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PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

THE PILGRIMAGES ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 175)

The Esala Festival of Saparagamu Maha Saman Devalaya - 2024

I, hereby notify for the information of the General public that the aforesaid Festival will commence on 03rd August in 2024 and end on 20th August 2024.

The attention of the General Public is drawn that the regulations in accordance with the regulations published in the following *Gazettes* in terms of the provisions of the Pilgrims.

Gazette No. 2151/21 and dated 26th November 2019

Gazette No. 2184/49 and dated 17th July 2020

Gazette No. 2243/08 and dated 30th August 2021

Gazette No. 2293/45 and dated 18th August 2022

Gazette No. 2238/60 and dated 30th June 2023.

WASANTHA GUNARATHNA,

District Secretary/Government Agent, Officer in-charge of the Saman Devalaya Camp area.

At the District Secretariat, Ratnapura, On 19th June, 2024.



THE ESALA FESTIVAL OF SAPARAGAMU MAHA SAMAN DEVALAYA - 2024

ATTENTION of the General Public is drawn to the regulations relating to pilgrimage in terms of the *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 2151/21 dated of 26th November 2019, No. 2184/49 dated 17th July 2020, 2293/45 dated 18th August 2021, 2338/60 dated 30th July 2023 published under the Pilgrimages Ordinance Chapter 175. I hereby notify the following particulars relating to those regulations. The following facts are notified to said Regulations.

1. Duration of conducting the Perahera

• It is hereby informed that the Esala Festival of Sabaragamu Maha Saman Devalaya will commence on the 03rd August and end with Water Cutting Ceremony and Day Procession on the 20th August 2024.

*	All Night Pirith Chanting Ceremony	03.08.2024
*	Alms Giving Ceremony for Maha Sangha	04.08.2024
*	Kap Planting Ceremony	05.08.2024
*	Market Auction	05.08.2024
*	Kumbal Perahera Festival	From 05.08.2024 to 09.08.2024
*	Street Parade of the Perahera	From 10.08.2024 to 14.08.2024
*	Randoli Perahera Festival	From 15.08.2024 to 19.08.2024
*	Water Cutting Ceremony	20.08.2024

2. The Camp Area

• The camp area where the Esala Festival to be conducted shall be the area bounded to the North by the cement channel which demarcates public resident lands of Paraveni Officers, vehicle parking area, sales stalls area and the entrance road to the vehicle park, to the South by Thennagewaththa and the "Kalu" river, to the East by Ratnapura - Panadura road and to the West by Maha Uyanwaththa belonged to the Devalaya.

3. Vehicles

- 3.1 No vehicle, including motor vehicles, bicycles, and carts, without my permission or a permission given by an authorized officer, shall park or enter any place or festival premises except the area reserved for parking.
- 3.2 Entering vehicles to the sacred area through the gateway erected facing to Ratnapura Panadura main road is strictly prohibited.

4. Construction of Buildings

- 4.1 No person shall construct or build any shelter or structure whether temporary or permanent or add a new part to such building which is already exist within the camp area during the period of time from the 03rd August to the 20th August 2024, without my written permission or such permission obtained from an authorized officer.
- 4.2 Whereas, it shall be permitted to enter any land or place situated in the camp area in order to implement any regulation, among the regulations imposed by me or any authorized officer or to erect a pillar or to conduct a construction or a building on any land or place within the camp area in order to display any notice or signboard.

5. Offering Pooja for the Perahera

5.1 Halting the Perahera on the way to offer pooja for the Water Cutting Perahera is permitted.

6. Health

6.1 No person who is suffering from any contagious or infectious disease shall enter the camp area. Every person shall thoroughly heed to follow the health instructions currently operative in the country.

7. Trade

- 7.1 No person shall, within the camp area, sell lotteries, flags or collect contributions for any other purpose without my permission or the permission given by an authorized officer and sale and consumption of tobacco products and every kind of drugs are strictly prohibited in the premises and within the Devalaya boundary, during the period of conducting the Perahera.
- 7.2 Boutiques which are currently selling flowers and other sacred items in the camp area and along road sides starting near Kotambe up to the entrance to Ketaliyanpalla shall thoroughly adhere to the health guidelines prevailing in the country during the Perahera season.
- 7.3 No persons shall build or erect a boutique or sales stall or sell anything in the sacred area, except flowers and pooja items that have been erected on both sides of the entrance road to the camp area.
- 7.4 Hawkers are not allowed to sell anything within the camp area after 7.00 p. m.
- 7.5 Each of the building and stall be placed with a garbage containers and garbage shall be disposed in such containers.
- 7.6 All processed foods exposed for sale shall be kept in boxes with covers so as to protect them from flies.

8. Environment

- 8.1 No person shall bring or throw away plastic bottles, shopping bags, lunch sheets *etc*. in the camp area.
- 8.2 Plastic wastes which are brought in to the camp area shall be dumped only into relevant garbage containers.
- 8.3 Thorough attention shall be paid to make the camp area a plastic free area.

9. Beggars

• No person shall be permitted to beg or solicit alms within the camp area except such places as may be appointed for the purpose outside the sacred area.

Wasantha Gunarathna,
District Secretary/Government Agent,
Officer in-charge of the Saman Devalaya Camp area.

At the District Secretariat, Ratnapura, On 19th June, 2024.

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