

Stop dumping garbage everywhere

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Piles and piles of garbage are a common site in the district of Colombo. People are not ashamed to throw all that they do not require on to the roadside because no one will say a word, make a complaint or will take them to courts. Everyone complains of the ugliness of the dumps on the roadsides yet almost all local, as well as the foreign community of Sri Lanka, throw their garbage out of their premises. The Nuisance Ordinance of 1932 states clearly that one can be fined Rs. 50 if caught dumping garbage haphazardly and when it becomes a nuisance to the public. Even when people commit an illegal act such as dumping garbage into common property no one has attempted to take them to courts simply because the money generally spent

on fighting the case is more than the fine itself. Though many times the past ministers of the environment were requested to increase this fine no one has done it. Therefore, the only option is to spot fine those who throw garbage into public property. This is quick and effective, even though it is only Rs. 50.

It is a well known fact that almost 14 lakhs of people will gather together in the city of Kandy to see the Esala Perahera. Among these people, if each person brings one thin polythene shopping bag or one plastic bottle of water, the total accumulation of this material within Kandy city will be approximately 1,400,000 of shopping bags and 1,400,000 of plastic bottles. If this quantity is dispersed haphazardly throughout the city it



Garbage dumped on the side of a road

could cause drains to be blocked thereby spilling drainage water onto the streets and create a bad smell due to the blocked drains and rotting garbage, and also provide optimum

breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Some people even have the habit of dumping food and other unwanted material into the Kandy lake. The ecological system of

the Kandy lake has suffered in the past due to the inflow of waste and if it continues it will come to the previous state of the Beira lake. In order to revert back to a healthier en-

vironment it will take years and will cost large sums of money. At a time like the Esala Perahera, when large crowds both local as well as foreign, gather within the city of Kandy, the threat to the Kandy lake due to dumping of waste is at its highest and therefore a decision has been taken to spot fine those caught dumping any form of garbage into the Kandy Lake with the approval of the Inspector General of Police. If this method proves to be effective, it can also be implemented in other major urban centres of the country. The main aim of this attempt is to build a well disciplined healthy nation.

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