National Ebola Response Centre (NERC)



Media and Communications Unit EOC Building, Cockeril FREETOWN Sierra Leone. Website: www.nerc.sl

Press Statement

Clarifications on the Amended Safe and Dignified Burial Policy

The NERC wishes to make the following clarifications on the amended Safe and Dignified Burial Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) announced by the Chief Executive Officer of the NERC Major (Rtd) Alfred Palo Conteh during his weekly Press Conference on Wednesday August 19, 2015.

- Families in Western Area Urban (Urban) will be offered Safe and Dignified Burial within 24 hours from a list of 17 designated cemeteries, (16 sites in WA Urban plus the existing designated Ebola burial site at Waterloo). The cemetery site will be agreed and confirmed with the bereaved family at the time of calling 117. Negotiations for Cemeteries of choice are not permitted for Ebola positive corpses. All Ebola positive corpses will be buried at the designated Ebola burial site at Waterloo
- Funeral homes in Western Area and Connaught Mortuary have been given a deadline of Monday 31 August to clear all corpses from their respective facilities. These establishments were prohibited from receiving new corpses from Thursday 20 August and their closure will be monitored until the Safe and Dignified Burials policy is discontinued
- Families in all other Districts will be offered Safe and Dignified Burial within 24 hours at cemeteries of their choice within those Districts. Burials will only be permitted at sites designated as cemeteries.

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