

My No: HAF-1/09/විවිධ VI

Ministry of Home Affairs

Independence Square

Colombo 07

08.02.2016

All District Secretaries

All Divisional Secretaries

Registrar General

Implementation of the Proposed Programme to minimize the direct and indirect Health, Environmental and Social Effect of using Plastic and Polythene

This is further to my letter No. HAF-1/09/විවිධ-IV dated 09.12.2015 on the above matter.

A special program to minimize the health, environmental and social effect caused due to the use of plastic and polythene has to be implemented as follows, with effect from 01 January 2016.

01. Productions for local use, sale and use of polythene or polythene related products of 20 micron or less thickness are prohibited as per the Special Gazette Notification No. 1466/5 dated 10 October, 2006, issued under National Environment Act No. 47 of 1980. Accordingly, the prohibiting of use or carrying into your institution, of bags or food wrappers that are categorized under 20 or less micron polythene. (with effect from 01 January, 2016) and the prohibition of sale and use of such products in cafeterias and market outlets situated within your organization.
02. Restricting the carrying of polythene bags of above 20 micron thickness, other related products and plastics into office premises as much as possible and restricting the selling of such products.
03. Encouraging the office staff to adapt themselves for the use of alternative wrappers or reusable or biodegradable wrapping methods instead of plastic, polythene bags and food wrappers, in carrying food items into their office premises.
04. As open incineration/burning of plastics and polythene bags would emit gases such as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), Dioxin and Furan etc., that are most harmful/toxic to human health, taking necessary action to hand them over to recycling centers without burning them in open air.

I would appreciate if you could make necessary arrangements to inform the other institutions under your organization as well, in this regard.

Your cooperation in implementing this program successfully is highly appreciated.



J.J. Rathnasiri

Secretary

Ministry of Home Affairs

- Copies:
01. Secretary to the President
 02. Secretary to the Prime Minister
 03. Secretary, Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment