

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

Regulations on banning of plastic bags

Following the promulgation of the **Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2015** with effect from **1st January 2016**, the public is reminded that the import, manufacture, sale, or supply of plastic bags including **non-woven polypropylene bags** and excluding all exempted plastic bags, have been banned.

The Regulations allow for the import, manufacture, sale or supply of **biodegradable and compostable plastic bags**, subject to strict conformity to appropriate standards specified in the regulations.

The public is hereby informed that a variety of alternatives to plastic bags are available on the local market, including **biodegradable and compostable plastic bags**, duly certified and printed with particulars, namely

- a) the name and contact address of the importer / manufacturer;
- b) the country of origin;
- c) batch no. and production date;
- d) the standard complied with.

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/>.

This Ministry would like to draw the attention of importers, manufacturers and traders that false or misleading information provided to authorities and to the public is also an offence under the Environment Protection Act.

The Ministry invites the public, traders, manufacturers and importers to strictly comply with these regulations. In its endeavour to enforce these regulations, the public at large is also requested to inform this Ministry of cases of non-compliance (**Hotline Police de L'Environnement: 2105151 /2105252**).

The banning of plastic bags is a National Environmental Initiative and the Ministry relies on the collaboration of all stakeholders for its successful implementation.

Let's act together and responsibly for a Cleaner, Greener and Safer Mauritius.

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