



## GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

### Abstract

Disaster Management Department - Landslide in Meppadi Panchayath, Wayanad district - Standard Operating Procedure for disposal of dead bodies - Orders Issued

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### **DISASTER MANAGEMENT (A) DEPARTMENT**

G.O.(Rt)No.566/2024/DMD Dated 02-08-2024, Thiruvananthapuram

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- Read 1) GO (P) No. 1/2024/DMD dated 02-08-2024  
2) GO (Ms) No. 6/2023/DMD dated 18-6-2023

### ORDER

As per Govt order read as 1<sup>st</sup> paper above, various villages in Wayanad district are notified as disaster affected. It is deemed essential to issue specific directions for disposal of dead bodies and body parts retrieved. Accordingly, vide powers vested on the State Executive Committee under Section 22 (2) (h) and Section 72 of Disaster Management Act, 2005, the following directions are issued to the District Disaster Management Authority Wayanad, Police, Health Department, Grama Panchayaths and Municipalities concerned.

#### **1. Procedure to be followed in the case of unidentified bodies**

1. An identification number shall be assigned to the body.
2. Inquest and postmortem shall be conducted as per procedure.
3. The police shall ensure photography/videography of the body and the material objects present with the body.
4. Appropriate measures for identification like DNA sample, dental records etc. shall be taken.
5. The identification number shall be clearly mentioned in all the

identification samples, photographs/videography and record of material objects associated with the body.

6. The Police shall inform Meppadi Panchayat of the presence of such body. All efforts shall be taken by the police for identification of the body.
7. In case identification is not possible, the police shall release the body to the District Administration for further action after 72 hours from the time of inquest. The District Administration shall inform Meppadi panchayat and the Panchayat/ Municipality in which burial site is located. In cases where the doctor concerned has advised, in writing, immediate burial due to decomposition or otherwise, the body shall be released to the District Administration immediately without any waiting period.
8. The disposal of bodies shall only be in the form of burial.
9. The District Administration shall ensure burial of the body with clearcut markings of the identification number at the spot of burial. The burial shall take place in the presence of officials of the Panchayat/Municipality in which the burial site is located.
10. The District Administration shall maintain necessary records of the burial location details for reference.

### **3. Procedure for bodies which are identified but not claimed**

1. An identification number shall be assigned to the body. This number shall be used along with available identity details.
2. Inquest and postmortem shall be conducted as per procedure.
3. The police shall ensure photography/videography of the body and the material objects present with the body.
4. Appropriate measures for identification like DNA sample, dental records etc. shall be taken.
5. The identification number and available identity details shall be clearly

mentioned in all the identification samples, photographs/videography and record of material objects associated with the body.

6. The Police shall inform Meppadi Panchayat of the presence of such body. All efforts shall be taken by the police for identification of the body.
  7. In case the body is not claimed within 72 hours from the time of inquest, the police shall release the body to the District Administration for further action. The District Administration shall inform Meppadi panchayat and the Panchayat/Municipality in which burial site is located. In cases where the doctor concerned has advised, in writing, immediate burial due to decomposition or otherwise, the body shall be released to the District Administration immediately without any waiting period.
  8. The disposal of bodies shall only be in the form of burial.
  9. The District Administration shall ensure burial of the body with clear cut markings of the identification number and available identity details, at the spot of burial. The burial shall take place in the presence of officials of the Panchayat/ Municipality in which the burial site is located.
  10. The District Administration shall maintain necessary records of the burial location details for reference.
- 4. Procedure in case of identification is contested (Same procedure shall be applicable for bodies with doubts regarding identity)**
1. An identification number shall be assigned to the body.
  2. Inquest and postmortem shall be conducted as per procedure.
  3. The police shall ensure photography/videography of the body and the material objects present with the body.
  4. Appropriate measures for identification like DNA sample, dental records etc. shall be taken.

5. The identification number shall be clearly mentioned in all the identification samples, photographs/videography and record of material objects associated with the body.
6. The Police shall inform Meppadi Panchayat of the presence of such body.
7. The Police shall take all necessary measures to ascertain the identity of the body within 72 hours.
8. In case identification is not possible, the police shall release the body to the District Administration for further action after 72 hours from the time of inquest. The District Administration shall inform Meppadi panchayat and the Panchayat/Municipality in which burial site is located. In cases where the doctor concerned has advised, in writing, immediate burial due to decomposition or otherwise, the body shall be released to the District Administration immediately without any waiting period.
9. The disposal of bodies shall only be in the form of burial.
10. The District Administration shall ensure burial of the body with clear cut markings of the identification number at the spot of burial. The burial shall take place in the presence of officials of the Panchayat/Municipality in which the burial site is located.
11. The District Administration shall maintain necessary records of the burial location details for reference.

**5. Procedure to be followed in the case of body parts**

1. An identification number shall be assigned to the body part.
2. Inquest and postmortem shall be conducted as per procedure.
3. The police shall ensure photography/videography of the body part and the material objects present with the body part.
4. Appropriate measures for identification like DNA sample, dental

records etc. shall be taken.

5. The identification number shall be clearly mentioned in all the identification samples, photographs/videography and record of material objects associated with the body part.
6. The Police shall inform Meppadi Panchayat of the presence of such body part. All efforts shall be taken by the police for identification of the body part.
7. In case identification is not possible, the police shall release the body part to the District Administration for further action after 72 hours from the time of inquest. The District Administration shall inform Meppadi panchayat and the Panchayat/Municipality in which burial site is located. In cases where the doctor concerned has advised, in writing, immediate burial due to decomposition or otherwise, the body part shall be released to the District Administration immediately without any waiting period.
8. The disposal of body parts shall only be in the form of burial.
9. The District Administration shall ensure burial of the body part with clear cut markings of the identification number at the spot of burial. A separate burial location shall be assigned to each body part. The burial shall take place in the presence of officials of the Panchayat/Municipality in which the burial site is located.
10. The District Administration shall maintain necessary records of the burial location details for reference.

Actual cost of disposal shall be certified by appropriate authority authorised by the District Disaster Management Authority, Wayanad for the purpose and the actual expenditure for each case shall be met from State Disaster Response Fund as per item (4) (c) Clearance of affected areas - disposal of dead bodies/carcasses as approved vide 2<sup>nd</sup> paper read above.

The Commissioner, Disaster Management shall make necessary changes in the above procedure if required and send such changes for ratification to the Government.

(By order of the Governor)  
TINKU BISWAL  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

Additional Chief Secretary, Home and Vigilance Department  
Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Family Welfare  
Principal Secretary, LSGD  
District Collectors, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram  
State Police Chief, Kerala  
Director General, Fire and Rescue Services  
Director, Health Services  
Commissioner, Land Revenue  
Commissioner, Disaster Management  
Member Secretary, KSDMA  
DDMA, Wayanad  
DMO, Wayanad

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer