

# COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND DISASTER AND BEACH MANAGEMENT

## Amendments to the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2015

For a smooth transition to a plastic bag-free Mauritius, the **Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags) Regulations 2015** (*Government Notice No. 153 of 2015*) have been amended to avoid all confusion around the definitions of plastic and plastic bags.

**The regulations prohibit import, manufacture, sale, or supply of a plastic bag as from 01<sup>st</sup> January 2016**

- The regulations concern only the “sacs de caisse, roll-on bags, etc.”, which are designed to carry goods purchased at points of sale such as wholesale and retail outlets, markets, fairs and hawkers.
- The import, manufacture, sale or supply of biodegradable and compostable plastic bags is allowed subject to strict conformity to appropriate standards specified in the regulations.
- The regulations do not allow for non-woven polypropylene bags.

### **Information to Importers and Manufacturers of Exempted Plastic Bags**

- All importers and manufacturers of exempted plastic bags must register with the Director of Environment. The Registration Form can be downloaded from the Ministry's website (<http://environment.govmu.org/>).

Any person who contravenes these regulations shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 10,000 rupees.

**The banning of plastic bags is a National Environmental Initiative and the Ministry relies on the collaboration of all for its successful implementation.**

**Let's act together and responsibly for a Cleaner, Greener and Safer Mauritius.**

*Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management*

*14 December 2015*