



SUPPLEMENT No. 2

TO

THE CYPRUS GAZETTE No. 3691 OF 21ST MAY, 1953.

LEGISLATION.

THE STATUTE LAWS OF CYPRUS

No. 23 OF 1953.

**A LAW TO REGULATE THE APPOINTMENT, POWERS
AND DUTIES OF CORONERS.**

A. B. WRIGHT,]
Governor.

[20th May, 1953.]

BE it enacted by His Excellency the Governor and
Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Cyprus as
follows :—

PART I.
PRELIMINARY.

1. This Law may be cited as the Coroners Law, 1953.

Short title.

Inter-
pretation.

2. In this Law unless the context otherwise requires—
- “coroner” means any person empowered to hold inquests under this Law ;
- “jurisdiction” means the area within which a coroner is empowered to hold inquests ;
- “local authority” means the Mukhtar or an Aza of the village or quarter where a dead body is lying, and where in a village or quarter there is more than one Mukhtar, the Mukhtar of the community to which the deceased belonged ;
- “medical practitioner” means any person registered as a medical practitioner under the Medical Registration Law ;
- “President, District Court” means the President of the District Court of the district within which the inquest has been, is or shall be held.

Cap. 118.
16 of 1952.

PART II. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Who may
hold
inquests.

3.—(1) Every district judge and magistrate may hold inquests under this Law within the local limits of his jurisdiction.

(2) The Governor may, by notice in the *Gazette*, empower any other fit person to hold inquests under this Law within any area specified in such notice.

(3) Any inquest commenced by a coroner may be continued, resumed, or reopened in the manner provided by this Law by such coroner or by his successor in office or by such other coroner, empowered to hold the inquest within the jurisdiction, as the President, District Court, may direct.

(4) Where more than one coroner is empowered to hold the inquest within the jurisdiction, the President, District Court, shall regulate the disposition and distribution of duties amongst such coroners.

When
inquest to
be held.

4. Whenever a coroner is informed that the body of a deceased person is lying within his jurisdiction and that there is reasonable cause to suspect that such person—

- (a) has died either a violent or an unnatural death ; or
- (b) has died a sudden death of which the cause is unknown ; or
- (c) has died in circumstances the continuance or possible recurrence of which is prejudicial to the health or safety of the public or any section thereof ; or
- (d) has died whilst confined in a mental hospital, or in any place or circumstances which, in the opinion

of the coroner, makes the holding of an inquest necessary or desirable, such coroner shall, subject as hereinafter in this section provided, hold an inquest on such body as soon as is practicable :

Provided that—

- (i) whenever it shall appear to the coroner, either from the report of a medical practitioner rendered under section 12 or otherwise, that the death is due to natural causes, and that the body shows no appearance of death being attributable to or of having been accelerated by violence or by any culpable or negligent conduct either on the part of the deceased or of any other person, it shall thereupon be lawful for the coroner at his discretion (except in the cases specified in section 6) to dispense with the holding of an inquest ;
- (ii) where the coroner is informed that criminal proceedings have been or are about to be instituted against any person already in custody or about to be arrested in respect of such death, the inquest shall not be commenced, or, if commenced, shall not be continued or resumed, until such proceedings have been concluded.

5. Notwithstanding any Law or custom to the contrary enacted or obtaining, whenever it shall appear to any coroner that the body of any person, who has died in circumstances requiring the holding of an inquest thereon, has been buried without being viewed or without such inquest having been held, or where such inquest, although held, has been quashed or reopened, it shall be lawful for such coroner by his warrant as in Form A set out in the First Schedule to order the exhumation of such body ; and he shall after such exhumation proceed to hold an inquest on such body and thereupon direct the reinterment thereof ; and the expenses of such exhumation and reinterment shall be paid, upon the coroner's order, out of the general revenue :

Power to order exhumation.

First Schedule Form A.

Provided that such exhumation shall not be ordered in any case where in the opinion of the coroner there is no reasonable probability of material information being obtained thereby.

