

COMMUNIQUE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND DISASTER AND BEACH MANAGEMENT

The new regulations on banning of plastic bags

In line with the vision of the Government of Mauritius towards a Cleaner, Greener and Safer Mauritius and to curb the abusive use of plastic bags, the “**Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2015** (Government Notice No. 153 of 2015)” have been promulgated on 6th August 2015.

The regulations strictly prohibit import, manufacture, sale, or supply of a plastic bag, excluding the list of exempted plastic bags, as from 01st January 2016.

The public is hereby informed that:

- i. A plastic bag means a bag of any size or type made of plastic, with or without handles or gussets, designed for carrying;
- ii. Plastic means petroleum-based plastic material and includes a blend of materials with plant derived products;
- iii. The exempted plastic bags are as follows:

- a) a transparent roll-on bag solely used to contain fresh, chilled or frozen seafood, meat, poultry, or offal other than canned food or eggs;
- b) a bag designed to be used for the disposal of waste;
- c) a bag designed for agricultural purposes;
- d) a bag used for the purpose of sampling or analysis;
- e) a bag that constitutes, or forms an integral part of, the packaging in which goods are sealed prior to sale on the local market or for export;
- f) a transparent pocket type bag not exceeding 300 cm² in size;
- g) a transparent resealable bag with security tamper used by a passenger to contain liquids, aerosols or gels at an airport or on board of an aircraft or carried by a transfer passenger;
- h) a bag carried by a passenger disembarking from an aircraft or a ship for the purpose of carrying personal belongings; and
- i) a bag manufactured for export.

- iv. Any manufacturer or importer of an exempted plastic bag shall apply to the Director of Environment to be registered as a manufacturer or an importer not later than 31 October 2015.

Any person who contravenes these regulations shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 10,000 rupees. Details of the regulations are available on the Ministry's website on <http://environment.govmu.org/>

The Ministry invites the public, traders, manufacturers and importers to comply with these regulations and to act responsibly to protect our environment.

Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management

17th August 2015