

# 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 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

**The regulations strictly prohibit import, manufacture, sale, or supply of a plastic bag, excluding the list of exempted plastic bags, as from 01<sup>st</sup> 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 cm<sup>2</sup> 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***

***17<sup>th</sup> August 2015***