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# The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

## EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2338/60 - 2023 ජුනි මස 30 වැනි සිකුරාදා - 2023.06.30  
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## PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

### Government Notifications

#### THE PILGRIMAGES ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 175)

#### The Esala Festival of Saparagamu Maha Saman Devalaya - 2023

I hereby notify to the General public that the aforesaid Festival will commence on the 16th July 2023 and end on 02nd August 2023.

Attention of the General Public is hereby drawn that the regulations in terms of the provisions of the Pilgrimage Ordinance Published in the following *Gazette* Notifications.

*Gazette* No. 2151/21 dated 26th November 2019

*Gazette* No. 2184/49 dated 17th July 2020

*Gazette* No. 2243/08 dated 30th August 2021

*Gazette* No. 2293/45 dated 18th August 2022

**WASANTHA GUNARATHNA,**  
District Secretary/Government Agent,  
Officer in-charge of the Esala Festival Camp at the  
Saparagamuwa Maha Saman Devalaya.

At the District Secretariat, Ratnapura,  
On 30th June, 2023.



## THE ESALA FESTIVAL OF SAPARAGAMU MAHA SAMAN DEVALAYA - 2023

Attention of the General Public is drawn to the regulations related to the pilgrims published in the *Gazette* No. 2151/21 of 26th November 2019, *Gazette* No. 2184/49 of 17th July 2020 and *Gazette* No. 2243/8 of 30th August 2021 and *Gazette* No. 2293/45 of 18th August 2022. I hereby notify the following particulars relating to those regulations.

### 1. Duration of conducting the Perahera

- It is hereby informed that the Esala Festival of Sapparagamu Maha Saman Devalaya will commence on the 16th July and end with Water Cutting Ceremony and Day Procession on the 02nd August 2023.

* All Night Pirith Chanting Ceremony	16.07.2023
* Alms Giving Ceremony for Maha Sangha	17.07.2023
* Kap Planting Ceremony	18.07.2023
* Auction of Stalls	18.07.2023
* Kumbal Perahera Festival	From 18.07.2023 to 22.07.2023
* Street Parade of the Perahera	From 23.07.2023 to 27.07.2023
* Randoli Perahera Festival	From 28.07.2023 to 01.08.2023
* Water Cutting Ceremony	02.08.2023

### 2. The Camp Area

- The area where the Esala Festival to be conducted shall be the area bounded to the North by the public resident lands of Paraveni Officers, vehicle parking area, cement channel which demarcates sales stalls area and the entrance road to the vehicle park, to the South by Thennagewaththa and the “Kalu” river, to the East by Ratnapura - Panadura road and to the West by Maha Uyanawaththa belonged to the Devalaya.

### 3. Vehicles

- No vehicle, including motor vehicles, bicycles, and carts, without my permission or a permission given by an authorized officer, shall park or enter any place or festival premises except the area reserved for parking.
- Entering vehicles to the sacred area through the gateway erected facing to Ratnapura - Panadura main road is strictly prohibited.

### 4. Construction of Buildings

- No person shall construct or build any shelter or structure whether temporary or permanent or add a new part to such building which is already exist within the camp area during the period of time from the 16th July to the 02nd August 2023, without my written permission or such permission obtained from an authorized officer.
- Whereas, it shall be permitted to enter any land or place situated in the camp area in order to implement any regulation, among the regulations imposed by me or any authorized officer or to erect a pillar or to conduct a construction or a building on any land or place within the camp area in order to display any notice or signboard.

### 5. Offering Puja for the Perahera

- Pausing Perahera on the way in order to offer puja for the Water Cutting Perahera is permitted.

### 6. Health

- No person who is suffering from any contagious or infectious disease shall enter the camp area. Every person shall thoroughly heed to follow the health instructions currently operative in the country.

## 7. Trade

- 7.1 No person shall, within the camp area, sell lotteries, flags or collect contributions for any other purpose without my permission or the permission given by an authorized officer and sale and consumption of tobacco products and every kind of drugs are strictly prohibited in the premises and within the Devalaya boundary, during the period of conducting the Perahera.
- 7.2 Stalls which are currently selling flowers and other sacred items in the camp area and along road sides starting near Kotambe up to the entrance to Ketaliyanpalla shall thoroughly adhere to the health guidelines prevailing in the country during the Perahera season.
- 7.3 No one shall build a shop or sell anything in the sacred area, except for the flowers and puja items that have been erected on both sides of the entrance road to the camp site.
- 7.4 Each of the buildings and stalls shall be placed with a garbage container and garbage shall be disposed in such containers.
- 7.5 All processed food items for sale shall be kept in covered boxes as to protect against flies.

## 8. Beggars

- No person shall beg or solicit alms and give or distribute anything by way of cash or otherwise within the camp area, except such places as may be appointed for the purpose outside the sacred area.

**WASANTHA GUNARATHNA,**  
District Secretary/Government Agent,  
Officer in-charge of the Esala Festival Camp at the  
Saparagamuwa Maha Saman Devalaya.

At the District Secretariat, Ratnapura,  
On 30th June, 2023.

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