

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL CORONERS' ACT, REGULATE THE
PROCESS OF DEATH INVESTIGATION AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Tasir Raji Olawale

[] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of
Nigeria as follows:

1 PART I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

2 1.-(1) There is established a Coroners' Act for the Federal Republic
3 of Nigeria Establishment of the National Coroners' Laws System

4 (2) The Coroners' Act shall be under the control and administration
5 of the Chief Coroner of the Federation and having jurisdiction over Federal
6 enclaves, that is, Areas outside the States' jurisdiction.

7 2.-(1) The Chief Justice of the Federation shall appoint a Judge of
8 the High Court as the Chief Coroner of the Federation; Office of the Chief Coroner

9 (2) The Chief Coroner shall hold office for a period of four (4)
10 years and may be appointed for another term once;

11 (3) Appointment of a High Court Judge as Chief Coroner shall not
12 affect the tenure of office of the Judge or any rights or privileges attached to
13 the office;

14 (4) Service by a Judge as the Chief Coroner shall be taken to be
15 service as a Judge of the High Court.

16 3. The Chief Coroner shall: Functions of the Chief Coroner

17 (a) ensure that the National Coroners' Act is administered and
18 operated efficiently under this Law;

19 (b) co-ordinate Coroner services in areas under federal
20 jurisdiction;

21 (c) supervise the performance of Coroner services in federal

- 1 enclaves and provide assistance to the States where necessary;
- 2 (d) develop measures, guidelines and policies that promote
- 3 obligations under this Act;
- 4 (e) ensure that an inquest is held whenever it is necessary or desirable
- 5 to do so;
- 6 (f) bring the findings and recommendations of coroners to the
- 7 attention of the appropriate authorities;
- 8 (g) prepare quarterly report and submit same to the appropriate
- 9 authorities on:
- 10 (i) data of investigable deaths;
- 11 (ii) the findings and recommendations of the Coroner in respect of
- 12 such investigations; and
- 13 (iii) any circumstance noticed during an investigation, which could be
- 14 prejudicial to the health or safety of the public and submit same to appropriate
- 15 authorities.
- 16 (h) conduct programmes for the instruction of Coroners on their
- 17 duties:
- 18 (i) issue and distribute guidelines and a Code of Ethics for the
- 19 guidance of Coroners;
- 20 (j) make recommendations for public awareness and enlightenment
- 21 on the Coroners' system; and
- 22 (k) perform such other functions as are conferred on him by this Act
- 23 and do such other things as he may consider necessary for the effective
- 24 administration of the Coroners' System in the Country.

Appointment
of Coroners

- 25 **4.-(1)** The Chief Justice of the Federation:
- 26 (a) shall designate at least a Judge to be a Coroner in each of the local
- 27 government authority of the Federation.

Power to divide
the Country into
Coroner's Districts

- 28 **5.-(1)** The Chief Justice may:
- 29 (a) divide the Country, or any portion thereof into Coroner's Districts
- 30 for the purpose of this Act and for ease of administration;

1 (b) constitute in any part of the Federation a Coroner's District or
2 Districts for the purpose of this law;

3 (c) distinguish such Districts by such names or numbers as he may
4 think proper; and

5 (d) vary the limits of any such District.

6 (2) A Coroner may act as Coroner of another District:

7 (a) during the illness, incapacity or unavoidable absence of the
8 Coroner for that District, or

9 (b) where there is a vacancy in the office of the Coroner for that
10 District.

11 (3) Any inquest commenced by the Coroner may be continued,
12 resumed or re-opened in the manner provided by this Act by such Coroner or
13 by his successor in office

14 **6.** In every District, there shall be designated a court to be called
15 the Coroner's Court.

Establishment of
Coroner's Court
in each district

16 *The Federal Chief Medical Examiner*

17 **7.**(1) The Office of the Federal Chief Medical Examiner is
18 established under this Act to conduct investigation into death.

Establishment
of the Office of
the Federal Chief
Medical Examiner

19 (2) The Federal Chief Medical Examiner shall be appointed by the
20 Honourable Attorney- General of the Federation and Minister of Justice to
21 hold office for a term of four (4) years and may be re-appointed for a second
22 term of four (4) years.

23 (3) The Federal Chief Medical Examiner may only be removed
24 from Office by the President for inability to discharge the functions of his
25 Office (arising from infirmity of mind or body) or for professional
26 misconduct determined by his professional regulatory body.

27 **8.** The Office of the Federal Chief Medical Examiner shall be:

Structure of the
Office of Federal
Chief Medical
Examiner

28 (a) domicile at the Institute of Forensic Science Laboratory and
29 Legal Medicine.

Qualification for the post of Federal Chief Medical Examiner	1	9.-(1) The Federal Chief Medical Examiner shall:
	2	(a) be a qualified physician licensed to practice Medicine Nigeria; and
	3	(b) in addition hold a Fellowship qualification in Forensic Pathology
	4	from a recognized post-graduate college with a minimum of five (5) years post-
	5	qualification experience in the same field.
	6	(2) A Deputy Medical Examiner with a qualification in Forensic
	7	and/or Anatomic Pathology who has served for one (1) term under this Act may
	8	be appointed as a Federal Chief Medical Examiner.
Functions of the Federal Chief Medical Examiner	9	10. The functions of the Federal Chief Medical Examiner shall be to:
	10	(a) perform post-mortem examinations, as well as any other ancillary
	11	investigations;
	12	(b) establish the cause and manner of death of any person referred to
	13	him by an order issued by the Coroner;
	14	(c) write detailed post-mortem examination reports with formulation
	15	of conclusions, opinions or testimony to be tendered as evidence during
	16	inquest proceedings;
	17	(d) regulate and ensure quality control methods and procedures for
	18	post-mortem examination to be conducted by Deputy Medical Examiners;
	19	(e) train and ensure proper certification of Deputy Medical Examiners
	20	and the proper performance of their duties under this Act;
	21	(f) maintain a central office and laboratories having adequate medical
	22	and scientific facilities for the performance of the duties imposed by this Act;
	23	(g) keep full, complete and properly indexed records of all details
	24	investigated and the autopsy reports made;
	25	(h) keep and retain any tissue or other parts taken from the body of a
	26	dead person during the conduct of autopsy which may be necessary for further
	27	study or consideration to the provisions of Section 28 of this Act;
	28	(i) grant approval to any person for cremating, causing or requesting
	29	the cremations of the body of any person who died in the Nigeria due to a
	30	deadly flu or pandemic; and

1 (j) do such other things as are necessary for the proper performance
2 of his functions under this Act.

3 **11.**-(1) The Federal Chief Medical Examiner shall appoint a Office of the
4 Deputy Medical
5 Examiner
6 Medical Examiner for each Coroner's District in the Federation to be known
7 as the Deputy Medical Examiner.

8 (2) The Deputy Medical Examiner shall:

9 (a) be a qualified Physician licensed to practice Medicine in
10 Nigeria;

11 (b) hold a Fellowship qualification in Forensic Pathology and/or
12 Anatomic Pathology with a least two (2) years post-qualification experience
13 in the same field;

14 (c) hold office for a term four (4) years and may be re-appointed for
15 such further term(s) until the appointee is seventy (70) years of age.

16 **12.** The functions of the Deputy Medical Examiner shall be to: Functions of the
17 Deputy Medical
18 Examiner

19 (a) perform post-mortem examination;

20 (b) establish the cause and manner of death of any person within his
21 District referred to him by an order issued by the Coroner;

22 (c) write detailed post-mortem examination reports with
23 formulation of conclusions, opinions or testimony to be tendered as
24 evidence during inquest proceedings;

25 (d) keep complete and properly indexed records of all deaths
26 investigated and the autopsy reports made;

27 (e) keep and retain any tissue or other parts taken from the body of a
28 dead person during the conduct of autopsy which may be necessary for
29 further study or consideration subject to the provisions of Section 28 of this
30 Law; and

31 (f) do such other things as may be necessary for the proper
32 performance of his functions and as may be directed by the Federal Chief
33 Medical Examiner.

Finance of the
Offices of the
Federal Chief
Coroner and
Chief Medical
Examiner

1 **13.**-(1) The salary/allowances to be paid to the Federal Chief Coroner,
2 Federal Chief Medical Examiner, Coroners, Deputy Medical Examiners, the
3 expenses of maintaining the Central Coroner Office and Laboratories with the
4 cost of the services rendered by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner shall
5 be paid by the Federal Ministry of Justice from funds drawn from the General
6 Revenue.

7 (2) The fund referred to in subsection (1) of this Section shall be
8 budgeted for by the Federal Ministry of Justice.

Report of death

9 **14.**-(1) A report of death shall be made to any of the agencies for the
10 report of death or the office of the Coroner or Medical Examiner and be subject
11 to post-mortem examination where there is reasonable cause to believe that the
12 cause of death was:

13 (a) unknown;

14 (b) sudden or unexpected even though natural;

15 (c) unreported after occurrence;

16 (d) violent, unnatural or suspicious;

17 (e) accidental or misadventure;

18 (f) due to self-neglect or neglect by others;

19 (g) an industrial disease, accident at work or industrial poisoning;

20 (h) due to a negligent medical intervention, misconduct or
21 malpractice;

22 (i) due to a negligence during surgery or before recovery from
23 anaesthesia or diagnostic or therapeutic procedure;

24 (j) as a result of non-conventional medical procedure or medication;

25 (k) suicide, suspected suicide or assisted suicide;

26 (l) a known or unknown cause while in custody or shortly afterwards;

27 (m) due to an ailment within twenty-four (24) hours of hospital
28 admission;

29 (n) a maternal death occurring during or following pregnancy or that
30 which might be reasonably related to the pregnancy;

- 1 (o) as a child in care;
- 2 (p) an infant death as in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SID) and
3 non-accidental Injury;
- 4 (q) due to criminal abortion;
- 5 (r) an ailment in a nursing home or hospice; and
- 6 (s) where it is suspected that a medical death certificate of the cause
7 of death had not been procured from a registered medical practitioner, or is
8 considered to be fake.

9 **15.** The Coroner shall hold an inquest whenever he is informed
10 that the death of a deceased person lying within his Coroner District was as a
11 result of death:

When inquest
to be held

- 12 (1) in a violent, unnatural or suspicious situation;
- 13 (2) in custody or shortly afterwards;
- 14 (3) due to industrial disease, accident at work or industrial
15 poisoning;
- 16 (4) following medical intervention;
- 17 (5) during surgery or before recovery from anaesthesia;
- 18 (6) from a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure regardless of time;
- 19 (7) following a practice of non-conventional medicine or
20 procedure;
- 21 (8) any maternal death occurring or following pregnancy (up to 6
22 weeks post-partum) or which might be reasonably related to the pregnancy;
- 23 And
- 24 (9) any other reportable death where the Coroner believes an
25 inquest is desirable.

26 **16.** There shall be no tampering with the body of a deceased
27 person found lying within a Coroners' District by way of chemical
28 preservation, dismemberment or disposal by any form, prior to the conduct
29 of a post-mortem examination except by the prior authorization of the
30 Medical Examiner.

Tampering with
bodies

Power to order Exhumation	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	<p>17.-(1) Notwithstanding any law or custom to the contrary, whenever it shall appear to any Coroner that the body of any person, who has died in circumstances requiring the holding of an inquest thereon, has been buried without post-mortem examination having been carried out or without such inquest having been held, or where such inquest, although held, has been quashed or re-opened, it shall be lawful for such Coroner by this warrant as in Form A set out in the Second Schedule to order the exhumation of such body;</p> <p>(2) The Coroner shall after such examination proceed to do all that is necessary to determine the cause of death and direct the re-interment of the body.</p> <p>(3) The expenses of such examination and re-interment shall be paid, upon the Coroner's order from the General Revenue:</p> <p>Provided that such 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 a satisfactory result being obtained.</p>
Inquests on all death occurring in custody	16 17	<p>18. Whenever any death occurs in any custody, a Coroner of the District in which such death has occurred shall hold an inquest.</p>
Death in execution of a judgment of Court	18 19 20 21	<p>19.-(1) Where a Court of competent jurisdiction has proclaimed death upon a person, a Coroner shall be present at the scene of the execution.</p> <p>(2) The Coroner who witnesses the event referred to in subsection (1) of this Section shall write a report to be submitted to the Federal Chief Coroner.</p>
Inquest to be held by the Coroner of the place where body is found	22 23 24	<p>20. It shall be the duty of the Coroner within whose jurisdiction a body is found to hold an inquest on it, notwithstanding that the cause of death arose elsewhere.</p>
Inquest where body is destroyed or irrecoverable Inquest	25 26 27 28 29	<p>21.-(1) Where a Coroner has reason to believe that a death has occurred within his District and in such circumstances that an inquest should be held he may hold an inquest regarding the death if he considers it necessary notwithstanding the:</p> <p>(a) total destruction or partial destruction of the body by fire or any</p>

1 other cause, an inquest cannot be held except by virtue of the provisions of
2 this Section;

3 (b) fact that the body is lying in a place from which it cannot be
4 recovered.

5 Provided that the law relating to inquest shall apply with such
6 modifications as may be necessary on or after a medical examination of the
7 body found within the Coroner's District.

8 **22.** A Coroner may order the postponement of chemical
9 preservation or disposal of any body lying within his jurisdiction until an
10 inquest has been held.

Postponement
of Chemical
Preservation or
Disposal until
after inquest

11 **23.**-(1) When anybody has been found or a person has died in such
12 circumstance as to make the holding an inquest under this Act necessary or
13 desirable, it shall be the duty of any person who finds the body or becoming
14 aware of the death to immediately inform any of the agencies for the report
15 of death, or the Coroner having jurisdiction over the District.

Notice of death

16 (2) In the case of a death occurring to which the provisions of
17 Section 18 of this Act applies, it shall be the duty of the person in charge of
18 the premises to immediately notify the Coroner having jurisdiction to hold
19 an inquest.

20 **24.** Any person:

Protection of
information of
reportable death

21 (a) who gives information in the case of a reportable death under
22 this Act; or

23 (b) whose evidence would be material in the conduct of an inquest;
24 shall not be arrested or his liberty tampered with; unless there is reasonable
25 evidence connecting him with the commission of the crime relating to the
26 information he gives and a warrant of arrest has been issued for his arrest by
27 the presiding Coroner.

28 **25.**-(1) On information being given to any of the agencies in
29 respect of a reportable death, such agency or a person authorized in that
30 behalf by the agency (referred to in this Act as "the Authority"), shall

Duty of agencies
for report of death

1 proceed to the place where the body of the deceased person is lying and shall
2 take full responsibility and carry out investigations in accordance with the
3 functions of such agency.

4 (2) The Authority without delay cause notice of the death as in Form B
5 set out in the Second Schedule to this Act to be sent to a Coroner in whose
6 district the body was found.

7 (3) The relevant Authority shall arrange for the removal of the dead
8 body to the office of the Deputy Medical Examiner if it is found to be a
9 reportable death and fill the relevant Form C as set out in the Second Schedule
10 to this Act.

