THE INQUESTS ACT, 1980

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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

No. 17 OF 1980

I ASSENT,

President

21st MAY, 1980

An Act to repeal and re-enact the Inquests Ordinance

....*21ST*.... MAY, 1980

ENACTED by the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania.

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Inquests Act, 1980, and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by order published in the *Gazette,* appoint.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context requires otherwise-

"appropriate authority" means the Person appointed by the Minister to 'bb the appropriate authority for the purposes of this Act;

"coroner" means any person empowered or appointed under section 5 to hold inquest under this Act;

"hospital" means any institution for the reception and medical treatment of persons who are injured, infirm or suffering from illness,, and includes a dispensary, health centre, maternity home, clinic (whether mobile or not) and also any place or premises used for purposes of medical treatment, whether regularly or periodically;

"inquest! ' means any inquiry held by a Coroner under this Act into the death of any person;

"local authority" means a City Council, a Municipal Council, a Town Council or a District Development Council;

"medical practitioner" means a person for the time being authorized to practice the medical profession by virtue of his being registered or licensed under the provisions of the Medical Practitioners and Dentists Ordinance, and includes any person for the time being m-charge of a hospital;

Cap. 409

"Minister" means the Minister for the time being responsible for legal matters;

"official custody" means detention-

(a) in the custody of a police officer, a prisons officer, an officer of the Anti-Corruption Squad or any officer authorized to carry out any function under the Preventive Detention Act, 1962;

Cap. 490

(b) in any reformatory school or remand home under the management, control or administration of the Commissioner for Social Welfare in consequence of any detention or committal order; or

(c) in a mental hospital under section 9 of the Mental Diseases Ordinance or section 168 of the Criminal Procedure Code or any other written law;

Cap. 98

Cap. 20

"Principal Judge" means a Judge of the High Court of Tanzania, known as "Jaji Kiongozi" in Kiswahili, appointed under section 61 of the Constitution of the United Republic.

PART II

CORONERS' COURTS

Establishment of Coroners' Courts

3.-(1) The Minister may, after consultation with the Principal Judge, by order published in the *Gazette*, establish a Coroner's Court in respect the area of jurisdiction of every local authority specified in the order.

(2) The Minister may establish one or more Coroners' Courts m respect of one local authority, and may establish one Coroner's Court in respect more than one local authorities.

(3) Where a Coroners Court is established in one area but not in others, inquests in the latter areas shall be conducted by District and Regional Magistrates.

Functions of Coroners' Courts

4.-(1) The function of a Coroner's Court shall be to enquire into the death of any person who-

(a) is reasonably suspected to have died violently or of unnatural causes;

(b) dies a sudden death the cause of which is unknown;

(c) dies while m official custody, or in consequence of the execution of a sentence passed on him;

(d) dies or is found dead in such place and in such circumstances as to require an inquest in pursuance of the provisions of any written law.

(2) A Coroner's Court shall not - hear or. inquire into any matter or proceeding arising otherwise than under this Act.

Qualifications and appointment of coroners

5.-(l) The Minister may by notice published in the Gazelle, from time to time, prescribe the qualifications of persons who may be appointed as Coroners for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Principal Judge shall after consultation with an appropriate authority, by notice published -in the *Gazette,* appoint, in respect of a local authority, such number of public officers or retired public officers as, he thinks fit, and who are qualified in accordance With the provisions of the notice under subsection (1), each to be a Coroner in respect of the area of the jurisdiction of the local authority specified in the notice.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), the Principal Judge may, after consultation with the Chief Justice, by notice in the *Gazette,* appoint any one magistrate to be a Coroner m respect of one local authority specified in the Notice.

PART III

POWERS AND DUTIES OF CORONERS

When inquest may be held

6.-(1) Where a Coroner, upon information received, is satisfied that there is a body of a deceased person lying within his jurisdiction, and that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the circumstances of the death of that person make the holding of an inquest necessary or desirable, that Coroner shall, subject to the provision of this Act, hold an inquest on the body as soon as is practicable.

