

BURIAL OF HUMAN CORPSE AT HOME AND THE MANAGEMENT OF MEDICAL WASTE IN NIGERIA: THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE LAW*

Abstract

In most parts of African, it is seen as taboo to speak ill of the dead. In fact, encomiums are rather poured on the dead as though it is a sacred duty. To regard or treat the dead as waste (medical) would no doubt spark off controversy and be seen virtually by most people as sacrilegious even amongst the elite. In fact, the dead in Africa, nay Nigeria, are revered and respected. Some people see the dead as intermediary between God and the living. For these reasons, corpses are buried where the relatives and loved ones would often meet to conduct prayers and sacrifices. Sound as that may look, however, it has no scientific proof. People spend huge sums of money not only in entertaining guests at burials, but in procuring expensive burial coffins. More ridiculously, in most part of Nigeria, deceased's relations would renovate or erect new houses for the purposes of such burial. It is a practice in most part of Nigeria to bury the dead either inside residential building/rooms or within residential premises. This practice cuts across all spheres. For instance, heads of churches/founders are in most places buried within or inside their church building where worshipers go for prayers. The vexed question from this practice of burials of corpses in dwelling houses and residential areas is with regard to how the position of the law. What are the health and environmental implication of this practice? This paper adopts doctrinal method of analysis of data collected from relevant primary and secondary sources. It is revealed that the practice of home burial aside its public health hazards and dangers to the environment, is practically outlawed and illegal. This study therefore recommends, amongst other things, that human corpse be fully and specifically categorized by law as harmful medical waste requiring specific strict disposal mechanism. That will curb spread of diseases associated with human corpse.

Keywords: human corpse, medical waste, pathological waste, burial at home, law.

1. Introduction

In Africa, there is a belief that the dead do not rest because even in death, they still watch over the living. This belief depicts how African people value the dead. In fact, in a bid to ensure a smooth transition, human corpses are buried in residential areas and in some places, living rooms and residential houses/areas. Others are buried at the 'back yard' of residential houses or very close to residences of the relatives of the deceased. Cultural practices, beliefs, religious sentiments, financial costs etc. have been seen as factors responsible for this practice. No matter how it is seen, this practice of home burial in residential houses is illegal and against public health. It is an offence punishable under the Nigerian law. The rationale behind the criminalization of this practice is that human corpse has proven to be a source of great risk to human health and environment. As noted by a Chukwu¹ corpse is a dead body of human being. The considerable health risk posed by these practice may be appreciated when we advert to the fact that there is hardly any major public yard without borehole drilled to supply water to people living around the area. The liquids emanating from these dead bodies when it decomposes are no doubt sipped right into the earth which collects it. The question begging answers is whether it is possible that waters from such boreholes are not affected? This paper therefore examines the provisions of laws relating to treatment and disposal of human corpse, including the rationale for prohibitions of home burial and some obnoxious ways of dealing with human corpse. At the end, this study makes a strong case for specifically categorizing and treating/disposing human corpse as medical waste in the interest of public health and environmental protection.

2. Definition of Basic Terms

Human Corpse is a dead human body that is due for disposal. It refers to the remains of a dead human being. Corpse is a lifeless human body. *Waste* is a difficult term to define because what may not be useful to one person and therefore waste to him may very well have value to another person and therefore not waste to him.² However, waste refers to what is no longer useful as at the moment. A waste is what is meant for disposal. *Waste management* is a general expression that connotes the collection, keeping, treating and disposing of generated

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¹ S. Chukwu, *Burying of Corpse in Dwelling Houses and Residential Areas: What Does the Law say*, (October, 12, 2018). Accessed online at www.barristerng.com. On 1st May, 2023 at 10: 02 am

² K. U. Adamu, *Environmental Protection Law and Practice*, 1st Ed. (Ibadan: Ababa Press Ltd., 2012) p.34

wastes.³ Another study is of the view that ‘waste’ is ‘substance or objects discarded as worthless or unwanted, defective or of no further value, or remnants of food item and hence deemed fit for disposal’.⁴ For Okonkwo,⁵ waste is any inanimate object, whether in solid or liquid form that is no longer required or is regarded as useless in any material particular and which is incapable of adding value to human being, thereby qualified to be thrown away in sound environmentally sustainable manner. According to Aina,⁶ toxic wastes are hazardous wastes and possess characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, or toxicity.⁷ From a legal point of view, wastes are substances or objects, which are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of, or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of municipal or national laws.⁸

Medical waste includes all the wastes generated in the diagnosis, treatment, surgeries, autopsies, or other medical procedures from all types of healthcare institutions, including hospitals, clinics, doctors (dental and veterinary) offices, medical laboratories and research centres related to medical procedures.⁹ Research¹⁰ shows that medical waste are generally infectious, hazardous, and are generated from health care institutions, such as hospitals, clinics, dental offices, and medical laboratories¹¹. Medical waste is seen as any waste generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animal, in related research, production or testing of biologicals from all types of healthcare institutions, including hospitals, clinics, doctor (dental and veterinary) offices, and medical laboratories.¹² Section 48 of National Environmental (Healthcare Waste Control) Regulation¹³ defines healthcare waste to mean waste which is generated;

- a. During the diagnosis, treatment, immunization of humans, animals, in research or activities pertaining thereto or in the production or testing of biological experiments, and
- b. In medical and health institutions (dispensaries, hospitals, polyclinics and outpatient departments, dental clinics, veterinary stations, pharmacies, patent medical shops, etc) as a result of use or contamination during diagnosing, medical treatment and prevention of diseases in humans and animals¹⁴.

Generally, there is no strict compartmental classification of medical waste. Sometimes, however, waste is generally classified into solid, liquid and gaseous based on their mass/appearance. However, some other scholars classify waste based on nature/effects. This later classification is to the effect that waste is either hazardous or non-hazardous. The National Environmental (Healthcare Waste Control) Regulation 2021¹⁵ categorizes medical waste into two broad category, namely, non-hazardous health waste (General solid waste) and hazardous healthcare waste (infectious waste). Under the regulation, non-hazardous healthcare or general waste consists of waste generated from offices, kitchens, packaging materials from stores. Hazardous healthcare waste according to the Regulation consists of infectious waste, pathological waste, sharps, pharmaceutical waste, genotoxic waste, chemical waste, wastes with high content of heavy metals, pressurized containers, radioactive waste and bio-waste¹⁶. Nyekwere¹⁷ classifies medical waste into the following major groups: sharp waste, infectious waste, pathological waste, pharmaceutical waste, cytotoxic waste, chemical waste, radioactive waste, and non-hazardous or general waste. As observed, while some medical wastes are highly hazardous in character, some are mild or generally non-hazardous. Human corpse falls within the category of infectious, pathological and anatomical medical waste.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ J. U. Achor, *Improving the Living Environment in Slum Settlement*, (Lagos, Bedan Company Ltd, 1998) P. 109

⁵ T. Okonkwo *The Law of Environmental Liability*, (Lagos: Fine Finishing Limited, Afrique Environmental and Education (AEDE) 2010) p. 753.

⁶ E. Aina ‘Administration Control of utility and disposal of Waste’, *Law Society Journal*, (University of Lagos, 1992) p.12

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ C. A. Omaka, *Municipal and International Environmental Law* (Enugu, Kingdom Age Publications) p.155. See also, Basel Convention on the control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

⁹ E.H. Nyekwere, ‘Legal Assessment of the Impact of the Improper Disposal of Medical waste in Nigeria’ *Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka Journal of International Law and Jurisprudence*, 2012, vol 1, p.25.

¹⁰ M. S. Zarook, ‘Medical waste management and Control’, *Journal of Environmental Studies*, January, 2012, American University of Sharjah, UEA, Vol. 3, pp. 1625 – 1628, accessed online on 6th March, 2023.

¹¹ See also, US Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, ‘Issues in Medical Waste Management-Background Paper,’ US Government Printing Office, Washington DC, 1988.

¹² E. O. Longe & A. Williams, ‘A Preliminary Study of Medical Waste Management in Lagos Metropolis, Nigeria’, *Iran Journal of Environmental Health Sciences and Engineering*, 2006, Lagos, Vol. 3, No. 2 Pp.133-139. Accessed online on 11th March, 2023.

¹³ National Environmental (Healthcare Waste Control) Regulation, 2021

¹⁴ See also section 106 of National Environmental (Sanitation and Waste Control) Regulation 2009

¹⁵ First Schedule, National Environmental (Healthcare Waste Control) Regulation, 2021.

