

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020

The public is reminded that pursuant to the promulgation of the Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020, no individual is authorised to possess, use, sell, distribute, import or manufacture the following non-biodegradable single use plastic products: -

- (i) plastic cutlery (forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks);
- (ii) plastic plate;
- (iii) plastic cup;
- (iv) plastic bowl;
- (v) plastic tray;
- (vi) plastic beverage stirrer;
- (vii) plastic hinged container;
- (viii) plastic lid for single use plastic products;
- (ix) plastic straw, including sealed plastic straw forming an integral part of the packaging of another product; and
- (x) receptacles of any shape, with or without lid, used to contain food which is intended for immediate consumption, either on the spot or take away and supplied by a food service business.

However, the moratorium in respect of the banning of specific non-biodegradable single use plastic products used by the local food industry which was due to lapse on 15 January 2023 **has been extended up to 14 January 2025**. Consequently, the following non-biodegradable single use plastic products shall be banned **as from 15 January 2025**: -

- (i) plastic cups and plastic bowls used solely for the packaging of food products such as dairy products (yogurt, ice cream, desserts and butter), margarine and hot-filled packaged products (jelly and flan); and
- (ii) plastic trays used solely for the “Modified Atmosphere Packaging (MAP)” of fresh, cooked or pre-cooked food products such as meat, burgers, seafood and cheese.

The above moratorium does not apply to the following: -

- (i) **non-biodegradable single use plastic cups:** jam and beverages (tea, coffee, mousse noire, chocolate, etc.);
- (ii) **non-biodegradable single use plastic bowls:** confectionery (candy, sweets, marshmallow, dragée, etc.), condiments (chilli, ketchup, soy sauce, etc.), pickles (cornichon, olive, chilli, *achard*, *mazavarou*, etc.); and
- (iii) **non-biodegradable single use plastic trays for MAP:** pastry, salted fish, dried and fresh fruits.

Accordingly, any person who contravenes the Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020 shall commit an offence and shall, upon first conviction, be liable to the payment of fines as follows: -

- (i) possession or use of non-biodegradable single use plastic products - fine not exceeding Rs2,000;
- (ii) sale or distribution of non-biodegradable single use plastic products - fine not exceeding Rs20,000;
- (iii) importation of non-biodegradable single use plastic products - fine not exceeding Rs50,000; and
- (iv) manufacture of non-biodegradable single use plastic products - fine not exceeding Rs100,000.

Any person who otherwise contravenes the Environment Protection (Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020, shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs25,000.

With regard to the extended moratorium, local food companies concerned are required to apply for the renewal of their authorisation letter from this Ministry **by 14 March 2023 at latest**. The application form may be accessed from the website of the Ministry at <https://environment.govmu.org>. In the meantime, the validity of the authorisation letter issued by this Ministry in 2022 is being extended up to 14 March 2023. As such, the existing authorisation will not be valid as from 15 March 2023.

The Ministry notes that, in as far as small volumes are concerned, biodegradable alternatives to non-biodegradable single use plastic bowls and cups for the packaging of products such as ice cream and yoghurt are already available on the local market and in this respect, several local food companies, including micro, small and medium enterprises, have already shifted to those biodegradable alternatives. An appeal is, therefore being made to all local companies to pursue the shift to biodegradable alternatives regarding the packaging for containers of all capacity and to sustain their efforts in line with the vision of Government to make of Mauritius a plastic-free country within the nearest possible delays.

**Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change**  
**(Environment and Climate Change Division)**  
**13 January 2023**