

MTHONJANENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

INDIGENT BURIAL POLICY

Date Approved:	
Date Implemented:	

Each Local municipality is expected to dispose of the remains for the person/s found dead, in its area of jurisdiction, for whom no responsible agent can be found or whose next of keen is declared as indigent.

For the purposes of this policy destitute and indigent carries the same meaning.

- 1.1 Pauper / Destitute shall be defined but not limited to, as unknown / unclaimed dead bodies for who no responsible agent can be found or is defined as indigent.
- 1.2 The indigent/Pauper burials shall be conducted by the Municipality on behalf of the family or relatives to the value not exceeding **as per Clause 1.6.**
- 1.3 Monies shall be allocated per ward. Each ward will have its limit in the budget equally distributed.
- 1.4 Before any Indigent/Pauper Burial is conducted, documentary proof from the South African Police Service (SAPSD) / Death Certificate confirming that indeed such body had no claimants or letter from the Councillor stating that a person is indigent shall be submitted to the Accounting Officer for approval.
- 1.5 No grave stone shall be erected / allowed on pauper's grave.

1.6 No cash shall be issued to the family,

Cost shall cover:

- **Basic Coffin**
- **Transport**
- **Groceries (Voucher R1000.00)**
- **Mortuary**

1.7 In the event that the Local Municipality from which the unknown/unclaimed body was found is unable to pay for the burial cost, such municipality will have to submit a motivation to the District Municipality for District Municipality to carry out the costs.

2. In the case where the Local Municipality is unable to assist the Pauper or Destitute carrying out the cost, the Local Municipality would have to submit a motivation to the District Municipality to carry the costs.

2.1 Municipality shall submit the following documents together with the application for assistance.

2.1.1 Proof that next of kin are not in existence in the form of a sworn affidavit must be produced.

2.1.2 In addition, a letter confirming that the family is living in poverty or destitution signed by a Social Worker from the Department of Welfare and Population Development must be submitted.

2.1.3 A letter from a Traditional Authority or Ward Councilor or Local Municipality or a Local Church Organization's letterhead confirming that the family resides in the local area and is poor and destitute must also be submitted.

2.2 No transportation will be provided by the Municipality to the bereaved family for attending the funeral.