11 *Post-Mortem Examination*

Coroner may
direct post-mortem
examination

12 **26.** If any Coroner consider it necessary while investigating the
13 circumstances of the death of any person to obtain a medical report on the cause
14 and manner of death may by written order as set out in Form D in the Second
15 Schedule to this Act require the Office of the Medical Examiner to perform a
16 post-mortem examination on the body and to make a report.

Medical Examiner
to perform a
post-mortem
examination and
report

17 **27.**-(1) Every Medical Examiner upon the receipt of the order referred
18 to in Section 26 of this Act shall perform a post-mortem examination of the
19 body, with a view to determining the cause of death, and upon the conclusion of
20 a port-mortem examination of the body shall make a report in writing to the
21 Coroner who made the order, the Federal Chief Medical Examiner and the
22 Federal Chief Coroner. The report of the post-mortem examination shall be as
23 set out in Form E in the Second Schedule to this Act.

24 (2) In the event of an inquest, conducted by the Coroner, such report
25 on being read shall be prima-facie evidence of the post-mortem examination.

Retention of
human tissue

26 **28.** Where a Medical Examiner performing a post-mortem
27 examination for the purpose of establishing the cause and manner of death,
28 requires to retain any human tissue or other parts from the body of a dead
29 person, he shall be justified to do so based on the original order issued by the
30 Coroner that a postmortem examination be conducted. However, where the

1 intention is to retain tissues or organs for academic purposes, they shall
2 apply for and obtain the consent of the Coroner and the next of kin of the
3 deceased person where the Federal Chief Coroner so requires:

4 Provided that the Medical Examiner shall give a detailed
5 information on the type and mode of retention of the human tissue as set out
6 in Form F in the Second Schedule to this Act.

7 **29.** The Storage fees on dead bodies in cases of investigable death
8 requiring the conduct of an inquest shall be paid:

Payment of
storage fees

9 (a) by the Federal Government for the days preceding the conduct
10 of post-mortem examination; and

11 (b) by the relatives or the next-of-kin of the deceased two (2) days
12 after the post mortem examination.

13 **30.**-(1) Whenever it is necessary to retain an abandoned body for
14 the purpose of academic or anatomical examination, the Federal Chief
15 Medical Examiner shall:

Retention of
abandoned bodies
for academic and
anatomical
examination

16 (a) apply to the Coroner in charge of the District where the body is
17 found indicating that the body has been abandoned for a specified period of
18 two (2) months or more;

19 (b) certify that the cause of death of the deceased is known;

20 (c) provide evidence on the identity of the deceased to the Coroner;

21 (d) provide evidence of advertisement showing that the body has
22 been abandoned; and

23 (e) obtain a written consent from the Coroner

24 (2) The detailed information given by the Federal Chief Medical
25 Examiner shall be as set out in Form G in the Second Schedule to this Act.

26 *Procedure at Inquest.*

27 **31.**-(1) At or before the first sitting of a Coroner, at the conduct of
28 an inquest, the Coroner may view the body if he considers it necessary or
29 may satisfy himself that the body has been viewed by any of the agencies for
30 report of death:

Provisions regarding
the viewing of
body

1 Provided that the validity of such an inquest shall not be questioned in
2 any court on the grounds that the Coroner or any of the agencies for the report
3 of death did not view the body.

4 (2) An order as set out in Form H in the Second Schedule to this Act
5 authorizing the burial of a body upon which an inquest is being held may be
6 issued by the Coroner at any time after the body has been medically examined.

7 (3) If the body has been buried and has not been viewed or medically
8 examined, the Coroner shall order the exhumation of the body for the purpose
9 of medical examination as in Form A in the Second Schedule to this Act and in
10 the manner provided for under Section 17 of this Act unless he certifies that in
11 his opinion, such exhumation would be injurious to the public health or that no
12 satisfactory results would be obtained.

13 (4) In any case in which the Coroner himself has viewed the body, he
14 shall certify the fact upon the record of the inquest, and in other cases he shall
15 record evidence, if any, of the view of the body by any of the agencies for report
16 of death.

Coroner may
exercise Powers
of a Magistrate

17 **32.**-(1) A Coroner holding an inquest shall have and may exercise all
18 the powers of a Magistrate with regard to summoning and compelling the
19 attendance of witnesses and requiring them to give evidence, and with regard to
20 the production of any document or thing at such inquest.

21 (2) Every summons and warrant as set out in Form 1 in the Second
22 Schedule to this Act shall be in writing and signed by the Coroner.

23 (3) Where the inquest concerns the death of a person executed in
24 pursuance of a death warrant, the medical examiner who shall be present at the
25 scene of execution shall be an essential witness at such inquest.

Coroner to take
evidence on
Oath

26 **33.** At every inquest, the Coroner shall take on oath such evidence as
27 is procurable as to the Coroner to take identity of the deceased, the time, place
28 and manner of his death.

Coroner not bound
by rules of
evidence

29 **34.** A Coroner holding an inquest shall not be bound by rules of
30 evidence which may pertain to Civil or criminal proceedings, but If any witness

1 fails to answer any question put to him without lawful excuse, the coroner
2 may:

3 (a) impose a fine not exceeding Fifty Thousand Naira
4 (N50,000.00) on such witness; or

5 (b) punish such witness for contempt.

6 **35.** Where any person who is able to give material evidence in
7 respect of any inquest is, owing to illness or other cause which appears
8 satisfactory to the Coroner, unable to attend at the place where the Coroner
9 usually sits, or the attendance of the witness cannot be procured without
10 some delay, expense or inconvenience, which in the circumstances of the
11 case would be unreasonable, it shall be lawful for the Coroner to admit the
12 deposition of such person.

Power to take
deposition of
witness who is
unable to attend

13 **36.**-(1) A coroner may at an inquest allow any person whom the
14 Coroner considers to have an interest in the inquest to appear as a Party
15 Interested.

Coroner to Grant
standing to
interested persons

16 (2) A Party Interested at an inquest may:

17 (a) be represented by counsel or any other person of their choice;
18 and

19 (b) examine and cross-examine witnesses.

20 **37.** Any person who gives testimony as a witness during an inquest
21 shall not be arrested or his liberty tampered with for reason of having given
22 the testimony unless there is reasonable evidence connecting him with the
23 commission of a crime relating to the testimony and a warrant of arrest has
24 been issued for his arrest by the presiding Coroner .

Protection of
witness

25 **38.**-(1) If in the course of an inquest, the Director of Public
26 Prosecutions informs the Coroner that he is of the opinion that sufficient
27 grounds have been disclosed for instituting criminal proceedings against
28 any person already in custody or arrested in connection with the death, the
29 Coroner may stay the inquest until:

Staying of
resumption of
inquest

30 (a) the trial of the person to be charged is concluded;

1 (b) the person is discharged under the provisions of Section 107 of the
2 Administration of Criminal Justice, Act;

3 (c) the charge is dismissed; or

4 (d) it appears improbable that such person will be found guilty.

5 (2) Where an inquest is stayed in pursuance of subsection (1) of this
6 Section, the Coroner may resume and conclude the inquest after the conclusion
7 of the criminal proceedings if he is of the opinion that public benefit is likely to
8 result from so doing and shall certify such opinion to that effect and transmit a
9 copy of the inquest proceedings to the Federal Chief Coroner who shall
10 forward same to the Attorney-General of the Federation.

11 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2) above, where an
12 inquest is stayed in pursuance of subsection (1) of this Section, and it is
13 ascertained that the person to be charged cannot be found; the Coroner shall
14 resume and conclude the inquest.

Order for arrest
of suspect

15 **39.** If during the course or at the close of an inquest, the Coroner is of
16 the opinion that sufficient grounds are disclosed for making a charge against
17 any person in connection with the death, he shall make an order for the arrest of
18 the suspect for investigation by the appropriate authority.

