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கல்வி அமைச்சு
Ministry of Education

"இசுரூபாயா"
பித்தம்புலம்.

"Isurupaya"
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Circular No.: 2003/37

- All Provincial Secretaries of Education,
- Provincial Directors of Education,
- Zonal Directors of Education,
- Divisional Directors of Education,
- Principals of Schools and Heads of *Pirivenas*,

The Circular Issuing Instructions Pertaining to the Implementation of
the Environmental Pioneer Program within the School System

With the intention of producing environmentally-conscious citizens to the society in future, the Central Environmental Authority launched a program named 'Environmental Pioneer Program' under the theme, 'The environment protects us – Let's protect the environment' in 1984 for the development of skills, attitudes and knowledge of the school children with regard to the environment. Another program named, 'Primary - Environmental Societies' was combined to this program in 2002.

Accordingly, the following programs are currently implemented within the school system.

- the Environmental Societies Program for Grade 1 – 5 and
- the Environmental Pioneer Program for Grade 6 – 13

These programs are carried out under the leadership of the Principal and with the participation of the teachers.

The Environmental Pioneer Program consists of a medal scheme, environmental camps, training sessions on the subject 'environment', school environmental projects, and various practical activities such as explorations and cultural programs related to the environment.

Your attention is drawn to the following instructions in order to make sure the systematic implementation of this program within the school system.

1. Implementation of the Environmental Pioneer Program within the school system

The Environmental Pioneer Program, which is being carried out targeting the secondary level students within the school system under the guidance of the Central Environmental Authority, is a complementary program running in full agreement with the Ministry of Education. Therefore, it should be given full cooperation.

2. Selection of teachers in charge of Environmental Pioneer Program

The Principal should select and nominate two environmentally-concerned teachers who can offer voluntary service and the Provincial Director of Education and the Central Environmental Authority should be informed about it.

These teachers are responsible for conducting the activities of the Pioneer Program and this program should be carried out continuously by selecting eligible students as Pioneers and appointing some of them the Group Leaders.

3. Selection of Students

This program should be commenced annually from Grade 6 and groups should be formed from the selected students. Setting up of groups should be done continuously every year. Thus, this program should be running in all the Grades above Grade 6.

4. Getting the participation of the teachers for the Environmental Pioneer Program

- 4.1 Teacher Training

Presently, the Teacher Training Programs of Environmental Pioneer Program are conducted annually by the Central Environmental Authority on the District level and those who have been nominated as teachers in charge of Environmental Pioneer Program by the Principal are required to take part in this.

- 4.2 Training of Student Group Leaders

When participating in Student Group Leader Training Programs of Environmental Pioneer Program, which are held on a regional level by the Central Environmental Authority, the students are required to get the permission of the Principal and the students should attend the training program along with the teacher in charge of the group of Environmental Pioneers.

5. Appointing a Co-coordinating Officer

The Zonal Director of Education should nominate an officer who is attached to the respective Zonal Education Office for this purpose. The particular officer should participate in the coordination work pertaining to welfare of Environmental Pioneer Groups, evaluations and should act as a member of the panel of judges representing the Ministry of Education.

6. School Environmental Projects and Programs

The Director of National Schools, if the school concerned is a National School, or the Provincial Director Education, if the school concerned is a Provincial School, should be provided with prior information regarding the schools, to which financial support is offered for the Environmental Projects by the Central Environmental Authority. If the Regional Environmental Officer of the Central Environmental Authority is dispatched to schools in order to evaluate the progress of those programs, prior consent has to be obtained in writing from the Provincial Director of Education. The Principal should allow admittance to such officers who come with the prior consent."

7. Granting duty leave for the Officers in charge of Pioneer Groups

7.1 Subject to the recommendation of the Principal and approval of the Provincial Director of Education, the teachers, who have been entrusted with the duties of the panel of judges pertaining to medal scheme, can obtain one day's duty leave per month.

7.2 When the Central Environmental Authority calls teachers for training programs, measures should be taken to grant one day's duty leave per school term for this purpose.

8. Leaving school premises for environmental exploration activities

When the students of the environmental pioneer groups are participating in the environmental exploration activities, the relevant teacher should get the approval of the Principal in writing. The Zonal Director of Education should be informed about the places where the students intend to visit with the approval of the Principal. Furthermore, the regional environmental officer's participation in these visits is recommended whenever possible.

V. K. Nanayakkara

Secretary,

Ministry of Human Resource Development,
Education and Cultural Affairs

Copies:

- (1) Secretary – Ministry of School Education
- (2) Secretary – Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
- (3) Chairman – Central Environmental Authority