(2) Where, in the opinion of the appropriate authority, the circumstances of the death of any person, which are not known to the Coroner for the jurisdiction concerned, require to be enquire into, the appropriate authority may, n, writing, require the Coroner to hold an inquest on the body of the deceased person in question, and the Coroner shall, subject to section 7, hold the inquest.

Power to dispense with inquest in certain cases

7. If it appears to the Coroner, either from the report of a medical practitioner rendered under section I 1 or from any other evidence, that the death, is due to natural causes, and the body shows no appearance of death being attributable to or of having be--n accelerated by violence or by any culpable or negligent act either on the part of the deceased or of any other person, he may, except in cases specified m section 15, dispense with the holding of inquest.

Postponement and adjournment of inquests in certain cases

8.-(1) If, before or after proceedings in an inquest have com-. menced the Coroner is informed that some person has been or is about to be brought before a court on criminal charges in connection with the death of the deceased, the Coroner shall, in the absence of reason to the contrary, not commence the inquest, or, if the inquest has commenced, shall not continue or resume it, until after the conclusion of the criminal proceedings.

(2) After the conclusion of the criminal proceedings, the Coroner may, subject to the following provisions of this section, hold an inquest or resume the adjourned inquest if he is of the opinion that public benefit is likely to result from his so doing but if he is of opinion that no public benefit is likely to result from his so doing, he shall certify his opinion to that effect and transmit that opinion to the Director of Public Prosecutions together with a certified copy of the inquest proceedings if the inquest has been commenced.

(3) If in the course of the criminal proceedings under subsection (1) any person has been charged upon information, then upon the resumed inquest no inquisition shall contain any finding that sufficient grounds have been disclosed for charging that person with any offence of which he could have been convicted on the information or any finding which is inconsistent with the determination of any matter by the result of those proceedings.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2), where an inquest is postponed or adjourned in pursuance of subsection (1) and it is ascertained that a person to be charged cannot be found, the Coroner shall commence or resume the inquest, as the case may be, and conclude it.

(5) For the purposes of this section, the expression "the criminal proceedings" means the proceedings before a subordinate court and before any court to which the accused person is committed for trial or before which an appeal from the conviction of that person is heard, and criminal proceedings shall not be deemed to be concluded until no appeal can be made in the course of those proceedings without special leave or extension of time.

Power to order exhumation

9.-(1) If it appears to any Coroner that the body of any person, who has died in circumstances requiring the holding of an inquest on the body, has been buried without being viewed or without the inquest having been held, or where the inquest although held was quashed or re-opened, the Coroner may, notwithstanding any written law or custom for the time being in force, by a warrant m the form A prescribed in the Schedule to this Act, order the exhumation of that body; and shall, after the exhumation, proceed to hold an inquest on that body and direct its reinterment; and the expenses of the exhumation and reinterment shall be paid from the funds of the United Republic.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), an exhumation shall not- be ordered in any case where, in the opinion of the Coroner it would be injurious to public health, or where there is no reasonable probability of the results assisting substantially in the determination of the circumstances or cause of death.

Coroner may direct post-mortern examination

10. (1) It for the purposes of the investigation of the circumstances of the death of any person, the Coroner considers it necessary to obtain a medical report on the appearance of the body of that person and as to the conclusions to be drawn from that appearance; he may, subject to subsection (2), by an order in the form B prescribed in the Schedule

to this Act; require any Government medical practitioner within or without his jurisdiction or, in the absence of such officer, any other medical practitioner within his jurisdiction, to make an examination of the body and to report on it.

(2) A Coroner shall not order the conduct of a post-mortem. examination if he is of the opinion-

(a) that the examination cannot be made within such time as would enable it to be of practical value because-

(i) the body cannot be brought to a medical practitioner for examination;

(ii) a medical practitioner cannot make an examination at the place where the body is; and

(iii) the body cannot be brought to some specified place at which a medical practitioner could make an examination; or

(b) that, by reason of the distance which a medical practitioner would be obliged to travel in order to make an examination and the time which would be taken for the journey, it would not be in the public interest that such an order be made.

