**Full Instructions for Setting Up the Obituary Management Platform**

**Step 1: Extract the Zip File**

1. **Locate the Zip File:**
   * Find the zip file named obituary\_platform.zip that you received.
2. **Extract the Zip File:**
   * Right-click on the zip file and select "Extract All" or "Unzip."
   * Choose a location on your computer to extract the files. This will create a folder named obituary\_platform.

**Step 2: Install Node.js and npm**

Node.js is a JavaScript runtime that you need to run the application, and npm (Node Package Manager) is used to install the necessary dependencies.

1. **Download and Install Node.js:**
   * Go to the Node.js website: <https://nodejs.org/>
   * Download the LTS (Long Term Support) version for your operating system (Windows, macOS, or Linux).
   * Follow the installation instructions on the website.
2. **Verify Installation:**
   * Open a terminal or command prompt.

Run the following commands to verify that Node.js and npm are installed:  
  
node -v

npm -v

* + You should see version numbers printed out, indicating that Node.js and npm are installed.

**Step 3: Set Up the MySQL Database**

1. **Download and Install MySQL:**
   * Go to the MySQL website: <https://dev.mysql.com/downloads/>
   * Download and install the MySQL Community Server for your operating system.
   * Follow the installation instructions on the website.
2. **Start the MySQL Server:**
   * Open the MySQL Workbench or another MySQL client tool.
   * Start the MySQL server.
3. **Create the Database(For this, I’ve created it already so just upload it to xammp database the way we usually do it):**

**(Skip this step three after uploading)**

* + Open the MySQL Workbench or another MySQL client tool.

Run the following SQL commands to create the database and table:

CREATE DATABASE obituary\_platform;

USE obituary\_platform;

CREATE TABLE obituaries (

  id INT AUTO\_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,

  name VARCHAR(100),

  date\_of\_birth DATE,

  date\_of\_death DATE,

  content TEXT,

  author VARCHAR(100),

  submission\_date DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT\_TIMESTAMP,

  slug VARCHAR(255) UNIQUE

);

**Step 4: Install Project Dependencies**

1. **Open Terminal or Command Prompt:**
   * Navigate to the extracted obituary\_platform folder. For example, if you extracted it to your Desktop:  
       
     cd ~/Desktop/obituary\_platform
2. **Install Dependencies:**
   * Run the following command to install the necessary dependencies:  
       
     npm install

**Step 5: Configure the Application**(Skip this step, already configured)**Update Database Configuration:**

* + Open the index.js file in a text editor.

Locate the database connection settings and update them with your MySQL username and password:  
  
const db = mysql.createConnection({

    host: 'localhost',

    user: 'root',

    password: '',

    database: 'obituary\_platform'

});

**Step 6: Run the Application**

1. **Start the Application:**
   * In the terminal or command prompt, run the following command to start the application:  
       
     node index.js
2. **Verify the Application is Running:**

You should see output indicating that the server has started:  
  
Server started on port 3000...

MySQL connected...

**Step 7: Access the Application**

1. **Open Your Web Browser:**
   * Open a web browser (e.g., Chrome, Firefox, Safari).
2. **Submit an Obituary:**
   * Navigate to http://localhost:3000/obituaries/create to access the form for submitting an obituary.
   * Fill in the form fields (Name, Date of Birth, Date of Death, Content, Author) and click "Submit."
3. **View Obituaries:**
   * Navigate to http://localhost:3000/obituaries to view the list of submitted obituaries.

**Troubleshooting**

* **Database Connection Issues:**
  + Ensure that the MySQL server is running.
  + Verify the database connection settings in index.js.
* **Server Not Starting:**
  + Check for error messages in the terminal or command prompt.
  + Ensure all dependencies are installed by running npm install.
* **Web Pages Not Loading:**
  + Ensure the server is running by verifying the terminal output.
  + Check the URLs: http://localhost:3000/obituaries/create and http://localhost:3000/obituaries.

**Additional Notes**

* **Application Files:**
  + index.js: Main application file containing server and route configurations.
  + views/: Directory containing the EJS template files (obituary\_form.ejs and view\_obituaries.ejs).
  + public/: Directory containing static files such as CSS (styles.css).
* **Further Customization:**
  + The application can be further customized by modifying the EJS templates and CSS styles.

If you follow these instructions carefully, you should be able to set up and run the obituary management platform successfully. If you encounter any issues, feel free to reach out for assistance.