**HOME DEATHS IN ZIMBABWE**

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The registration of deaths is mandatory in Zimbabwe. This area is a big challenge. The law may need to be reviewed to make it an offence not to register a death, unless other corrective measures are put in place to ensure compliance.

**Business process**

1. Person dies at home.
2. Relatives inform the village head and obtain a letter confirming the death.
3. Relatives report death to the police.
4. Police visit to assess the nature of death i.e. whether it was due to suicide, suspected murder, poisoning, natural causes etc. and take the body where necessary for autopsy/post mortem and further investigations.
5. Where the death is due to natural causes, a police clearance report is given to the relatives.
6. Body is buried.
7. Relatives register the death at the nearest registration office. Relatives produce the deceased’s national identity document and produce the letter of confirmation from the village head and the clearance letter from the police. The informant’s details are recorded.
8. The documents produced are attached to the registration form. The death is captured in the Zimbabwe Population Registration System.
9. The death certificate is printed and handed to the informant i.e. deceased’s relative who signs to acknowledge receiving the certificate.

**MAJOR BOTTLENECKS IN THE CURRENT SYSTEM**

1. The distance to the police station maybe far.
2. The whole process is long i.e. to the police station to report and back and to the police station again for the police clearance letter. Then to register the death.
3. The police may be short staffed at the police station and relatives have to wait for a police detail to be released to assist them.
4. Transport to the police station may be a problem and the burial has to wait for the whole process to be completed.
5. The police may not have the resources to attend to the deceased body.
6. The health officials are not involved in any way.
7. No cause of death is given.

**DESIRED BUSINESS PROCESS**

1. Death occurs
2. Report to the police and obtain police clearance
3. Register the death. Registration offices are always situated near a police station
4. Bury the body

**STRATEGIES**

These are provided not in priority order

1. Review the registration procedure to simplify it and inform all stakeholders
2. Carry out awareness campaigns through the print and electronic media
3. Inform the traditional leaders i.e. chiefs, village heads etc.
4. Produce flyers and pamphlets for distribution
5. Hold workshops with all Registrars to familiarize themselves with the new procedures.