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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
EXTRAORDINARY

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PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

THE PLANT PROTECTION ACT, No. 35 OF 1999

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Agriculture Development and Agrarian Services under paragraphs (h) and (i) of Subsection (2) of Section 12 of the Plant Protection Act, No. 35 of 1999.

MAITHRIPALA SIRISENA,
Minister of Agriculture Development
and Agrarian Services.

Colombo,
24th March, 2008.

Regulations

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Diseases (Coconut and other Palms) Regulation No. 01 of 2008.

2. The areas situated within the Administrative Districts specified in Column I of the Schedule to these regulations, falling within the Divisional Secretary's Divisions specified in Column II of that Schedule are hereby declared to be "infested areas" for the purposes of these regulations and to be infested with the diseases specified in Column III of the said Schedule.

3. These regulations shall apply in relation to Coconut and other Palms found on any land situated within any infested area.

4. The Director-General or any authorized officer appointed by him in terms of the Act, shall take such speedy measures as are necessary and issue such directions and guidelines as are required for the prevention, control and eradication of the diseases with which the Coconut and other Palms within the infested areas, are infested with.

5. The Director-General shall cause to be published in a daily newspaper in the Sinhala, Tamil and English languages a notification informing the public of the prevalence of the "Coconut Leaf Rot Disease" and the "Weligama Coconut Leaf wilt Disease" in the areas aforesaid and that measure in terms of these regulations must be taken to prevent, control and eradicate such diseases within the declared areas. The Notification shall also contain information of the names and addresses of every authorized officer appointed for the infested areas.

6. Any owner or occupier of any land within any infested area shall upon suspecting the presence of either one or both of the diseases specified in Column III of the said Schedule on any Coconut or other Palm growing on any land owned by him or on any land which he is in possession of, as the case may be, forthwith notify the Director-General or any authorized officer of the same.

7. The Director-General or authorized officer as the case may be, shall immediately upon receipt of such notification of the presence or suspected presence of either one or both of the diseases specified in Column III of the said Schedule on any Coconut or other Palm inform the Director of the Coconut Research Institute of such fact. The Director of the Coconut Research Institute shall with the Director-General or authorized officer as the case may be taken such steps as are required to confirm the presence of the disease or diseases on such land.

8. Upon confirmation in terms of regulation 7, the Director-General or authorized officer as the case may be shall issue directions and guidelines to the owner or occupier as the case may be containing instructions on how to manage the disease and steps to be taken for the control and eradication of the same. It shall be the duty of every owner or occupier to comply with such directions and guidelines.

9. Every owner or occupier who fails to comply with such directions or guidelines shall be guilty of an offence under the Act.

10. In the exercise of powers under these regulations every Authorized Officer shall have the power to enter upon any land on which there Coconut or other Palm trees infested with either one or both of the diseases specified in Column III of the said Schedule growing on such land and cut or in any other manner destroy any such infested tree.

11. Upon confirmation that the diseases have been successfully eradicated from the infested areas, the Director-General shall cause to be published in a Daily Newspaper in the Sinhala, Tamil and English languages a Notification informing the public that the area is free of such disease.

12. Till such time that a Notification in terms of regulation 11 is published, no person shall -

- (a) plant or transport any infested sampling ; or
- (b) transport any infested plant or plant part (excluding husked Coconut and Arecanut)

unless such person receives written instructions from the Director General.

13. In these regulations :-

“Act” means the Plant Protection Act, No. 35 of 1999 ; and

“Director-General” means the Director-General of Agriculture.

SCHEDULE

<i>Column I Administrative District</i>	<i>Column II Divisional Secretary's Division</i>	<i>Column III Disease</i>
1. Matara 2. Galle 3. Hambantota	All Divisional Secretary's Division Divisional Secretary's Division of Galle and Habaraduwa Divisional Secretary's Divisions of Walasmulla, Tangalle, Beliatta and Okewela	1. Coconut Leaf Rot 2. Weligama Coconut Leaf Wilt