The inquisition

19 **40.** After viewing the body (if any), and hearing the evidence, the
20 Coroner holding the inquest shall give and certify it by an inquisition in writing
21 as in Form J set out in the Second schedule to this Act, showing so far as such
22 particulars have been proved to him, who the deceased was, how, when and
23 where the deceased met his death:

24 Provided that, where the inquest concerns the death of a person
25 executed in pursuance of a death warrant, the verdict and inquisition shall
26 include a finding as to whether the death was instantaneous and the person
27 executed was the person mentioned in such warrant, such inquisition and
28 verdict shall be made and forwarded to the Attorney-General of the Federation,
29 and the Federal Chief Coroner.

1 41. The verdict of a Coroner as certified in writing shall be
2 forwarded to the Attorney- General of the Federation, the Federal Chief
3 Coroner, the Federal Chief Medical Examiner, and the Divisional Police
4 Officer in the district.

Authorities to
receive the verdict

5 42. If at the close of any inquest, the Coroner is of the opinion that
6 there is ground for suspecting that such person is liable for an offence in
7 respect of the matter inquired into, but cannot ascertain who such person is,
8 he shall certify his opinion to that effect and transmit a copy of the
9 proceedings to the Divisional Police Officer of the district in which the
10 inquest is held.

11 43. Where a copy of the proceedings upon any inquests has been
12 transmitted to a Divisional Police Officer under Section 42 of this Act and
13 the culprit remains undiscovered, and if, in the opinion of the Divisional
14 Police Officer, there is no probability that such person will be discovered, he
15 shall certify his opinion to that effect and transmit the copy of the
16 proceedings to the Federal Chief Coroner who shall forward same to the
17 Attorney-General of the Federation.

18 44.-(1) The Coroner shall immediately transmit every inquisition,
19 including the depositions and the recognizance of the witnesses, if any, to
20 the Federal Chief Coroner and the Registrar of the Chief Coroner shall take
21 charge of such proceedings.

Return of
inquisitions and
powers of Chief
Coroner to review

22 (2) The Federal Chief Coroner may examine the record of any such
23 proceedings for the purpose of satisfying himself as to correctness, legality
24 or propriety of any finding or verdict and as to the regularity of such
25 proceedings.

26 (3) Where the Federal Chief Coroner by reason of such
27 examination is not satisfied as to the correctness, legality or propriety of any
28 finding or verdict, he may, after affording the Attorney-General of the
29 Federation or his representative an opportunity of being heard, exercise any
30 of the powers conferred upon him by subsection (1) of Section 45 of this Act.

1 (4) Where the Federal Chief Coroner by reason of any such
2 examination is not satisfied as to the regularity of the proceedings, he may take
3 such action, not necessarily involving an alteration of the finding or verdict, as
4 he may deem fit to cure such irregularity.

Power of the
Federal Chief
Coroner on
application of
Attorney-General

5 **45.**-(1) The Federal Chief Coroner, upon an application made by the
6 Attorney-General of the Federation, may do any of the following:

7 (a) Order an inquest to be held touching the death of any person;

8 (b) Direct any inquest to be re-opened for the taking of further
9 evidence;

10 (c) Quash the verdict in any inquest by substituting some other verdict
11 which appears to be lawful and in accordance with the evidence recorded; and

12 (d) Quash any inquest, with or without ordering a new one to be held.

13 (2) The provisions of this Section shall apply to all inquests and
14 verdicts in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Inquest on any
day including
Public Holiday
or private

15 **46.**-(1) The Federal Chief Coroner may direct that an inquest be held
16 on any day including Public Holidays or in Private if he considers it expedient.

17 (2) Whenever an inquest is held as specified in subsection (1) above,
18 the Coroner shall record the reasons for so holding it.

19 *Miscellaneous*

Coroner to transmit
particulars of death
to the Registrar
of Births and
Deaths

20 **47.** Where a death is required by law to be registered and an inquest is
21 held, the Coroner shall inquire of the particulars required to be registered
22 concerning the death and shall forward his findings, including the time, place
23 and cause of death to the Registrar within five (5) days of the conclusion of the
24 inquest.

Offences and
Penalties

25 **48.** Any person who:

26 (1) carries out chemical preservation, dismemberment or disposal of
27 the body of a person who died in circumstances requiring the holding of an
28 inquest under this Act without the approval of a Coroner shall be guilty of an
29 offence and liable on conviction of fifteen (15) years imprisonment with no
30 option of fine;

1 (2) fails without good cause to inform any of the agencies for the
2 report of death or the Coroner, as required under Section 23(1) of this Act;
3 shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to three (3) months
4 imprisonment or a fine not exceeding Twenty Thousand Naira (N20,000.00)

5 (3) fails to notify the Coroner as required under Section 23(2) of
6 this Act shall be guilty of the offence of concealment of death and liable
7 upon conviction to seven (7) years imprisonment with no option of fine;

8 (4). carries out a post-mortem examination in a place not
9 designated for such purposes by the Federal Chief Medical Examiner shall
10 be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to five (5) years
11 imprisonment with no option of fine;

12 (5) not being a Medical Examiner appointed under this Act, who
13 purports to sign the report of Medical Examiner as in Form E in the Second
14 Schedule to this Act, shall be guilty of an offence and liable to five (5) years
15 imprisonment with no option of fine;

16 (6). takes a dead body in case of a reportable death to any mortuary
17 other than that designated by the Office of the Federal Chief Medical
18 Examiner shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to three (3)
19 years imprisonment with no option of fine while the institution receiving the
20 body shall be liable to be closed down in addition to the payment of a fine of
21 Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000.00) only;

22 (7) in the process of performing a post-mortem examination on a
23 dead body retains any human tissue or other parts of the body without the
24 consent of the Coroner under Section 28 of this Act, shall be guilty of an
25 offence and liable on conviction to three (3) years imprisonment without an
26 option of fine;

27 (8). retains an abandoned body for the purpose of academic or
28 anatomical examinations without the consent of the Coroner under Section
29 30 of this Act shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to six (6)
30 months imprisonment with no option of fine;

1 (9). issues a Death Certificate without the prior conduct of a post-
2 mortem examination in case of a reportable death shall be guilty of an offence
3 and liable upon conviction of five (5) years imprisonment without an option of
4 fine; and

5 (10) any person whose act or conduct contravenes any of the other
6 provisions of this Act where no penalty has been specified, shall be guilty of an
7 offence and liable upon conviction to two (2) years imprisonment.

Power to make
Rules and
Regulations

8 **49.** The Attorney General of the Federation shall:

9 (1) have power generally to make Regulations for carrying out the
10 provisions of this Act;

11 (2) on the advice of the Minister for Health and representation from
12 the Office of the Federal Chief Medical Examiner, may also make rules
13 specifically to prescribe the scale of fees to be paid to Medical Examiners and
14 Forensic Consultants for any examination, autopsy or other services required
15 of them under this Act.

Forms in the
Second Schedule

16 **50.** The forms set out in the Second Schedule to this Act shall be used
17 for the several matters to which they relate with such variations as
18 circumstances may require. The Attorney General of the Federation may from
19 time to time by order published in the Federal Gazette amend or add to the said
20 Schedule.

