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Date }

Circular No: 16/2023

- All Secretaries to the Provincial Ministries of Education
- All Provincial Directors of Education
- All Zonal Directors of Education
- All Divisional Directors of Education
- All Principal Theros of Pirivena
- All Principals of Schools

Vesak week of Buddhist Era 2567

In view of Vesak Poya day of Buddhist Era 2567 which falls on 05th May 2023; Friday, the arrangements have been made by the Ministry of Buddhasasana to conduct the State Vesak Festival in Sri Rathanasiri Piriven Vihara, Kebellewala, Madampe, Chilaw of Puttalam District on both 04th and 05th May 2023.

The activities should be arranged to implement the “Vesak Week” program from 02-05-2023 to 08-05-2023 (inclusive of two days) in the premises of relevant schools, National Colleges of Education, Pirivenas and Teachers’ Training Colleges.

The model plan proposed to be executed during this Vesak week is presented below, and you are informed to make arrangements to implement the programs appropriately in the relevant schools and educational institutes.

The proposed Motto for the Vesak Week of this time is;

**“Awajje wajjamathino – wajje chawajjadassino
Michchadittisamadana –saththa gachchanthi duggathin”**

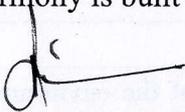
“Seeing right as wrong and wrong as right leads to sadness”

Proposed Model Activity Plan for Vesak Week

Date	Theme	Proposed activity
02 nd May 2023; Tuesday	<p>“Buddhism for a Sustainable Environment”</p> <p>Environmental Protection Programs</p>	<p>Educating the students about the value of the environment in association of the teachings of Lord Buddha in order to create persons who love the environment, and conducting lectures and workshops on the theme “Buddhism and Environment”. Conducting awareness programs on the environmental protection, cleaning the environment around the school, institute, place of religious worship and the house, making Vesak Lanterns (Without using Polythene) and decorations.</p> <p>Conducting “Sathi Bhawana” programs</p>

03 rd May 2023; Wednesday	“Collect Merits often by observing Sil” Seela Bhawana Programs	Conducting Seela Bhawana Programs with students for spiritual development. Conducting “Sathi Bhawana” programs.
04 th May 2023; Thursday	“Buddhism for a Healthy Life”	Making the students aware of the significance of healthiness and mental wellbeing. Conducting lectures and seminars on the significance of cultivating and consuming local crops. Conducting “Sathi Bhawana” programs.
05 th May 2023; Friday (Vesak Full Moon Poya Day)	“Sila comprises right actions and right speech” (Kaya Wachanan Samodanan Silan)	Observing Sil at a nearest temple, listening to Dhamma preaching and engaging in meditations. Attend to those who have observed Sil.
06 th May 2023; Saturday	“Sri Lankan Art enriched by Buddhism”	Guiding the students to visit Buddhist Temples nearby the house and observe the religious objects and ancient Buddhist Artifacts available therein to have an understanding about the old Buddhist Arts.
07 th May 2023; Sunday	“Sinhala Literature enriched by Buddhism”	Implementing aesthetic programs such as Buddhist Carols and Buddhist Dramas. Conducting awareness programs on the Literature enriched by Buddhist Philosophy for the schools, conducting programs to induce students for literary creations. Conducting Dhamma preaching, discussions on Dhamma, Kavi Bana and Meditation programs at the Temple.
08 th May 2023; Monday	“Promotion of Values”	Providing the students un understanding on Buddhism and its customs as well as the values. Also, conducting programs to develop “Mindfulness” among the students. Organizing drugs and smoke prevention programs and making arrangements to conduct social care activities at hospitals, elders’ homes and children’s homes.

You are kindly informed that the dates and time can be scheduled as appropriate to the institutes in implementing the programs during the above Vesak week. Any sorts of shows, sports or such other programs that defame Buddhism should not be conducted. It is the responsibility of the principals and officials of the institutes to implement the aforesaid programs so that the religious harmony is built among the students and schools / institutes.



M.N. Ranasinghe
Secretary
Ministry of Education

Copies:

1. Secretary to the President – Presidential Secretariat
2. Secretary, Ministry of Buddha Sasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs
3. Secretary, State Ministry of Dhamma Schools, Pirivenas and Bhikkhu Education
4. Chief Secretaries, (All Provinces)
5. Commissioner of Colleges of Education - To inform all Colleges of Education and FNA
6. Director of Education (National Schools) - To inform all National Schools and FNA
7. Director of Education (Pirivenas) - To inform all Piriven Education Institutes and FNA

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information &
Necessary Actions