Medical practitioner to make an examination and report

11. Upon receipt of an order under section 10 for a post-mortem examination, unless he procures the services of some other medical practitioner shall immediately make an examination of the body, with a view to determining from it Me cause of death, and to ascertaining the circumstances connected with it. The examination shall extend, when the medical practitioner considers it necessary but not otherwise, to such dissection of the body as he may think requisite. The report, to be in the form C prescribed in the Schedule, shall state the cause of death, and shall be signed by the medical practitioner, and, on being read at the inquest, shall be *prima facie* evidence of the facts stated m it, but the Coroner may call tie medical practitioner it he considers it necessary.

PART IV

HOLDING OF INQUESTS

Notice of death

12.-(l) When any body is found, or a person has died, in circumstances which make the holding of an inquest necessary or desirable, the person finding the body or becoming aware of the death shall as soon as practicable inform a Coroner, or a police officer or any appropriate authority and upon receiving that information the police officer or the appropriate authority shall notify a Coroner having jurisdiction to hold an inquest.

(2) Any person who, without good cause, refuses or fails to inform the Coroner or police officer or Party or Government official as required by this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine no-t exceeding five hundred shillings.

Preliminary examination of body

13.-(1) Whenever a dead body is brought to a hospital, the medical practitioner in-charge or the hospital, or the medical practitioner authorized by the medical practitioner in-charge, shall make a preliminary external examination of the body and report in writing to a Coroner whom may, if he considers it necessary, order a post-mortem examination

(2) The medical practitioner who makes the post-mortem examination shall report on the cause of death to the Coroner who ordered the post-mortem examination.

Inquest into sudden or violent death

14. (1) Whenever any person dies suddenly, or by accident or violence, or under suspicious circumstances. or whenever the dead body of any person is found or is brought into any part of the United Republic, a Coroner may, if he consider that an inquest is necessary, hold an inquest into the cause of and the circumstance connected with the death of that person, with or without a view of the body as he may think fit, and determine the cause of the death.

(2) Where witnesses attend in person at an inquest, a Coroner may, if he deems it describe or necessary, in any case hold the inquest with the aid of assessors; but it shall not be necessary for a Coroner to hold every inquest with the aid of assessors.

(3) An inquest may be held under this section notwithstanding that the cause of death did not a rise within the United Republic.

(4) If a Coroner considers that an inquest is not necessary, he shall immediately forward to the Director of Public Prosecutions all papers, documents and other evidence relating to that death which he considered.

Executions and deaths in prison, etc.

15.-(1) Whenever judgment is executed on any offender, a Coroner shall within twenty-four hours after the execution enquire into and ascertain the identity of the body and the cause of death, and whether judgment of death was duly executed on the offender.

(2) Whenever any person dies while he is in official custody, a Coroner shall as soon as practicable hold an inquest into the cause of death.

(3) A Coroner holding an inquest in pursuance of the provisions of subsection (2) shall do so with the aid of not less than three assessors.

Inquest where body destroyed or irrecove-rable

16. Where a Coroner reasonable belives that a death has occured in the area under his jurisdiction in circumstance necessitating the holding of an inquest, and that owing to the destruction of the body by fire or other natural agent or to the fact that the body is lying in a place from which it cannot be recovered, an ordinary inquest cannot be held. he may, if he considers it desirable, hold an inquest touching on the death, and the law relating to inquests shall apply with such modifications as may be necessary in consequence of the inquest being hold otherwise than on or after view of a body lying within the Coroner's jurisdiction.

Coroner may call for statements recorded by police officers

17.-(1) Where a death has occured in such circumstances that and inquest under this Act is required or ought to be held, the Coroner may direct any police officer having charge of or concerned in an investigation into the death to produce to the Coroner, prior to the holding of the inquest, any statement made to, and recorded in writing by, that police officer by any person having knowledge of the circumstances, the cause of the death or the identity of the deceased as the case may be, the Coroner may postpone the holding of the inquest for such time as may be necessary to enable him to obtain and peruse any such statement.

(2) A Coroner to whom a statement is produced under subsection (1) shall, before holding the inquest. return the statement to the police officer by whom it was produced and may, at the same time, notify him of the name of any person whose statement or further statement should be taken or whose attendance at the inquest will be required.

Power of D.P.P to order inquest

18. The Director of Public Prosecutions may, if he considers it necessary or desirable m the public interest order that an inquest be held into the death of any person, and if a Coroner is so required by the Director of Public Prosecutions he shall hold an inquest into the cause of and the circumstances connected with the death of any person.

PART V

PROCEDURE AT INQUEST

The inquisition

19.-(1) The proceeding and evidence at an inquest shall be directed solely to ascertaining-

(a) who the deceased was;

(b) how, when and where the deceased came by his death;

(c) whether the circumstances of the death disclose any offence;

(d) the particulars concerning the death which required in pursuance of any written law for the time being in force.

(2) If the conduct of any person is called into question at an inquest on grounds which the Coroner thinks substantial and which relate to any matter referred to m subsection (1), and if that person is not present at the inquest and his statement has not been duly taken or he has not been summoned at the inquest, the inquest may be adjourned to enable a statement of that person to be recorded or to enable him to attend at the inquest.

(3) After the view, if any, of the body and the completion of the evidence, the Coroner shall give his finding and certify it by an inquisition in writing in the form D prescribed in the: Schedule to this Act, showing such of the matters specified in subsection (1) as have been proved at the inquest, and, Where the inquest concerns the death of a person executed m pursuance of a death warrant, the verdict and inquisition shall include a finding as to whether the death was instantaneous and the person executed was the person named in that warrant.

(4) The Coroner shall not express any opinion on matters other than those referred to in subsection (1) and (3); and no verdict shall be worded in such a way as to appear to determine any question of civil liability.

(5) Nothing in this section shall preclude the Coroner from making a recommendation designed to prevent the recurrence of fatalities similar to that in respect of which the inquest was held.

Provisions regarding the viewing of the body

20.-(l) At or before the first siting of an inquest on a body, the Coroner shall view the body or shall satisfy himself that the body has been viewed by a police officer, a medical practitioner, or other trustworthy person; but when an inquest on the body has been pre" viously opened, it shall not be necessary upon a resumed, continued or subsequent inquest for the body to be viewed a second time.

(2) An order authorizing the burial of a body upon which it has been decided to hold an inquest may be issued at any time after the body has been viewed or examined, as the case may be.

(3) if the body has been buried and has not been viewed in the manner provided in subsection (1), the Coroner shall order the exhumation of the body for the purpose of a view in the manner provided by section 9 unless he certifies that, in his opinion, the exhumation word be injurious to the Public health or that the results of the exhumation would not be of any assistance in determining the circumstances or cause of death of the deceased.

(4) In any case in which the Coroner himself has viewed the body, he shall certify that fact upon the record of the inquest and in other cause he shall record evidence, if any, of the view of the body by a police officer, a medical practitioner or other trustworthy person.

Coroner may summon witnesses

21.-(1) At any inquest held in pursuance of the provisions of this Act, evidence shall be adduced by the reading of statements made by persons interviewed by police officer or other public officers, and the persons who made those statements shall not appear m person at the inquest.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), Persons may be required to appear in person at any inquest at the request of an interested party or at the Coroner's motion, if the Coroner deems it necessary or desirable and, in any such case, a Coroner shall have and may exercise all the powers conferred upon a subordinate court by the Criminal Procedure Code, within regard to summoning and compel- Cap. 20 ing the attendance of witnesses and requiring them to give evidence, and with regard to the production of any document or thing at the inquest.

(3) Where a Coroner decides to summon a witness to give evidence or to produce any document, the summons or summons to produce and the. warrant of arrest, if issued, shall be in writing and signed by the Coroner.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), where the inquest concerns the death of a person executed m pursuance of a death warrant, the medical practitioner who was present at the execution shall be an essential witness at the inquest.

(5) The provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code shall, as far as may be, apply to summonses to produce issued by a Coroner. Cap. 20

Coroner not bound by rules of evidence

22. Wherever at any inquest evidence is adduced by witnesses attending in pursuant to summonses served on them, the Coroner holding the inquest shall not be bound by any rules of evidence which may pertain to civil or criminal proceedings, and no witness may object to answer any question on the ground only that it will tend to incriminate him; but nothing which any witness says in reply to any question put to him at any inquest shall be used Against him at any subsequent trial.

