## 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:

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

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| 1. a transparent roll-on bag solely used to contain fresh, chilled or frozen seafood, meat, poultry, or offal other than canned food or eggs;
2. a bag designed to be used for the disposal of waste;
3. a bag designed for agricultural purposes;
4. a bag used for the purpose of sampling or analysis;
5. 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;
6. a transparent pocket type bag not exceeding 300 cm2 in size;
7. a transparent resealeable 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;
8. a bag carried by a passenger disembarking from an aircraft or a ship for the purpose of carrying personal belongings; and
9. a bag manufactured for export.
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1. 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***