Interpretation

21 **51.** In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires:

22 "agency for report of death" means the Police, Local Government Authority or
23 Office of the Medical Examiner;

24 "anatomy" means the branch of science dealing with the structure of and organs
25 or body;

26 "appropriate authorities" means the Federal Chief Coroner, the Honourable
27 Attorney-General of the Federation, the Director of Public Prosecutions and
28 the Divisional Police Officer;

29 "autopsy" means the examination of both the external and internal organs of a
30 body after death in order to determine the cause of the death;

- 1 "body" means the disposal of a corpse or human being after death;
- 2 "burial" means the disposal of a corpse or human remains by deposition in
3 the ground in a designated burial ground;
- 4 "Federal Chief Coroner" means a Judge of the High Court appointed as the
5 administrative head of the Coroner System for the country;
- 6 "Federal Chief Medical Examiner" means the administrative head/most
7 senior in the Office of the Medical Examiner, and as such appointed by the
8 Honourable Attorney -General and Minister for Justice;
- 9 "Coroner" means a Magistrate or any other person appointed under this Law
10 to inquire by way of inquest into the cause of death;
- 11 "Minister" means the Honourable Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
12 of the country;
- 13 "cremation" means the process of complete incineration or burning of a
14 human remain;
- 15 "custody" means any place of confinement and includes prison, police
16 station, hospital premises, hospice, asylum , rehabilitation centre, etc.
- 17 "death investigation" means the process of determining the cause,
18 mechanism and manner of death;
- 19 "death warrant" means a judicial authority for the execution of a person;
- 20 "deceased" means a dead person;
- 21 "deposition" means evidence of a person given on oath;
- 22 "execution" means the killing of a person in line with a judicial order or
23 warrant;
- 24 "exhumation" means to disinter or dig up a body previously buried;
- 25 "forensic specialist" means a recognized specialist in any of the disciplines
26 of Forensic Sciences;
- 27 "general revenue" means budgetary allocation made by the Country for the
28 administration of the Coroners' System;
- 29 "inquest" means a judicial inquiry to determine the cause of an unexpected
30 natural or violent death;

- 1 "interment" means burial;
- 2 "inquisition" means a judicial inquiry or investigation of certain facts;
- 3 "jurisdiction" means the area of authority of a Coroner;
- 4 "Medical Examiner" means a medical personnel trained in forensic pathology
- 5 and appointed to perform autopsies on the bodies of dead persons with a view
- 6 to determining the cause of death;
- 7 "pathologist" means a specialist/consultant doctor who has trained in
- 8 Anatomic Pathology and examines dead bodies to discover the cause of death;
- 9 "prima facie" means at first sight or on the face of it;
- 10 "testimony" means the evidence of a witness.

Citation

- 11 **52.** This Bill may be cited as the National Coroners' (Establishment)
- 12 Bill, 2020.

SECOND SCHEDULE

(Section 17)

FORM A

NATIONAL CORONERS' BILL

ORDER FOR EXHUMATION

.....District

To:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Whereas it appears.....
has died in circumstances requiring the holding of an inquest upon his body and that the body of the
said.....has
been buried at.....
.....without such
inquest being held (or without a Post-mortem examination having been carried out) (or that the inquest
held at.....on the
..... day of.....has been

(i) quashed..... or (ii) reopened.....

These are to charge you that you cause the said body to be taken up and have a post-mortem
examination carried out on it and safely conveyed to.....

In the above-named district that I may proceed to inquire into the cause of death of the said
..... (or as the case may
be).

Given under my hand at.....this.....day
of.....

.....

Coroner

FORM B

(Section 25(2))

NATIONAL CORONERS' BILL
DEATH REPORT TO CORONER
Particulars of Deceased, e.t.c.

(1) Name of Deceased.....
.....
.....

(2) Sex.....
.....

(3) Age.....
.....

(4) Address.....
.....

(5) Nationality and/or Tribe.....
.....
.....

(6) Occupation.....
.....

(7) Date, hour and place of death.....

(8) Supposed cause of death.....

(9) Name of person who found body or gave first information of death.....
.....
.....

(10) Address.....
.....
.....

(11) GSM No.(If any).....

(12) Date and hour first information received by Police or Local Government or Medical Examiner or the Coroner.....

(13) Circumstances of death and names of persons who can give information.....

.....
.....

(14) Name of authority making first investigation.....

.....
.....

(15) Date and time of investigation.....

.....
.....

(16) Describe where and how body was found.....

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

(17) Marks of violence (if any).....

(18) Circumstances of suspicion (if any).....

(19) Date when report sent to was Coroner.....

.....
.....

(Signed)

Person giving first information

(Signed)

Person receiving first information

FORM C

(Section 25(3))

NATIONAL CORONERS' BILL
INFORMATION TO MEDICAL OFFICER

Form to be filled in duplicate by Agencies for the Report of Death when forwarding a corpse to the Medical Officer for post-mortem examination.

- (1) Full name of deceased (if known).....
 - (2) Town or Village.....
 - (3) Age.....
 - (4) Name and town or village of person (preferably near relative) who will identify the corpse to the Medical Officer.....
 - (5) Date sent to Hospital.....
 - (6) Name and Number of Police Escort bringing in the deceased.....
.....
 - (7) Alleged cause of death.....
 - (8) Any other useful information.....
.....
 - (9) Station.....
 - (10) Date.....
- Signature of Officer of the Agency for the Report of Death

To be filled in by the Medical Officer.

- (11) Approximate Date of Death.....
 - (12) Approximate Hour of Death.....
 - (13) Brief notes of Post-Mortem findings.....
.....
.....
- Station.....
- Date.....

.....
Signature of Medical Officer

FORM D

(Section 26)

NATIONAL CORONERS' BILL
ORDER FOR POST -MORTEM EXAMINATION

To:

Dr.....
.....

WHEREAS I am credibly informed (Please see attached FORM B) that one

.....
.....

of.....
.....

has died in circumstances which may require the holding of an inquest under the Coroner Act, you are authorized and required to make a post-mortem examination of the body of the said.....

.....
Which will be delivered to you by.....

.....
.....

And to make a report to me within.....
.....

..... period of the receipt of this order.

Given under my hand at....., this
..... day of 20.....

(Sgd.).....

Coroner

FORM E

(Section 27)

NATIONAL CORONERS' BILL

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF MEDICAL EXAMINER

- (1) Date and hour of receipt of corpse at mortuary.....
.....
- (2) Condition of corpse on arrival.....
.....
- (3) Mode in which packed.....
.....
- (4) Date and hour of holding examination.....
.....
- (5) Name of deceased (if known).....
.....
- (6) By whom identified.....
- (7) Approximate Age.....
- (8) Sex.....
- (9) Height, Colour of hair, eyes, peculiar clothing and any other mark or means of
identification.....
- (10) Probable date of death.....
- (11) Medical Report.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

(Please Attach Detailed Medical Report)

I certify the cause of death in my opinion to be:

1.

(a)

.....

(b)

.....

(c)

.....

II.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Date.....

Signed.....

(Name & Signature)

.....

Qualifications

FORM F

Section 28

NATIONAL CORONERS' BILL
TISSUE OR ORGAN RETENTION FORM
Agreement to a post-mortem examination

I.....do not object to a coroner's/non-coroner's post-mortem examination being carried out on the body of.....in order to find the cause of death and study the effects of treatment. I understand that this examination may involve tissue samples or fluids being taken and held for laboratory investigation.

If the deceased is an adult, has he or she ever expressed an objection to this type of examination (as far as you know)? Yes No

Limited post-mortem examination

You may limit the extent of the examination. The person who gave you this form will explain the options and implications to you.

Do you wish to limit the examination? Yes No

If 'yes', where do you want the examination limited to?

The head

The Chest

The abdomen

Organs being taken and held

You may agree or disagree to whole organs being taken for any further examination which could provide a more detailed understanding of the illness.

Tick one of the statements below to indicate whether or not you agree to organs being taken and held.

