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Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

“සොබාදම් පියස”, අංක 416/සී/1, රොබට් ගුණවර්ධන මාවත, බත්තරමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.

“சொபாதம் பியச”, இல. 416/சீ/1, ரொபர்ட் குணவர்தன மாவத்தை, பத்தரமுல்லை, இலங்கை.

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Date

08/2018

## Environment Circular No. 01/2018

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

### “Wana Ropa” Program - 2018

#### 01. Objective

- 1.1 "Wana Ropa" national tree planting program has been launched on a concept of H.E. the President as the Minister in charge of the subject of Environment with a view to achieving the target of increasing forest cover in Sri Lanka upto 32% and the month of October every year has been named as the National Tree Planting Month. Under that concept, arrangements have been made to conduct this program from 01<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October this year as well under the aegis of Non-Governmental and Private Sectors, the main event of which is scheduled to be held on 05<sup>th</sup> October in the District of Mannar presided over by H.E. the President.
- 1.2 The objectives of this program are to protect special eco systems and promote forest cultivation around them, to conserve and maintain them, to enhance greeneries in the environment in which we live by planting trees contributing to prepare tree canopies around settlements and to ensure their benefits for the public and to motivate people towards creation of sustainable forest cultivations such as restoration of degraded areas of land in terms of area-specific methodologies of tree planting.
- 1.3 It is also expected to increase forest coverage by new cultivation of forests pursuing new methodologies of forestry and to enhance quality of the existing forest cover and it is also expected to carry out planting of trees to promote greeneries around identified specific areas of land such as mountain peaks, higher catchment areas, other degraded areas of land and coast lines.

#### 02. Strategies

- 2.1 While motivating the public to plant trees produced by them by creating in them positive attitudes on planting trees by multiple approaches, it is proposed that planting trees hereditary to the area and creation of nurseries catering to requirements of people in the area would be more appropriate in following that practice. It is requested thereby to make use of this program to persuade people towards voluntary tree planting and this program may be made further meaningful by planting trees to commemorate special days of your life and the lives of your family members and practice the same to mark nationally significant days, exchanging with your friends the valuable plants you have produced and offering plants as gifts.
- 2.2 Tree planting programs can be conducted more efficiently and effectively with active contribution of members of the Three Forces and the Civil Security Force. As such, it is more appropriate to make arrangements to plant trees that are hereditary and adaptable to the particular ecological zone on the lands in the relevant camp areas that are suitable for cultivation and on the lands degraded after using for some purpose.

- 2.3 It is possible to enhance job satisfaction of workers by cultivation of plants adaptable to the area by establishment of "Environment Circles" in State institutions and by motivating them to be engaged in nursery work during the periods off duty.
- 2.4 The Tree Planting Program should also be made use to hand down to the nation the multiple benefits anticipated out of tree planting programs by taking steps to establish everywhere with required facilities a forest cultivation consisting of various tree canopies for the purpose of expanding the forest cover.

### 03. Methodology

- 3.1 All District Secretaries are requested to furnish at Divisional Secretariat level in the District and all Provincial Chief Secretaries are requested to furnish at each Local Authority level in the Province to this Ministry without delay the information on specific tree planting programs and programs proposed to be implemented. It is emphatically expected that steps will be taken to get participation of community organizations in the area and active contribution of children in all schools for such tree planting programs.
- 3.2 You are also requested to launch this national *Wana Ropa* program islandwide within the coming tree planting month, with due adjustments to the rainy seasons in the country and continue it throughout the year.
- 3.3. It is also informed that the Forest Department has scheduled to plant some 2 million plants at various locations islandwide parallel to the *Wana Ropa* Program - 2018.
- 3.4 Further, arrangements should be made to implement this program at national, provincial and regional levels in collaboration with all public institutions and the plants required for programs implemented at all such levels may be collected from Forest Department and State Timber Corporation (information on plants to be so collected are attached herewith). You are requested to discuss further information on this subject at National Environment Committee Meetings and to appoint District Forest Officers as Secretaries to the Committee to assist District Secretaries to implement *Wana Ropa* program in collaboration with other institutions. Also, arrangements should be made to send a summary report prepared by including information on trees planted during the National Tree Planting Month and the types of such plants to this Ministry through the District Forest Officer.
- 3.5 Additionally, you are also kindly requested to issue instructions required to implement, parallel to the above program, Environment Protection Awareness Workshops during the period of month from 01<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018 at Provincial, District, Divisional and Village levels.
- 3.6 It is highly important to safeguard, maintain and keep records on every plant so planted under this tree planting program and therefore, it is also proposed it suitable to conduct a follow-up process on the subject by the institutions taking part in it.

### 04. Coordination

- 4.1 Information required for national level coordination of the *Wana Ropa* tree planting program may be collected from the Director, Forest Resources Division in this Ministry. Its Telephone No: 011 2034228; Fax No: 011 2879977; Email address - dirfr@mmde.gov.lk

#### **Anura Dissanayake**

Secretary

Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment

#### **Copies:**

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

To provide necessary cooperation