6. Whenever any prisoner, or any person in police custody, shall die from any cause whatsoever, a coroner of the district in which such death has occurred shall hold an inquest and, where such death is in execution of a judgment of death, the inquest shall be held within four hours thereafter,

Inquest on all prisoners and on persons in police custody.

Inquest to be held by coroner of place where body lying.

7. The coroner within whose jurisdiction the body of any person, upon whose death an inquest ought to be held, is lying, shall hold the inquest, notwithstanding that the cause of death arose elsewhere; and if any body is found in the sea, the inquest shall be held by the coroner within whose jurisdiction the body is first brought to land:

Provided that where it appears to a coroner by whom an inquest has been commenced that, owing to special circumstances to be entered upon the record of the inquest, it is expedient for the inquest to be continued by another coroner, he shall, after viewing the body (if such view is necessary in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 15) and making such entry upon the record as is required to be made under the provisions of sub-section (4) of section 15, refer the record to such other coroner; and such other coroner shall, thereupon, subject to any directions in that behalf which may be given by the President, District Court, continue the inquest and conclude the same in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Inquest where body destroyed or irrecoverable.

8. Where a coroner has reason to believe that a death has occurred within his jurisdiction in such circumstances that an inquest ought to be held, and that owing to the destruction of the body by fire or otherwise or to the fact that the body is lying in a place from which it cannot be recovered, an inquest cannot be held except by virtue of the provisions of this section, he may, if he considers it desirable so to do, hold an inquest touching the death, and this Law shall apply with such modifications as may be necessary in consequence of the inquest being held otherwise than on or after view of a body lying within the coroner's jurisdiction.

Coroner may postpone burial till after inquest.

9. A coroner may prohibit the burial of any body lying within his jurisdiction until an inquest shall have been held.

Notice of death.

10.—(1) When any body is found or a person has died in such circumstances as to make the holding of an inquest under this Law necessary or desirable, it shall be the duty of any person finding the body or becoming aware of the death forthwith to inform the nearest local authority and police officer and upon receiving any such information such local authority or police officer (hereinafter in this Law referred to as "the authority") shall notify the coroner empowered to hold the inquest within the jurisdiction. Any person who fails without good cause to inform the authority as required by this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds.

(2) In the case of a death occurring to which the provisions of paragraph (d) of section 4 or of section 6 apply

it shall be the duty of the person in charge of the premises or police officer in charge of the dead body forthwith to notify the coroner empowered to hold the inquest within the jurisdiction. Any such person who fails so to notify the said coroner shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds.

11.—(1) On information being given to the authority in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 10, the authority or a person authorized in that behalf by the authority shall proceed to a coroner empowered to hold the inquest within the jurisdiction stating any known particulars concerning the cause of death and giving an opinion as to whether or not the death was due to any unlawful act or omission.

Duty of the authority.

(2) In any case where the death is believed by the authority not to be due to any unlawful act or omission, such authority shall, if the dead body is not already buried, view the body and authorize its interment, but in all other cases the authority shall cause the body to be taken to the nearest hospital or other place appointed for the reception of dead bodies unless the authority certifies to the coroner that the requirements of this sub-section cannot reasonably be complied with, having regard to the condition of the body, the weather and the distance to be travelled.

PART III.

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION.

12. If any coroner considers it necessary with a view to investigating the circumstances of the death of any person, to obtain a medical report on the appearance of the body of such person, and as to the conclusions to be drawn therefrom, he may, by written order as in Form B set out in the First Schedule, require any Medical Officer or, in the absence of such officer, any other medical practitioner within his jurisdiction to make an examination of the body and to report thereon.

Coroner may direct post-mortem examinations.

First Schedule Form B.

13. Every medical practitioner upon the receipt of such order shall, unless he procures the services of some other medical practitioner, approved by the coroner, to perform the duty, immediately make an examination of the body, with a view to determining therefrom the cause of death, and to ascertaining the circumstances connected therewith, and shall make a report in writing to the coroner describing the appearance of the body, and the conclusions which he draws therefrom touching the death of such person. The examination shall extend, when the medical practitioner considers it necessary but not otherwise, to such dissection of the body, with or without an analysis of any part thereof, as he may think

Medical practitioner to make an examination and report.