Anonymity Order may be passed by a Court that requires such specified measures to be taken in relation to a witness in proceedings, as the Court considers appropriate to ensure that the identity of the witness is not disclosed in or in connection with the proceedings. The kinds of measures that may be required to be taken in relation to a witness may include measures for securing one or more of the following:-
 - (i) That the witness's name and other identifying details shall be withheld or removed from materials disclosed to any party to the proceedings;
 - (ii) The witness shall use a pseudonym;

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In order to make effective provision for protection of witnesses and persons concerned with the trial of Anti-Terrorism cases. It is expedient to amend the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 so that the witnesses don't feel intimidated, harassed and coerced whilst giving their testimony and are able to testify without being apprehensive of their security in accordance with law.

**SENATOR BARRISTER MURTAZA WAHAB
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MEMBERS-IN-CHARGE**