Examination of witnesses

23.-(1) Where at any inquest witnesses are required to attend, the persons referred to m subsection (3) and any other person who, in the opinion of the Coroner, is properly interested shall be entitled to examine any witness at an inquest, either in person or by an advocate.

(2) Where any person examines a witness under the provisions of subsection (1), the Coroner shall disallow any question which, in his opinion, is not relevant or is in any other way improper.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), if the death of the deceased may have been caused by an injury received in course of his employment or by an industrial disease, the following shall be deemed to be property interested persons for the purposes of this section:

(a) any person appointed in writing by the field branch of JUWATA if the deceased was a member;

(b) the employer of the deceased; and

(c) any person duly authorized by the Minister for the time being responsible for labour matters.

(4) Unless the Coroner determines otherwise, a witness at an inqust shall be examined first by the Coroner and, if the witness is assisted by any person at the inquest, lastly by the person assisting that witness.

(5) Any person whose conduct is likely, in the opinion of the Coroner, to be called m question at an inquest shall, if not duly summoned to give evidence at the inquest, be given reasonable notice of the date, hour and place at which the inquest will be held.

(6) No person shall be allowed to address the Coroner as to the facts, but a person may, with the leave of the Coroner, address him as to the law.

Recording of evidence

24.-(1) At every inquest the Coroner shall record-

(a) the name and designation of the officer reading out the statement made by persons who witnesses the death or viewed the body of the deceased, or who knows the circumstances which led to the death of the deceased.

(b) the name and address of each person whose statement is read out at the inquest,

and shall then number consecutively each statement read out and incorporate it into the record of the court relating to the inquest concerned.

(2) Where at any inquest any witnesses are required to attend, the Coroner shall take down or Cause to be taken down in his presence the evidence of every witness and the evidence shall be signed by him and by the Coroner-

Statements made by police officers may be admitted as evidence at inquest

25. Notwithstanding any written law for the time being relating to the admission of evidence made to police officers, where, upon hearing the evidence of a police officer having charge of Or concerned in an investigation into the deceased person, the Coroner is satisfied that-

(a) the death was caused in circumstances other than those referred to in subsection (3) of section 23 -or III subsection (1) of section 8; and

(b) there are no grounds for making a charge against any person in connection with the death,

the Coroner may admit as evidence a statement by a police officer relating to statements made to, and recorded in writing by, a police Officer by any person regarding the death or the identity of the deceased, and the statement so admitted shall be evidence in the inquest and shall form part of the record,

Inquest on Sundays etc. or in private

26.-(1) A Coroner May lawfully hold an inquest on a Sunday or public holiday.

(2) if the Coroner thinks it expedient in the interests of justice that any inquest be held in private, he may hold it in Private.

(3) Whenever an inquest is held m private, the Coroner shall record his reasons for holding it thus.

Adjournment of inquest

27. A Coroner holding an inquest in any Place May adjourn it to another day and may order the adjourned inquest to be hold in the same or at any other place.

Conclusion of an inquest

28. Where during or at the close of the inquest the Coroner is of the opinion that sufficient grounds are disclosed for making a charge against any person in connection with the death, he shall record a verdict-

(a) complying with the provisions of section 19'.

(b) making a recommendation as to the offence disclosed, and

without naming any person as being responsible for the offence, discharge the witnesses, if any, and any other persons connected with the inquest in question,. and cause the record of the inquest to be sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Return of inquisition

29. As soon as practicable after the conclusion of an inquest, in circumstances other than those in section 28, the Coroner shall deliver to the Registrar of the High Court of the United Republic-

(a) the depositions taken and the written statements admitted by him on the inquest;

(b) any documents produced in evidence;

(c) a list signed by the Coroner of all exhibits produced in evidence; and

(d) a certificate in the prescribed form duly filled up and signed by him.