¹⁶ *Ibid*

¹⁷ E.H. Nyekwere, *op cit* p.28.

Infectious Waste are medical waste suspected to contain pathogens such as laboratory cultures, waste from isolation wards, swabs, materials, or equipment that have been in contact with tubing, catheters, toxins, live or attenuated vaccines, soiled plaster casts and other materials contaminated with blood from infected patients, excreta, etc.¹⁸ Infectious waste also means waste which is suspected to contain pathogens. Infectious waste contains pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, parasites, or fungi in sufficient concentration or quantity, and that poses a risk of disease transmission. This category includes waste contaminated with blood and other body fluids from disposed diagnostic samples. Infectious waste includes excreta and other objects that have been in contact with patients infected with extremely infectious diseases in isolation wards such as swabs, bandages, and disposable medical devices. Others include culture and stocks of infectious instruments from laboratory works, for instance, wastes from autopsies and infected animals from laboratories.¹⁹

Pathological waste means human tissue or fluids generated as waste in the course of diagnosis, treatment or prevention of disease within the health setting.²⁰ Pathological waste consists of human and animal tissues or fluids, body parts, blood and other body fluids, fetuses, animal carcasses, etc.²¹ Nyekwere noted that pathological waste could be regarded as a subcategory of infectious waste but is frequently classified separately- especially when unique methods of handling, treatment, and disposal are used. Pathological waste consists of human tissues, organ or fluids and body parts. Pathological waste may also include body parts that have been removed during medical procedure or produced during medical research.²² On the other hand, anatomical wastes are typically distinguished as recognizable human organs, tissues or body part.

Having noted above, it is without doubt that dead/removed human part or tissue constitutes harmful and infectious waste, thus posing great health and environmental risk. From the definitions of pathological and anatomical waste by the National Environmental (Healthcare Waste Control) Regulation 2021, it can be inferred that human corpse or at least dead/removed human parts or tissue falls within the category of medical waste, because they potentially infectious especially when improperly treated or disposed. What however appears uncertain from the definition is whether a complete human corpse as opposed to dead human body parts/tissues can safely be called or categorized as waste and treated as such. To resolve this uncertainty, a look into the aims and objectives of the National Environmental (Healthcare Waste Control) Regulation 2021 will be of some assistance. Regulation 1 provides that the objective of the Regulations is to-

- a. Prevent and minimize waste emanating from activities of healthcare facilities with a view to safeguarding human health and the Nigerian environment; and
- b. Manage healthcare waste, including all categories of healthcare waste as specified in the first schedule to the regulations.

Regulation 1 further provides that the regulation shall apply to healthcare waste generators, handlers and treatment facilities. Regulation 2 mandates healthcare facilities to prepare and implement a functional healthcare waste management plan which shall include measures to be taken-

- a. In the generation of healthcare waste;
- b. To safely contain, store and transport healthcare waste;
- c. In the effective treatment and disposal of healthcare waste, and
- d. To mitigate the adverse effect of such healthcare waste.

Regulation 4 provides that a healthcare facility or its agent shall prevent contamination arising from hazardous and associated waste which is likely to cause pollution of the environment including soil, surface and ground water. Under this regulation healthcare facility or healthcare waste treatment facility shall carry out efficient treatment of its waste at all times, ensure that sludge containing heavy metals or other toxic materials are disposed of in Environmentally Sound Manner (ESM) in a designated disposal site. Also, they are to ensure the treatment and disposal of toxic organics contained in both effluent and sludge as approved by the Agency including ensuring that effluent is not diluted in order to achieve the standards prescribed in the Second Schedule to these Regulations; and ensure that wastes containing toxic organics are treated with Best Available Technology (BAT) and by adopting Best Environmental Practices (BEP)²³. Another example that will dispel any argument on this is why abandoned or unidentified corpses are usually treated as infectious waste and inserted in sealed body bag or encapsulation before disposal. Also, people that died of highly infectious diseases such as

¹⁸ *Ibid*

¹⁹ Nyekwere, *Op cit* p.27

²⁰ Regulation 48, National Environmental (Healthcare Waste Control) Regulation, 2021

²¹ First Schedule, National Environmental (Healthcare Waste Control) Regulation, 2021

²² Nyekwere, *Op.cit* p. 27

²³ Regulation 7, *Ibid*

Corona Virus, Lassa Fever, Ebola Virus etc. are disposed of in strict compliance to prescribed environmental standards. Regulation 48²⁴ defined disposal to mean final destination of waste and includes put-away, sales, transformation, burial, landfill, etc.; excluding open burning.

Human corpse is expected to be buried properly and at a designated point, usually in a cemetery. The common ground of all the authorities cited above is that wastes generally are materials/substance that are no longer useful and therefore in a hazardous or potentially hazardous state if improperly managed. On the other hand, medical wastes are substances produced or used in diagnosis, research, treatment of humans or animals in hospitals, veterinary offices or laboratories and include human corpse or removed body parts or tissues, carcass or part thereof which are no longer alive or in use or by virtue of their use lost their immediate value and therefore hazardous or are potentially hazardous if improperly managed.

3. The Illegality of the Practice of Home Burial of Human Corpse in Nigeria

To ensure a proper transition, dead bodies are buried/interred in residential areas and in some places, living room and residential houses. Others are buried at the back yard of the residential house or very close to residences of their loved ones. As noted earlier, cultural practices, beliefs, religious sentiments, financial costs etc. has been attributed as factors responsible to this practice. However, no matter how it is seen, this practice of home burial in residential houses is illegal and against public health. The rationale behind the criminalization of this practice is that it poses great risk to human health and environment. As noted by a writer²⁵ corpse is a dead body of human being. Some graves are usually very shallow such that with time, the ooze and smell of the decomposing corpse are perceived by people nearby thereby polluting the air. The following laws prohibit home burial, and by extension acts that degrade the environment'

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended)

The 1999 Constitution of Nigeria as amended empowers both the Federal and States to make laws that are reasonable justified in the interest of defence, public safety, public order, public morality and public health. It is pursuant to the interest of health of the public that laws have been made making it a crime to bury any dead human body within any dwelling house or even in public yard or open space in residential area. Specifically, section 20²⁶ provides that 'the state shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air and land, forest and wild life of Nigeria'.

Criminal Code

The Criminal Code is one of the laws that outlawed home burial of corpse in Nigeria. This also explains why Chapter 23 of Criminal Code²⁷ contains what is generally called offences against Public Health. Section 246 of the Code²⁸ outright prohibits burial in houses. Thus, any person who without the consent of the President or the Governor buries or attempts to bury any corpse in any house, building, premises, yard, garden, compound, or within a hundred yards of any dwelling house, or in any open space situated within a township, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and is liable to imprisonment for six months. The only time human corpse may be buried in dwelling house or residential area, garden or within hundred yards of any dwelling house is when the President or Governor grants permit/consent. It should be borne in mind that such consent/permit is not granted by mere asking. It is as a matter of law granted on fulfillment of certain conditions. To apply for such consent/permit, death certificate of the deceased is a condition precedent. The death certificate must show clearly the cause of death, so that where the cause of death is of highly infectious disease, for example, Ebola, Lassa Fever or Corona Virus, etc., such application must fail as there is likelihood of danger to occupants of such dwelling houses or residence. To show further that corpse is an infectious waste, section 242 of Criminal Code provides that any person who;

1. Without lawful justification or excuse, the proof of which lies on him,
 - a. Neglects to perform any duty imposed on him by law, or undertaken by him, whether for reward or otherwise, touching the burial or other disposition of a human body or human remains; or
 - b. Improperly or indecently interferes with, or offers any indignity to any dead human body or human remains, whether buried or not;

²⁴ National Environmental (Healthcare Waste Control) Regulation, 2021

²⁵ Stanley Chukwu, *Burying of Corpse in Dwelling Houses and Residential Areas; What Does the Law say*, (October, 12, 2018). Accessed online at www.barristerng.com. On 1st May, 2023 at 10: 02 am

²⁶ The 1999 Constitution of Federal republic of Nigeria (CFRN) as amended.

²⁷ Cap. C38, LFN, 2004

²⁸ *Ibid*

2. Eats or receives for the purpose of eating any part of a dead human body; is guilty of a misdemeanor and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for 2years²⁹.

