

# SIYANCUMA MUNICIPALITY

## PAUPER BURIALS DRAFT POLICY

### 1. **BACKGROUND**

The Council note the demand of burial of paupers/ destitute deceased people within its area of jurisdiction whereby some municipalities cater for the same and others do not. The municipality had to intervene with its limited resources on certain occasions where it was becoming clear that burial of paupers/ destitute people was not going to take place as a result of other authorities not having the necessary resources to cater for the same. This policy is a standardized policy which will ensure an effective and prompt burial of such corpses, within the area of jurisdiction of Siyancuma.

### 2. **DEFINITIONS**

#### 2.1 Pauper /Destitute Corpse-

Means a deceased person without a next of kin or an unclaimed body or whose next of kin are able to verify inability to afford funeral expenses due to poverty conditions that exist within that family.

#### 2.2 Pauper Burial -

This is a process of ensuring that, the burial of a pauper or destitute corpse is executed by the relevant authority or council in a manner termed as human dignified by making sure that all the basic requirements needed to bury a dead person are taken into account.

3. The deceased must have died within the boundaries of one of the municipality.
4. The deceased and or the family must have been unemployed, not receiving any grants or pensions to cover for the burial expenses.
5. If the next of kin is available, he/she must sign a right of claim over the body to the Council, to dispose of it as the Council deems fit e.g. burying or cremating it, whichever will be cost effective.
6. The Municipal Manager must be responsible for authorizing the pauper burial in consultation with Mayor or relevant portfolio committee chairperson.
7. The burial will be conducted by the undertaker contracted to the municipality, where there is no undertaker contracted by the municipality,



