

Provincial Councils and Local Government Circular: 01/2015

My No: PL/15/03/circular
Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local
Government
330, Union Place
Colombo

To All the Chief Secretaries

Implementation of the programme proposed to minimize direct and indirect health, environmental and social impact caused due to the usage of plastic and polythene

The programme designed under the order of HE the President in view of minimizing health, environmental and social impact caused due to the usage of plastic and polythene is to be implemented from 01st, January 2016.

Therefore, in terms of the order under section 23 of the Extraordinary gazette No.1466/5 dated 10.10.2006 under the National Environmental Act No.47 Of 1980 manufacturing and sale of shopping bags and food wrapping sheets below 20 μ is prevented as one measure recognized within the said programme and the following actions would be implemented to lessen the usage of plastic and polythene public and public affiliated organizations.

1. Prohibition of carrying polythene bags and food wrapping sheets below 20 μ that have been already prohibited by all the public institutions including Local Authorities under all the administrative areas of Provincial Councils (with effect from 01st January 2016) and prohibition of selling said products in such institutions.
2. Control of carrying polythene bags, other materials and plastic above 20 μ to the institution premises as far as possible and control of selling them.
3. Inspire and encourage staff to use alternatives or re-cycling or decaying method of packing in lieu of using plastic, polythene bags and polythene food wrapping sheets when carrying food to all the public institutions under the administrative areas of all the Provincial Councils.
4. Since open burning of plastic and polythene bags discharge toxin such as Dioxin and Furan that long-term existing and extremely harmful for human health, take necessary measures to hand over them to recycling centres without burning them openly within office premises.

5. Make necessary arrangements to make aware the staff of the institutions affiliated to Provincial Councils and Local Authorities on the above matters.
6. Advise the employees of all the public institutions including Local Authorities within the administrative areas of Provincial Councils to adopt the said matters from 01 to 04 when performing all the activities outside the office premises.
7. When making requests by various persons and organizations to take part in decorations at political and religious meetings and other functions organized within the administrative areas of Local Authorities, advise to give approval only for alternative decorating methods free of plastic and polythene.

Please acknowledge the receipt of this circular.

Sgd. : H.T. Kamal Pathmasiri
Secretary
Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government

Cc:

1. Secretary - Ministry of Mahaveli Development and Environment – f.n.a.
2. Secretary – Ministry of Public Administration – f.n.a.
3. Senior Assistant Secretary (Local Govt.) – f.n.a. &
4. Senior Assistant Secretary (Provincial Councils) – f.n.a.