The reason for criminalizing practice of home burial is because it portends great risk to public health and environment. It is observed that this is one of the laws that are however observed more in breach in Nigeria. Also, the exception provided in the law is open to great abuse as the President or Governor may exercise his powers without considering the nature and or cause of death especially where cause of death is as a result of dangerous communicable diseases such as Ebola, Lassa fever etc.

Anatomy Act

Section 8 of Anatomy Act³⁰ provides for how dead bodies are to be removed for examination. Accordingly, the removal of body for anatomical examination aforesaid shall be subject to the following conditions;

- a. The body shall before such removal be placed in a decent coffin or shall, and be removed therein.
- b. The person removing the body or causing the same to be removed as aforesaid shall make provisions that such body, after undergoing anatomical examination, shall be decently interred in some public burial ground in use for persons of that religious persuasion to which the person whose body was so removed belonged or, if such persuasion is unknown, in any public burial ground;
- c. A certificate of the interment of such body shall be transmitted to the state commissioner for health within 6 months after the day on which the body was received as aforesaid.

Section 11 provides that any person who contravenes any provisions of the Act shall be deemed to have committed an offence and being convicted thereof shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or fine not exceeding one hundred naira or both such fine and imprisonment.

Births, Deaths and Burial Law of Lagos State

Section 39 of the Births, Deaths and Burial Law³¹ provides that corpse shall not be buried elsewhere where public burial ground is provided. Section 40 of same law provides for the person that has the responsibility of causing a body to be buried. Section 41 makes it mandatory that no corpse should be buried in a grave that is less than four feet deep. Section 42 empowers the court to close/seal dwelling house near a place where corpse is buried, and section 43 provides for removal of any corpse buried in contravention of the law. Section 35 of the law provides for time within which corpse are to be buried. Section 22 of the law mandates medical officers to issue certificate indicating cause of every death in Lagos State.

Births, Deaths and Burials Law of Ebonyi State

The Births, Deaths and Burials Law of Ebonyi State is also another legislation that deals on burial of corpse. For instance, this law provides for burial of corpses, time to bury etc. Regrettably, the law did not describe corpse as waste. However, one should also not lose mind of the fact that when corpse is kept unburied beyond the expected time, it starts decomposing and at that time becomes a threat to human life, and serious source of pollution. Or where corpse is improperly buried, it poses great health risk especially where cause of death is infectious disease. What then is waste? Section 40 of this law provides that except with the consent of a medical officer, no corpse shall be buried at a less than four feet from the surface of the ground. Penalty for going contrary to this provision is a fine of five thousand naira or imprisonment for two months. Section 41 provides as follows;

- a. A court may on the application of a health officer order that any dwelling-house in which, or within a hundred metres of which, a corpse has been buried to be closed until the same is fit for habitation, and may if necessary authorize any police officer to remove from such house the occupants thereof.
- b. Any person inhabiting a dwelling-house so closed shall be liable to a fine of one thousand naira and a further fine of Five Hundred Naira for each day that such habitation continues.
- c. No order shall be made under this section if the corpse has been buried in a public burial-ground.

Section 42 also provides that;

²⁹ Section, 242 (1) and (2), *Ibid*

³⁰ Anatomy Act of Nigeria , 2004

³¹ Laws of Lagos State of Nigeria 2018.

1. Upon the information of a health officer or any person authorized by him that a corpse has been buried in any dwelling-house or in any place, not being a public burial ground, within ninety metres from any dwelling-house, a court may issue a warrant, authorizing any member of the police or any officer of the court to search, and if necessary, to dig up any ground in any such dwelling-house, or within one hundred yards from such dwelling-house, for the purpose of ascertaining if any corpse has been buried.
2. Any corpse found in execution of a warrant issued under this section shall be removed and buried by such person or persons as the court may direct, and the costs of such removal shall be paid by the persons by whom such corpse has been buried or caused to be buried in the place from which it has been removed or otherwise as court may direct.