I do not object to any organ being taken for further investigation if this is necessary to fully understand the cause of death and effects of treatment.

I object to any organ being taken for further investigation.

I object to the following organs being taken for further investigation

(please list organs below)

Disposal of any tissue or organs taken

After any further investigation of tissue or organs taken, those tissue samples or organs must be disposed of in a lawful way. You can either arrange this yourself or the hospital can do it.

Tick one of the statements below to indicate your preference.

The hospital may dispose of the tissue samples or organs in a lawful and respectful way.

I will arrange for the tissue samples or organs to be disposed of in a lawful way.

I prefer the tissue samples or organs to be reunited with the body before it is released, even though this may delay the funeral.

Medical research and education

You may agree or disagree to some tissue, fluids or organs being taken and held for an unlimited time for medical research and education.

Tick one of the statements below to show whether or not you agree to any tissue, fluids or organs being taken and held for medical research and education.

I do not object to any tissue, fluid or organ being taken for medical research and education.

I object to any tissue, fluid or organ being taken for medical research and education.

I object to the following tissue, fluids or organs being taken for medical research and education (Please list the tissue, fluids and organs below)

<p>Your Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Relationship to deceased</p> <p>Date.....</p>	<p>Witness's Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Name.....</p> <p>Position.....</p>
---	---

:

Medical Examiner's
Name:
Qualifications:
Signature:
Date:

For post-mortem examinations required by law

Name of deceased:.....

Disposal of any tissue or organs taken

After any further investigation of tissue or organs taken, those tissue samples or organs must be disposed of in a lawful way. You can either arrange this yourself or the hospital can do it.

Tick one of the statements below to show how any tissue samples or organs should be disposed of.

The hospital may dispose of the tissue samples or organs in a lawful and respectful way.

I prefer the tissue samples or organs to be reunited with the body before burial or cremation, even if this delays the funeral.

I will arrange for the tissue samples or organs to be disposed of in a lawful way.

Medical research and education

You may agree or disagree to some tissue, fluids or organs being taken and held for an unlimited time for medical research and education.

Tick one of the statements below to show whether or not you agree to any tissue, fluids or organs being taken and held for medical research and education.

I do not object to any tissue, fluid or organ being taken for medical research and education.

I object to any tissue, fluid or organ being taken for medical research and education.

I object to the following tissue, fluids or organs being taken for medical research and education

(Please list the tissue, fluids and organs below)

<p>Your Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Relationship to deceased</p> <p>Date.....</p>	<p>Witness's Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Name.....</p> <p>Position.....</p>
---	---

<p><u>Medical Examiner's Signature</u></p> <p>Name:.....</p> <p>Qualifications:.....</p> <p>Signature:.....</p> <p>Date:.....</p>

<p><u>Coroner's Signature</u></p> <p>Name:.....</p> <p>Qualifications:.....</p> <p>Signature:.....</p> <p>Date:.....</p>
--

FORM G

(Section 30)

NATIONAL CORONERS' BILL
APPLICATION FOR RETENTION OF ABANDONED BODIES FOR ACADEMIC AND
ANATOMICAL EXAMINATION

(1) Name of the deceased.....

.....

(2) Address (if any).....

(3) Particular of death.....

.....

(4) Place where body is found:.....

.....

(5) Period of abandonment:.....

.....

(6) Evidence of abandonment:.....

.....

(7) Type and/or Nature of examination to be conducted:.....

.....

(8) Name of Medical Examiner to conduct the examination:.....

.....

.....

(9) Name and address of Institution where the examination is to be conducted:.....

.....

(10) Grant of consent by the Coroner: (Yes or No)

.....

APPLICANT

Medical Examiner

This consent is given under the hand of:

Name of Coroner.....

Signature/Stamp.....

Coroner's District.....

State.....

FORM H

Section 31 (2)

NATIONAL CORONERS' BILL

WARRANT TO BURY

In the Court of the Coroner of the District of.....

XXXX.. State.

This is to certify that you may lawfully permit the body of.....

deceased, who now lies at.....to

be buried and for so doing, this is your warrant.

Given under my hand, this.....day of.....20.....

.....

Coroner

To the Registrar of deaths and to all those whom it may concern.

FORM I

(Section 32 (2))

NATIONAL CORONERS' BILL

SUMMONS TO WITNESS

To

.....
.....
.....

WHEREAS I am credibly informed that you can give evidence concerning the

Death of.....

.....

Who died in circumstances which may require the holding of an inquest under the National Coroners'

Law, you are hereby authorized and required to conduct a post-mortem examination on the body of said

to be lying

.....

.....

Which will be delivered to you by.....

.....

and to make a report to me thereon within.....

.....period of the receipt of this order.

Given under my hand at.....this..... day of.....20.....

(Sgd).....

Coroner

FORM J
{Section 40}
NATIONAL CORONERS' Bill
THE INQUISITION

An inquisition taken at in the
Coroners' Court in the district of in the XXXX.. State of
Nigeria the day..... 20..... before
On the view of the body of one
Now I
Charged to inquire when, where, how and after what manner the said.....
..... came to his/her death, say that the following
Particulars have been disclosed:

- 1) Name of deceased:
- 2) Residence:
- 3) Occupation:
- 4) Means of Identity:
- 5) Where found, when, and under what circumstances:
- 6) Date of death:
- 7) Cause of death:
- 8) Offence (if any) to which death attributable:

And I, the said.....
do say that my verdict is
.....
{Please see Attached Detailed Verdict}

IN Witness whereof I have to this inquisition set my hand the
day of.....20.....

.....
Coroner

THIRD SCHEDULE

NATIONAL CORONERS' BILL, 2020

DISPOSAL OF BODIES BY CREMATION REGULATIONS, 20 ...

REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISPOSAL OF BODIES BY CREMATION UNDER SECTION 49 OF THE NATIONAL CORONERS' BILL, 2020.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 49 of the National Coroners' Law and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, the Minister for Justice makes the following Regulations:

Establishment of a licensed Crematorium

1.-(1) The Minister for Health on the advice of the Minister for Justice shall have power to establish such numbers of crematoria as may be required in the State for the disposal of human remains by burning in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations

(2) No Crematorium shall be constructed nearer to any dwelling house than two hundred yards, except with the consent in writing of the owner, lessee and occupier of such house, neither within fifty yards of any public highway nor in the consecrated part of a burial ground.

Required Consent and Application for Cremation

2.-(1) An application for cremation may be made by the consenting authority, being the next-of-kin of the deceased person in accordance with the written instructions of the deceased by way of a will or other legal document, if any, or with the consent of the spouse and all necessary members of the family of the deceased person.

(2) An application for cremation shall be made to the Federal Chief Medical Examiner or the Chief Medical Examiner of the State, in the prescribed manner set out in Form "A" in the Third Schedule.

Authority to Cremate

3.-(1) The Chief Medical Examiner shall have power to issue a permit for cremation on presentation of the completed Forms, "A", "B", "C", and "F", set out in the Third Schedule and on payment of the required charges or fees as may be approved and fixed by the Chief Medical Examiner.

(2) Where the Chief Medical Examiner orders a post-mortem, and receives information from the Pathologist certifying the cause of death and confirms that a Coroner's inquest is unnecessary in Form "D" set out in the Third Schedule, the Chief Medical Examiner shall issue Form "F", set out in the Third Schedule granting authority to cremate the body.

Coroner's Certificate for Cremation

4. Cases of human remains which have been investigated by the Coroner and which are to be cremated, do not require Certificate of Medical Attendant as set out in Form "B" and Confirmatory Medical Certificate as set out in Form "C" of the Third Schedule, but shall be substituted with Form "E" as set out in the Third Schedule, which shall be issued and signed by the Coroner after he has opened an inquest or following post-mortem without an inquest.