Power of the High Court

30.-(1) Where the High Court, upon application made by or under the authority of the Director of Public Prosecutions, is satisfied that it is necessary or desirable to do so, the Court may-

(a) direct any inquest to be reopened for the taking of further evidence, or for the inclusion in its Proceedings and consideration with the evidence already taken, of any evidence taken in any judicial proceedings which may be relevant to any issue determinable at that inquest, and the recording of a fresh finding upon the pro. ceedings as a whole;

(b) quash the finding m any inquest substituting for it some other finding which appears to be lawful and in accordance with the evidence recorded or included as is provided in this section; or

(c) quash any inquest, with or with-out ordering a new inquest to be held.

(2) The provisions of this section shall apply to all inquests and the findings in them.

(3) For the purpose of this section, the expression "judicial Proceeding" means a Proceeding before any court, tribunal or persons having by law power to hear, receive and examine evidence on oath.

PART VI

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Powers of Coroner to or burial or cremation

31. A Coroner may, notwithstanding that he considers that an inquest is necessary, order any body to be buried or cremated and he shall in that case give a certificate of his order in the prescribed form.

Penalty where body is buried without authority

32.-(1) Any person who, without lawful authority or excuse, inters or cremates any body, the burial or cremation of which has been prohibited under section 31, or the body of any person who has died

while under official custody, or of any person who has died, in any of the circumstances mentioned in section 6, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred shillings.

(a) Where any person is charged with an offence against this section. the onus of proving that he had lawful authority *of* excuse shall be on that person.

Obstructing medical practi-tioner, etc.

33. Any person who obstructs: a medical practitioner, police officer or other person in the execution of any duty imposed on him by this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a line not exceeding five hundred shillings.

34. The Principal Judge may, with the consent of the Minister, make regulations, which shall be published m the Gazette-

(a) prescribing the scale of fees to be paid by persons applying for a copy of any depositions taken by the Coroner at any inquest, or of any report of post-mortem. examination or of any document put in evidence at any inquest;

(b) prescribing the scale of fees to be paid to medical practitioners for any post-mortern examination or other service required of them under this Act; and

(c) the scale of fees to be paid to witnesses and other persons.

Prescribed forms

35. The forms set out in the Schedule to this Act shall be used for the matters to which they respectively relate with such variations as circumstances may require-, but the Principal Judge may, from time to time by notice m the *Gazette,* amend, add to or replace any of the provisions of the Schedule to this Act.

Repeal of Cap. 24

36. The Inquest Ordinance is hereby repealed.

SCHEDULE

(Section 35)

PRESCRIBED FORMS

CORONER'S FORM A

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The Inquests Act, 1980

(Section 9(l))

ORDER OF EXHUMATION

_____

Name of Local Authority

To: _____

_____

_____

_____

Where it appears that _____ has died in circumstances requiring the holding of an inquest upon his body and that the body of _____ has been buried at _____ _____ without the inquest being held *(or* without the

body being viewed) (or that the inquest held at _____
on the _____ day of _____
was insufficient):

You _____ are
Now hereby charged ad commanded to immediately cause that body to be taken up (and viewed) (or, and safely conveyed to _____
within the above named local authority) so that I may proceed to hold an inquest into the cause of the death of the said _____
(or as *the case may be).*

Herein fail not
Given under may hand at _____ ____
this _____ day of _____ 19____

_____
Coroner

_____

CORONER'S FORM B

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
The Inquests Act, 1980
(Section 10(l))

ORDER FOR POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION

To Dr. _____
_____
_____

WHEREAS I am credibly informed that one _____
_____ has died in
circumstance which may require the holding of an inquest under the Inquests Art, 1980, you are hereby authorized and required to make a post-mortem examination of the body of _____ which will be delivered to you by _____
_____ and to make a report on it.

