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Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment

"සම්පත්පාය", අංක 82, රජමල්වත්ත පාර, බත්තරමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.
 "சம்பத்தபாய", இல 82, இராஜமல்வத்த வீதி, பத்தரமுல்ல, இலங்கை.
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මගේ අංකය } 03/02/03/02/07- GSMB } ඔබේ අංකය } දිනය }
 எனது இல } } உமது இல } திகதி }
 My No } } Your No } Date } 2015.09.29

Environment Circular 02/2015

All District Secretaries,
 All Divisional Secretaries,

Soil and Gravel Mining

01. Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment together with Geological Survey and Mines Bureau have decided to introduce a regular procedure on soil mining and transportation as a solution to the illegal soil mining, misuse of received licenses and social issues.
02. Therefore this circular is issued with the following guidelines with a view to further regulate the duties authorized to Divisional Secretaries as per the Section 8(1) and 8(2) of the Mines and Minerals Act no 33 of 1992 amended from Act no.66 of 2009, according to the Circular no.02/06/09 (viii) dated on 20.10.2010 for soil, gravel and sand from the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau.
 - i. For non-commercial purposes : License should be issued only by the Divisional Secretary up to a maximum of 35cubes of soil and gravel mining, with the recommendation of the Grama Niladhari given after the site inspection, along with the approved construction plan and if required recommendations from the relevant Local Council and the Central Environmental Authority. However by considering the special facts, supervisions should be carried out by the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau and National Building Research Institute when required.
 - ii. The validity period should be specifically mentioned in the above license that is issued by the Divisional Secretary and the validity dates should be decided by considering the practical issues. Due to unavoidable circumstances, the validity period should be extended by the Divisional Secretary.
 - iii. Mining of more than 35cubes for non-commercial purposes and developmental projects: the decisions should be taken regarding issuance of license by a district committee comprised of District Secretary, Geological survey and Mines Bureau, Central Environmental Authority, Mahaweli Authority, Department of Forest Conservation, Sri Lanka Police, Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation and Local Councils.
 - iv. The committee mentioned in above iii will be appointed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment based on the recommendations of District Secretaries.

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 "இப் பூமியும், மரத் செடி கொடிகளும் மனிதனுக்கும் மானிடரே வானில் பறந்து திரியும் பறவைகளுக்கும், பூமியில் வாழும் உயிரினங்களுக்கும்
 அனைத்து விலங்குகளுக்கும் ஒருமித்தம் சொந்தமானது"
 "This great earth and the flora on it equally belong to the man and the birds flying in the sky, the quadrupeds and all creatures living on earth"

- v. The committee mentioned in above iv should be comprised of minimum five (05) members and should meet at least once a month.
03. The police should aware regarding the licenses issued for the mining and transportation of soil and gravel and necessary assistance could be obtained from the Police to avoid irregularities when required. Specifically, police should inspect the availability of license in transportation of soil and gravel.
04. The District Secretaries should formulate a procedure accordingly, along with the approval of this ministry, without disturbing the progress of developmental work which is of regional importance.
05. Further requests regarding soil and gravel mining for commercial purposes will not be considered by the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau until a proper procedure is introduced in future.
06. Provisions of this circular should be implemented island wide from 15th October 2015.

Udaya R. Senavirathne
 Secretary

Copies:

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| 1. Secretary to the President | -f.y.i. |
| 2. Secretary to the Prime Minister | -f.y.i. |
| 3. Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration and Management | -f.y.i. and f.n.a. |
| 4. All secretaries of ministries | -f.y.i. and f.n.a. |
| 5. Auditor General | -f.y.i. and f.n.a. |
| 6. Inspector General of Police, Sri Lanka Police | -f.y.i. and f.n.a. |
| 7. Chairman, Geological Survey and Mines Bureau | -f.y.i. and f.n.a. |
| 8. Chairman, Central Environmental Authority | -f.y.i. and f.n.a. |