

COMMUNIQUÉ

New legal provisions for noise nuisances

Noise, defined as ‘unwanted sound’ or ‘unpleasant sound’ causes a wide range of negative emotional responses in people exposed to prolonged noise such as annoyance, irritability, distress, exhaustion and other stress-related symptoms and is by far the most common type of anti-social behaviour reported to the police and authorities. As per the World Health Organization (WHO), prolonged exposure to environmental noise is considered as a pollutant which may have a significant impact on public health.

With a view to curb noise pollution such as playing of loud music in bungalows or using devices to play loud music in a vehicle, the public is hereby informed that on 01 October 2022, the existing Regulations namely the Environment Protection (Environmental Standards for Noise) Regulations 1997 and the Environment Protection (Control of Noise) Regulations 2008 will be revoked and replaced with new Regulations with the following provisions: -

- Any person who makes or causes to be made noise from a vehicle, building or premises will be liable to a fixed penalty of Rs10,000.
- Where the person making or causing the noise to be made from a building or premises cannot be ascertained at the material time, the owner would be presumed to have made or caused to be made the noise and would be liable to pay a fixed penalty of Rs10,000. Any owner on whom a fixed penalty notice is served, if he did not make or cause to be made the noise at the material time would be able to discharge himself of the liability to pay the fixed penalty by providing information on the maker or the person who caused the noise to be made.
- The owner will be liable to pay the fixed penalty in case wrong information on the maker or the person who caused the noise to be made is provided or in case the information provided by him cannot be ascertained.
- Any person who fails to pay the fixed penalty of Rs10,000 within the prescribed delay, would, upon conviction, be liable to pay a fine not less than thrice the fixed penalty amount.

The Public is further informed that an authorised officer may secure any article, object, equipment, plant, machinery related to a contravention, or suspected to be a cause of spill or pollution to the environment under the Environment Protection Act 2002.

The Ministry relies on the collaboration of the public to avoid causing noise disturbances which unreasonably interfere with the peace, comfort and convenience of people in the neighbourhood.

Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
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