Register of Cremations

5.-(1) The crematorium shall keep a Register of Cremations
(2) There shall be appointed a Registrar for the crematorium who shall complete the Register of Cremations, bearing a serial number, date of cremation, the particulars of the deceased, the name of the applicant and the names of those who signed the various certificates.

Offences and Penalties

6.-(1) Failure on the part of the applicant to present the appropriate Forms or to ensure the certification of the Forms by the appropriate personnel stated on the Forms referred to in paragraph 2(2) of these Regulations, shall cause the application to be refused.

(2) Any person who willfully make a false representations or signs or presents any false certificate with a view to procuring the burning of any human remains shall be guilty of an offence and be liable to imprisonment for a term not less than Ten (10) years or a fine not less than Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000.00) or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(3) Any person who operates a crematorium not established as provided under these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and be liable to imprisonment for a term not less than Ten (10) years or to a fine not less than Two Million Naira (N2,000,000.00) or both such fine and imprisonment.

(4) The illegally operated crematorium shall in addition to the penalty in subsection (3) above, be closed down.

(5) Any Crematorium that cremates a body while a pacemaker exists in it shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not less than Two Million Naira (N2,000,000.00).

Limitation of Liability

7.-(1) The crematorium shall not be liable for any wrongful cremation performed as a result of false representation by the consenting authority in the application for the cremation as to the identity of the deceased or the consent of the next-of-kin.

(2) The crematorium shall not be responsible or liable for any valuables delivered to the crematorium with human remains.

(3) The crematorium shall not be liable for refusing to accept a body for cremation:

(a) on receipt of information of a pending dispute over the body;

(b) if it has reasonable basis for questioning any representation made by the consenting authority; or

(c) for any other lawful reasons.

Interpretation

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Consenting authority" means the deceased via a will, the next-of-kin, spouse and any other necessary members of the family of the deceased person;

"Cremation" means the technical process, using direct flame and heat that reduces human remains through high temperature oxidation with a minimum smoke emission to ash and friable fragments of bone which are then pulverized in a cremator. Screws and other metallic fragment removed before the ashes are placed in the urn;

"Crematorium" means the building or part of a building that houses the cremation chamber and the holding facility, (the area designed for the retention of human remains prior to cremation);

"human remains" means the body of a deceased person, or part of a body or limb that has been removed from a living person, including the body, part of the body or limb in any stage of decomposition.

FORM A

APPLICATION FOR CREMATION

This application should be made by an executor whenever possible

I (name) of applicant)..... (Names must be stated in full)

(Address).....

(Occupation).....

apply to the Federal Government to undertake the Cremation of the remains of:

(Name of Deceased)..... (Names must be stated in full)

(Address).....

(Occupation).....

(if retired, please state previous occupation)

(Age)..... (Sex)..... Whether married, widow, widower, or Unmarried.....

The true answers to the questions set out below are as follows:

Table with 2 columns and 2 rows. Row 1: Question 1: Are you an executor or the nearest surviving relative of the deceased? (Answer "Executor" or "Nearest surviving relative" if either). Row 2: Question 2: If not, state: (a) Your relationship to the deceased (b) The reason why the application is

All the questions should be carefully read and answered

(1) The term "near relative" as here used includes widow or widower, parents children above the age of 16 and any other relative usually residing with the deceased

made by you and not by an executor or any nearer relative	
3. Have the near relatives (1) of the deceased been informed of the proposed cremation?	
4. Has any near relative of the deceased Expressed any objection to the proposed cremation? If so, on what grounds?	
5. What was the date and hour of the death of the deceased?	

6. What was the place where the deceased died? (Give the address and say whether own residence, lodgings, hotel, hospital, nursing home etc)	
7. Do you know, or have you any reason to Suspect that the death of the deceased was due, directly to (a) violence; (b) poison; (c) deprivation or neglect?	(a) (b) (c)
8. Do you know any reason whatever For supposing that an examination of the remains of the deceased may be desirable?	
9. Give name and address of the ordinary medical attendant of the deceased.	
10. Give names and addresses of the medical Practitioners who attended to the deceased During his or her last illness.	

The application shall be verified by being counter signed by a House holder to whom the applicant is known who shall certify that the applicant is known to him or her and that he or she has no reason to doubt the truth of any of the information furnished by the applicant

I Declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information given in this application is correct and no material particular has been omitted.

Date..... Signature

The application is known to me and I have no reason to doubt the truth of any of the information furnished by the applicant.

Date..... Signature

Capacity in which signatory has signed

Note signatory must be a householder conforming with marginal Note 2.

This form when completed should be forwarded with the Certificate for Disposal (after Registry) to the Coroner.

FORM B

These Forms are Statutory. All the questions must be answered to make the Certificate effective for the purpose of Cremation.

These medical certificates are regarded as strictly confidential. The right to inspect them is confined to the Coroner and the Medical Examiner.

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL ATTENDANT

I am informed that application is about to be made for the cremation of remains of: -

(Name of Deceased)
 (Address).....

(Occupation).....
 (Age).....

Having attended to the Deceased before death, and seen and identified the Body after death,

I give the following answers to the questions set out below:

1. On what date and at what hour, did he or she die?	
2. What was the place where the deceased died? (Give address and say whether own residence, lodging, hospital, nursing home, etc)	
3. Are you a relative of the deceased? If so, state the relationship	
4. Have you so far as you are aware any pecuniary interest in the death of the deceased?	
5. (a) Were you the ordinary medical attendant of the deceased? (b) If so, for how long?	(a)..... (b).....
6. (a) Did you attend the deceased during his or her last illness? (b) If so, for how long?	(a)..... (b).....

(1) This form is not to be used in the case of coroner's inquest

(2) The answers to the questions should be concise as far as possible. Figures may be used instead of words. All the questions must be answered

(13) If, the death has been reported to the coroner for any reason this should be stated in answer to question 18

<p>7. When did you last see the deceased alive? (Say how many days or hours before death)</p>	
<p>8. (a) How soon after death did you see the body? (b) What examination of it did you make?</p>	<p>(The doctor must see the body after death) (a) (b)</p>
<p>8A. If the deceased died in a hospital* at which he was in-patient, has a post-mortem examination been made by a Pathologist and are the results of that examination known to you?</p>	
<p>9. What was the cause of the death?</p>	
<p>I Immediate cause Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to immediate cause (stated in order proceeding backwards from immediate cause II Other morbid conditions (if important) contributing to death but not related to immediate cause</p>	<p>(a) { Due to (b) { Due to (c) {</p>
<p>10. (a) What was the mode of death? (Say whether syncope, coma, exhaustion, convulsion, etc) (b) What was its duration in days, hours or minutes</p>	<p>(a) (b)</p>
<p>11. State how far the answers to the last two questions are the result of your own observation, or are used on</p>	

statements made by others.	
<p>12. (a). Did the deceased undergo any operation during the final illness or within a year before death? (b) If so, what was its nature and who performed it?</p>	<p>(a)..... (b).....</p>
<p>13. By whom was the deceased nursed during his or her last illness? (Give names and say whether professional nurse, relative, etc. if the illness was a long one this question should be answered with reference to the period of four weeks before the death).</p>	
<p>14. Who were the persons (if any) present at the moment of death?</p>	
<p>15. In view of the knowledge of the deceased's Habits and constitution, do you feel any doubt whatever as to the character of the deceased or the cause of death?</p>	<p>(a) (b)</p>
<p>16. Have you any reason to suspect that the death of the deceased was due, directly or indirectly to; (a) Violence (b) Poison (c) Neglect (d) Any reportable death</p>	<p>Death due directly or Indirectly to alcohol has now to be reported to the Coroner</p>
<p>17. Have you any reason whatever to</p>	<p>(The doctor must see the</p>

suppose a further examination of the body to be desirable?	body after death) (a) (b)	(4) When certificat registrati has been given by authority the coror this fact should be stated.
18. Have you given the certificate required for Registration of death? If not who has?		
19. Has the Coroner been notified? If so, please give FULL DETAILS		

I Hereby Certify that the answers given above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I know of no reasonable cause to suspect that the deceased died either violent or an unnatural death or a sudden death of which the cause is unknown or died in such place or circumstance as to make death reportable or to require an inquest in pursuance of any law.