To show how serious the offence of burial in dwelling-house is, section 43 further provides that the Commissioner may in writing under his hand order the exhumation of any human body buried in any place within Ebonyi State of Nigeria and may direct that any exhumation shall be carried out in the presence of, and in a manner approved by a medical officer and give such other directions with regard to any such exhumation as he may think fit. Section 48 of the law empowers the Commissioner to make regulations for the better carrying into effect of the provisions of this law. Due to the fact that decomposing corpse is infectious and hazardous in nature because it can be a ready source of dangerous diseases, the legislature passed this law. Thus, the practice of shallow grave burial and burial in dwelling house is now an offence. Although this law is observed more in breach in most parts of Ebonyi that have the practice of burying corpses in dwelling house and residential areas, however, the point is clear, and that is, that corpse is waste (healthcare waste) as such, should be disposed of properly and appropriately. Also, the trend of keeping human corpse in dwelling house, and embalming or treating such corpse with preservatives/chemicals also falls within this discourse, thus, should as well be sanctioned. The practice is inimical to human health. It is also a fast means of transmitting disease.

4. Methods of Disposing of Human Corpse

Several methods of disposal of dead human body/corpse are adopted by different people depending on cultural practices, religious beliefs and financial capability. Generally, dead human body may be cremated, mummified, or buried/interred. By cremation, the dead body/corpse is set up and burnt to ashes. The ashes are either gathered and thrown away in the bin or into the river or put in bottle or container and kept for other ritual purposes. Mummification involves keeping of the corpse and embalming the dead body with oil/preservatives/chemicals. When properly mummified, the body can stay in that state without decomposing for as long as is possible. The most common practice in this part of the world is burying or interment as the case maybe. Burial involves interring of dead body in a grave. Grave is an excavation in the earth as a place of burial. Grave can also mean any place of interment and could include a tomb, or a sepulcher. In the ancient days, dead bodies were buried or interred in tombs and caves. The Third Schedule to National Environmental (Healthcare Waste Control) Regulations 2021 provides that deep safe burial shall be an option available only in towns with population less than five hundred thousand and in rural areas. Burying involves interment of infectious medical waste/body in a pit or an approved landfill site or cemetery. It is the most convenient waste disposal technique worldwide and is cheap and involves most affordable technology. A standardized grave yard/burial ground involves a carefully selected location and usually constructed and maintained using engineering techniques, ensuring minimized pollution of air, water, and soil and risks to man and animals. It involves placing the waste/body in line up pit/grave or a mound with appropriate means of leachate and landfill gas control.³² Section 40 of Birth, Death and Burial Law of Ebonyi State provides that except with the consent of a medical officer, no corpse shall be buried at a less than four feet from the surface of the ground.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

This study reveals that human corpse falls within the categories of infectious, hazardous, pathological and anatomical medical waste that should be appropriately disposed of/managed. This study has also shown that several factors including cultural practice, religious sentiments, financial costs, beliefs, inadequate public burial grounds etc. are responsible for continuous burials in residential houses, rooms and residential areas. Although government has banned this practice now referred to as home burial, it is observed that the practice of home burial is still rampant. When laws are made without enforcement, such laws should be seen as beautiful nonsense and toothless bulldog. This is because the law is rarely enforced by anybody despite the dangers that it set to mitigate. As observed, the government has shown to be indifferent in enforcement of these laws prohibiting and criminalizing home burials in Nigeria. This paper therefore puts forward the following recommendations as a way to curbing the dangers associated with home burials in Nigeria. First, more lands be mapped out as free burial grounds by government both at federal, state and local government level. This will

³² Nyekwere, *Op.cit.* p.30

enable those whose reasons for embarking on home burial are as a result of lack of land or space to have alternative. By this, such people will have a place to bury their deceased one. Second, law should be made mandating every corpse to be chemically treated and inserted in scientifically certified safe body-bag before interment. And that the 'not less than four feet deep' grave specification be adhered to strictly and appropriately enforced by relevant government agencies and communities. Third, law should be made specifically categorizing human corpse as medical waste and also criminalizing the practice of keeping human corpse in residential house and embalming same with chemical preservatives for days before burial. This practice is obtainable in many places due to cultural practices, beliefs and financial constraints. Forth, every death must be registered and certificate of death clearly indicating cause of death be issued before any corpse is buried. And any President or Governor desiring to grant consent/permit for home burial must act based on a thoroughly investigated certificate of death. Such permit/consent is recommended should only be granted in very rare situation and not arbitrarily. Finally, the ministry of health/environment both at federal, state and local government must create specific taskforce/committee that will strictly monitor burials enforce non-compliance strictly.