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மகாவலி அபிவிருத்தி மற்றும் சுற்றாடல் அமைச்சு

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

/09/2019

Environment Circular No. 02/2019

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 - 2019

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 01st to 31st October this year as well under the aegis of governmental, Non-Governmental and private sectors, the main event of which is scheduled to be held on 28th September in the District of Badulla 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 build tree canopies around settlements and to ensure their benefits for the public and to motivate people towards creation of sustainable forest cultivations such as restoring endemic and threatened plant species, 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 cultivation of forests in new areas pursuing new methodologies of forestry and to enhance quality of the existing forest cover and it is also expected to plant 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 most suitable 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 endemic, most suitable 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 bequeath to the nation the multiple benefits anticipated out of tree planting programs by taking steps to establish forest cultivations consisting of various tree canopies everywhere suitable 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. 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.

3.2. 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, State Timber Corporation and Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority (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 including information on number and types of trees planted during the National Tree Planting Month to this Ministry through the District Forest Officer.

3.3 Additionally, you are also kindly requested to issue instructions required to implement, parallel to the above program, Environment Conservation Awareness Workshops during the period of month from 01st to 31st October 2019 at Provincial, District, Divisional and Village levels.

3.4 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 to conduct a follow-up process in this regard 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. The Telephone Nos: 011 2034202, 011 2034232 Fax No: 011 2879977; Email address: frdmmde@gmail.com

Anura Dissanayake

Secretary

Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment

Copies:	1.	Secretary to the President	-	for information	}	To provide necessary cooperation
	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				
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