NAME IN BLOCK

(Signature)

(Address)

Registered Qualifications

(Date) (Tel)

NOTE -This certificate must be handed or sent in a closed envelope by the medical practitioner, who signs it, to the medical practitioner who is to give the confirmatory certificate below, "except in a case where question 8A overleaf is answered in the affirmative in which case the certificate must be so handed or sent to the Federal or State Chief Medical Examiner.

*.. * The term "hospital" as used here means any institution for the reception and treatment of person(s) suffering from illness or mental disorder, any maternity home and any institution for the reception and treatment of persons during convalescence".*

.....

Additional information regarding either of the Certificates may be given here if necessary.

Has a pacemaker or any radioactive material been inserted in the deceased?

(YES or NO)

If so, has it been removed? (YES or NO).....

CREMATION CANNOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL IT HAS BEEN REMOVED.

Forms B and C must be delivered to the Crematorium not later than 11.00a.m on the day (exclusive of Sunday) before the Cremation. Any delay in the delivery of these forms may lead to a postponement of the Cremation.

**FORM C
CONFIRMATORY MEDICAL CERTIFICATE**

Pursuant to the Cremation Regulations

The Confirmatory medical certificate in Form C, if not given by the Medical Examiner must be given by a Medical Practitioner who has been registered in this country for not less than 5 years and who is not a relative of the deceased or a relative or partner of the doctor who has given the certificate in Form B.

(15) Each question must be answered. The answers Nos. (1), (2), & (4) should invariably be in the

I, being neither a relative of the deceased, nor a relative or partner of the medical practitioner who has given the foregoing medical certificate, have examined it and have made personal inquiry as stated in my answers to the questions below:

I am satisfied that the cause of death was

Here, insert cause of death.....
and I certify that I know of no reasonable cause to suspect that the deceased died either a violent or an unnatural death or a sudden death of which the cause(s) is unknown or died in such place or circumstances as to make death reportable or to require an inquest in pursuance of any law.

NAME IN BLOCK

(Signature)

(Address)

(Date) (Tel)

Registered Qualifications
(One of which must be of 5 years standing as above).

Appointment held

NOTE - These Certificates (Forms B & C) after being signed by both medical men, must be handled or sent in a closed envelope to the Medical Examiner by one or other of the Medical Practitioners by whom the Certificates are given.

Forms B & C must be delivered to the Crematorium not later than 11.00a.m on the day (exclusive of Sunday) before the Cremation. Any delay in the delivery of these forms may lead to a postponement of the Cremation.

FORM D
Certificate after Post-Mortem Examination

I hereby certify that, acting on the instructions of the Coroner in
.....
District. I made a Post-Mortem Examination of the remains of;

(Name)
(Address)

.....
(Occupation)

The result of the examination is as follows:

I (a)
(b)
(c).....

II

I am satisfied that the cause of death was such that (Delete whichever is not applicable);

- (a) There is a reason for making toxicological analysis
- (b) There is no reason for making any toxicological analysis
- (c) There is reason for holding an inquest
- (d) There is no reason for holding an inquest.

(Signature)

(Address)

.....

(Date)

(Registered Qualifications):

FORM D.

Certificate after Post-Mortem Examination

I hereby certify that, acting on the instructions of the Coroner in

District. I made a Post-Mortem Examination of the remains of;

(Name)

(Address)

(Occupation).....

The result of the examination is as follows:

I (a)

(b)

(c)

II

I am satisfied that the cause of death was such that (Delete whichever is not applicable);

(a) There is a reason for making toxicological analysis

(b) There is no reason for making any toxicological analysis

(c) There is reason for holding an inquest

(d) There is no reason for holding an inquest.

(Signature).....

(Address)

.....

(Date).....

(Registered Qualifications):.....

FORM E

Part C

CORONER'S CERTIFICATE FOR CREMATION Being the detachable portion of a Form prescribed by Regulation 4 made under the Cremation Regulations Certificate "E" given by the Coroner for the cremation of the body of.....deceased

The Federal Chief Medical Examiner or nominee must, on the cremation body, notify the date and place of cremation on the prescribed form below to the Registrar of Births and

PART A

NOTIFICATION OF CREMATION

Name of Deceased

Cap B3 Laws of Nigeria 20.....

.....

Certificate Issued on

deceased, who died on

To -

(Crematorium Name).....

Was cremated on (a)

.....

(Crematorium

Signature.....

.....

Date.....

1 (Full Name)

Certify that:

*(a) I have opened an inquest on the body of the Under mentioned deceased person.

* (b) a post-mortem examination of the body of the Under mentioned deceased person has been made by my direction or at my request and as a result thereof I am satisfied that an inquest is unnecessary.

I am satisfied that there are no circumstances likely to call for a further examination of the body.

PARTICULARS OF DECEASED PERSON

Full names (if known)

Sex.....

Age

Date of Death

Place of Death

Registration district and sub-district in which the death is to be registered

NOTE- This Certificate is issued for the purposes of cremation only and must be delivered to the Medical Examiner. The cremation cannot be proceeded with unless this Certificate is so delivered.

Deaths at

(Births and Deaths and Burials Law,

This is to give notice that the body of

.....

at

.....

at (b)

.....

Address).....

(Medical Examiner or Nominee)

(a) State date of cremation

(b) State place of cremation

NOTE TO PART C

The Federal Chief Medical Examiner must

96 hours of the cremation of the body of the deceased person to whom this Certificate 'E' relates, fill up the form of notification on the other side hereof, detach it from the Certificate 'E', and deliver it to the Registrar of Births and Deaths. If, however, the Certificate relates to the remains of a still-born child, no notification need be sent.

FORM F

CREMATION REGULATION

**TO BE LEFT BLANK. THIS CERTIFICATE
WILL BE OBTAINED BY THE CREMATION
AUTHORITY**

Authority to Cremate

Whereas application has been made for the Cremation of the remains of:

Name.....

Address:.....

.....

And whereas I have satisfied myself that all the requirements of the Cremation Regulations have been complied with, that the cause of death has been definitely ascertained and that there exists no reason for any further inquiry or examination.

I hereby authorize the Superintendent of the Cremation at
..... to cremate the said remains.

(Signed)
(Medical Examiner)

(Date)

In the case of a stillborn child, in place of the name, address and occupation, Insert a description sufficient to identify the body and in place of the words "that the cause of death has been definitely ascertained" insert the words "that the child was stillborn".

No.

Name:

.....

Cremated

Date:

NATIONAL CORONERS' BILL**SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION****DIRECTION GIVEN BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE FEDERATION UNDER
SECTION 5 OF THE NATIONAL CORONERS' BILL***Declaration of Coroner Districts*

1. The Country is hereby divided into Coroners Districts specified in the first column of the third schedule hereto and each district shall have designated Coroners courts as specified in the second column of the schedule.

Citation

2. These direction may be cited as the Federal Coroners District Directions

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish the National Coroners' Act, regulate the process of Death Investigation.