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Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

"සම්පත්පාය", අංක 82, රජමල්වත්ත පාර, බත්තරමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.
"சம்பந்தபாய", இல 82, இராஜமல்வத்த வீதி, பத்தரமுல்ல, இலங்கை.
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මගේ අංකය
எனது இல
My No } 03/02/02 Tree planting
month

ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இல
Your No }

දිනය
திகதி
Date } 2016/08/

Environment Circular No: 01/2016

All Secretaries to Ministries,
Chief Secretaries of Provincial Councils,
District Secretaries,
Heads of Departments,
Divisional Secretaries,
Heads of Statutory Boards / State Companies

“Wana Ropa” Program - 2016

01 Objective

- 1.1 His Excellency the President, as the Minister in charge of the subject of Environment has introduced the “Wana Ropa” national tree planting program as an annual program implemented with active contribution of governmental, non-governmental and private stakeholders with a view to achieving the objective of increasing the forest cover in the country up to 32% within the period of three years to come. Under this program, the month of October every year has been named as the “Wana Ropa” national month for tree planting for the purpose of regular introduction of tree planting. Accordingly, all arrangements have been made to conduct the said program from 01st to 31st October this year with participation of Public Sector, Private Sector and Non-governmental organizations.
- 1.2 The main event of “Wana Ropa” National Tree Planting Program – 2016 will be held in Trincomalee District at 9.00 a.m. on 26th October, 2016 presided over by H.E. the President.
- 1.3 Further, promotion, preservation and maintenance of forest cultivation in specific environmental systems in order to preserve them, development of greeneries by planting trees contributing to creation of tree canopies near public settlements and ensuring that people enjoy their benefits, replacement of degraded lands through specific methodologies of tree planting and creative lining up of different strata of society towards sustainable forest planting by collective effort of government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector

may be presented as the objectives to be achieved through “Wana Ropa” National Tree Planting Program.

- 1.4 Further, it is also expected to work towards achievement of the foremost objectives of increasing the newly forested area of land by following methodologies of Forestry and upgrading the quality of the existing forest cover. It is proposed to implement tree planting work in such a way as to multiply the areas of greenery in specific areas of land, i.e. mountain tops, upper stream catchment areas, other degraded lands and coast lines.
- 1.5 It is expected to implement programs during the National Tree Planting Month this year by minimizing shortcomings in the new program and planting trees in specific locations identified so as to strengthen the sustainability of Tree Planting Programs, based on the experiences gathered at the National Tree Planting Programs conducted during earlier years.

02 Strategies

- 2.1 The main objective of this program is to effect a qualitative and quantitative increase of the forest cover in this country and it is also expected to generate positive attitudes among the general public on planting of trees through a multi-faceted subject-oriented approach. I highly appreciate any inclination towards cultivation of self-generated plants under the *Wana Ropa* program and due motivation will be given by this program to cultivate nurseries catering to the requirements of the area of residence, climatic region as well as your own or people living around you.
- 2.2 I request you to make use of this program for voluntary motivation of people towards planting of trees and further emphasize that you may also plant trees to celebrate special days related to your life or the life of your family members and days of national importance. You may make this program meaningful by acts such as exchange of valuable plants cultivated by you with your friends, offering them as gifts etc.
- 2.3 I also request you to take steps to form “Environment Circles” in public institutions and prepare nurseries catering to the needs of the area and their work satisfaction could also be enhanced by motivating them to be engaged in cultivating nurseries during their periods off the duty.
- 2.4 These programs could be more efficiently, effectively and sustainably conducted by getting active co-operation of three Forces and Civil Security Force to launch tree planting programs. Further, it is appropriate to take action to cultivate plants adaptable to your area and climatic zone on the lands of camp areas, forest cultivable lands coming under the three Forces and the Civil Security Force and lands that had been utilized previously for any purpose and presently remaining in a degraded condition.
- 2.5 Coverage of plants is also expected to be increased through *Wana Ropa* program and the multiple benefits expected by planting trees to the Nation could be handed down to the Nation by taking steps to establish a forest cultivation enriched with various strata of tree canopies at every location ranging from home gardens to other places with facilities for planting trees.

03 Methodology

- 3.1 It is requested of all District Secretaries to implement tree planting programs in your District by specific identification of suitable places at Divisional Secretariat levels. Chief Provincial Secretaries are also expected to implement such tree planting programs at specifically identified locations in the Local Authority areas coming under their respective Provinces. I emphasize that it is very important to provide information on such programs to this Ministry without delay and to receive co-operation of community organizations in the area and active contribution of entire community of school students.
- 3.2 Although this program was launched in the month of October at the first instance, it is a program operating all island throughout the year depending on the rainy seasons in our country. Therefore, I also request you to initiate this program during the coming month for tree planting and continue to implement throughout the year.
- 3.3 Action should be taken to implement this program at National, Provincial and Local levels in collaboration with all state institutions and you may receive plants required for program implemented at all these levels from Forest Department and State Timber Corporation. (Particulars on plants to be obtained from Forest Department and State Timber Corporation are attached herewith). You are also requested to discuss about further particulars on relevant matters through District Environment Committees. In particular, District Forest Officers will act as the Secretary to that Committee to assist District Secretaries in cooperating with other state institutions at District levels for *Wana Ropa* program.
- 3.4 Apart from that, you are kindly requested to issue instructions necessary to implement awareness raising workshops on preservation of environment at Provincial, District, Divisional and Village levels parallel to the above program by your institution during the period of a month from 01st to 31st October, 2016.
- 3.5 It is highly important to look after, maintain and keep records on every plant planted under this tree planting program and accordingly, I propose that it would be apt for the institutions taking part in this mission to continue a process of follow-up.

04 Co-ordination

- 4.1 A separate Unit has been set up by the name of *Wana Ropa* Bureau under the Director (Forest Resources Management) of this Ministry for the purpose of national level co-ordination of “Wana Ropa” National Tree Planting Program. Its telephone numbers and fax numbers are as follows.

Telephone nos	- 011 -2878806 / 011 – 2866656
Fax nos	- 011 - 2877287
E-mail	- dirfr@environmentmin.gov.lk / wanaropatpp@gmail.com

4.2 Additionally, the assistance and consultancy services required in implementing this program will be rendered by different Sections and Institutions of this Ministry.

Sgd. Udaya R. Seneviratne

Secretary

Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

CC:

1. Secretary to the President - for information
2. Prime Minister's Secretary - for information
3. Auditor General - for information
4. Conservator General of Forests, Forest Department
5. Director General, Department of Coast Conservation and
Coastal Resource Management
6. Chairman, Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau
7. Chairman, Central Environment Authority
8. Director General, Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority
9. Chairman, State Timber Corporation
10. Chairman, Geological Survey and Mines Bureau
11. Chairman, National Gem and Jewellery Authority
12. Chairman, Marine Environment Protection Authority
13. Chairman, Gem and Jewellery Research and Training Institute



For necessary assistance