Given under my hand at _____ this
_____ day of _____ ____

_____
Coroner

_____

CORONERS FORM C

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
The Inquests Act, 1980
(Section 11)

REPORT ON POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION

To: The Coroner,
Ndugu _____
_____

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT at ---------- in the District of _____ ---------- on the - - - _____ of ---------- 19.... at ---------- hours

I examined the body of a } male* female } adult* child infant

*(A) The body was identified to me by ----------
---------- of ---------- in the
presence of *(name and rank of police officer or other official present, if any)* ----------

as being that of

(B) The body was not identified to me and the external appearances are therefore fully described overleaf. From my examination, of which a record is appended, and from a consideration of the circumstance reported to me by:

the Police*
Party Official
informant

I am of the opinion that

* (C) death occurred hours/days before my examination,

* (D) the causes of death was/were

I am unable to form an opinion as to

* (E) the date or time of death,

* (F) the cause of death.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT, ABNORMAL FINDINGS AT EXAMINATION

Signed this day of 19

Signature of Examiner
Registered qualification
Designation

If space is insufficient, give and sign full statement on separate sheet of paper and pin to this report.

** Complete or delete as appropriate.*

RECORD OF OBSERVATIONS

Position and attitude of body

Condition of clothing (if any)

Surroundings of body

Pupils
Nutrition, Warmth, Rigidity
Lividity, Putrefaction
Internal injuries, fractures

External apertures: condition of, injuries to and foreign bodies in

(See also Note 2)

Height Weight (approx.)
Age of deceased: Apparent Leputed
Skull and its contents including or bits and nasal cavities

Mouth, Pharynx and Esophagus
Pericardium, Pericardial sac, and Heart *(see Note 3(i))*

Large Blood-vessels (e.g., aortic disease, therembosis or suppuration in large veins)

harynx, Trachea, and Bronchi
Pleurae, Pleural Sags, and Lungs:

Right
Left
Thymus, Thyroid and hymphatiq Colands

Peritonoum and Peritoneal Sac; (N.B.-Pouch of Douglas).,

Spleen

Stomach and Omenta (See Notes 3 (u) and 4 (i))

Intestinas and Mesentery (See Notes (ii) and 4 (i))

Liver, Call Bladder and Bile Ducts *(See Notes 3 (u)* and 4 (i))

Kidneys, Ureters, and Suprarenal Glands *(See Notes 30) and 4 (1):*

Right

Left

Urinary Bladder and Urethra *(See Notes 3 (ii) and 4 (i*

Pancreas

Generative Organs *(See Note 6)*

Spinal Column and Spinal Cord *(See Note 7)*

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

Organs, Parts or Material reserved for further investigation, and how disposed of

NOTES

(1) The scheme as given here for the examination of a body is devised to meet the maximum requirements of any case. Although the following out of this scheme in every detail may not in every case be necessary, yet the examination of the body and its Organs should be, in all cases, as exhaustive as the circumstances warrant and the occasion permit. In every case in which the question Of accident, suicide or murder may arise it is essential for all the organs in all the cavities of the body to be examined, even though an apparently sufficient cause of death has already been discovered. A Medical Officer may be called upon to give considerably more information-arising from his examination of the body-than the mere cause of death. In this respect a sketch of external injuries is often advisable. Any omission to examine a particular part or organ may, by providing cause for uncertainty, seriously prejudice the course, Of justice; the responsibility for such an omission must lie only with the Medical Officer who conducted the autopsy. When there is definite suspicion as to the cause of death that cavity is to be opened first in which the principal changes are expected to exist. In the case of a new-born child, when it has to be determined whether the child has breathed or not, the trachea should first be ligature above the sternum, the abdomen opened and the position of the diaphragm ascertained, and the thorax then opened and its organs removed-after dividing the trachea above the ligature. In all other cases the head should be opened first, then the thorax, and lastly the abdomen. In gases of undoubted accidental death where the head has not been injured, detailed examination of the cranial contents may be left to the discretion of the examiner. When not carried out, a note to the effect that there was no indication for such detailed examination should be inserted.

Special attention should be paid to the thymus, adrenals, thy-roid and lymphatic glands in cases of sudden death not explained by other changes.

(2) If the body be that of an unknown person, the colour of eyes and hair, number and condition of teeth, deformities, scars, and tattoo marks should be noted as aids to subsequent identification.

(3) G) In case of suspected irritant metallic poisoning the endocardium lining the left ventricle should be carefully examined and the presence or absence of poetical or large hamorrhagos noted.

(ii) The entire stomach should be ligatured off at both ends, removed from the body, plagued in a glean dish, opened along its lesser curvature and a careful note made of its contents and the appearance of its inner surfaces. Where circumstances might lead

to serious risk of contamination of the stomach contents and there is a strong presumptive evidence of poisoning, the organs should not be opened. In all gases where poisoning is suspected, the stomach and its contents should be transferred to a special wide-mouthed jar. In such cases both kidneys and about 500 gins. liver should be removed and placed in another jar, (See Note (4).

Where poisoning is suspected, the intestines should after removal of the stomach, be removed, slit open, washed out and the appearance of the mucous membrane especially that of the rectum, then carefully examined and noted. The presence or absence of solid faces in the lower bowel should also be noted before the intestines are washed out. It is not necessary to forward the intestines to the analyst.

In all cases of suspected poisoning any urine which the bladder may contain should be preserved. In other cases, unless putrefaction be advanced, an examination of the urine may throw light on the cause of death.

(4) It should be particularly noted that:

(i) All viscera specimens intended for toxicological analysis must be preserved in rectified (hot methylated) spirit and a specimen of the spirit used should be sent separately. When analysis for acute alcoholic poisoning is requested, blood samples should be taken in specimen bottles.

(ii) Except when a case summary is being forwarded by the Police, a brief history of the case should be submitted in order to assist in deciding what types of poison are likely to be worth searching for.

(5) Whenever the possibility exists of a charge arising out of the death, blood samples must be submitted, both on an absorbent paper and in acidcitrate-dextrose to the Government Chemist.

(6) When it is suspected that delivery has recently occurred at term, the breasts and the skin of the anterior abdominal wall should be examined and their condition noted. In cases of suspected rape, or of violation of the dead, some of the secretion should be removed from the vaginal furnaces and smeared upon clean glass slides for subsequent examination.

(7) The females where abortion is suspected, after a thorough vaginal examination the pelvic organs should be removed from the body in a mass, after ligaturing off the intestines, and the various organs dissected out one by one. To do this it is advisable to remove all the tissues from the pelvis by cutting close to the bone.

N.B.- The condition of the uterus and appendages, the presence or absence of products of conception, signs of regent delivery, etc., should always be noted.

(8) The spinal cord need only be exposed when positive information may be expected from its examination. Fracture dislocation, especially in the upper cervical region should always be examined for by manipulation, if detected it should be investigated by dissection.

(9) When individual organs are found -enlarged, or wasted, their actual weight should, if possible, be ascertained and noted.

(10) It may happen that a definite opinion as to the cause of death cannot be formed without a microscopic examination of tissues. In such cases small pieces of organs should be placed in 20 volumes of 10% formol-saline and preserved for further investigation. When death may possibly have resulted from anthrax, malaria leukaemia, etc., blood-smears should be made upon clean glass slides and preserved for microscopic examination.

(11) It is not necessary record upon this form observation upon organs which show no evidence of injury or disease: the word "normal" is all that need be written in such gases. In the "Summary of Significant Findings" facts only. are required, not

(12) At the conclusion of the necropsy, the Medical Officer should see that the organs, not required for further investigation, are returned, to their proper cavities, and that be called for.

CORONER'S FORM D

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The Inquests Act, 1980

(Section 19(3))

THE INQUISITION

AN INQUISITION taken at _____ in the district of _____ in Tanzania the _____ day of _____ 19___ before _____, Coroner, on the body of one _____

Now 1, the Coroner named above, charged to enquire into when, where, how and after what manner the said deceased person came to his/her death, do say that the following particulars have, been disclosed:-

1. Name of deceased _____
2. Residence and occupation _____
3. Means of identity _____
4. Where found _____
   When _____
   Under what circumstances _____
5. Date of death _____
6. Cause of death _____
7. Offence (if any) disclosed _____

AND I, the said Coroner, do say that my finding is that _____

In witness whereof I have to this inquisition set my hand this _____ day of _____ 19___

_____ _____

Place *Coroner*

Passed in the National Assembly on the sixteenth day of April, 1980

Clerk of the National Assembly

Printed by the Government Printer, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.