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Ministry of Public Administration,
Provincial Councils and Local
Government
Independence Square,
Colombo 07.

29.04.2025

Secretaries of Ministries
Chief Secretaries of Provincial Councils
District Secretaries/Government Agents
Heads of Departments
Heads of Corporations and Statutory Bodies
Divisional Secretaries

Commemoration of State Vesak Ceremony- Buddhist Era 2569

01. In commemoration of the sacred Sambuddhu Themagula, the government has declared the period from May 10 to May 16, 2025, as '**Vesak Week**' in conjunction with the Vesak religious festival.

02. Under the guidance of Samasthalanka Sasanarakshaka Mandalaya and with the assistance of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and the Department of Buddhist Affairs, and the government and non-governmental institutions, including district and divisional secretariats, arrangements have been made to hold the Vesak festival in a grand and dignified manner across the island.

The theme of this year's State Vesak Ceremony is,

“Bhajetha mitte kalyāṇe – bhajetha purisuttame.”

-Let us associate with noble friends, endowed with virtuous qualities.)

03. During the Vesak week, from May 10 to May 16, 2025, during which the Sambuddha Themagula is commemorated, all public and private institutions, as well as households, are expected to hoist the Buddhist Flag and adorn their premises with environmentally friendly Vesak decorations.

04. The State Vesak Festival of the Buddhist Era 2569 will be held on May 10, 2025, at the Nuwara Eliya International Buddhist Centre in the Nuwara Eliya District, and concurrently, it is expected

that meaningful and productive programs focused on spiritual development will be implemented throughout the country during Vesak Week, centered around all temples. Necessary arrangements

should be made to carry out the following proposed activities during Vesak Week, under the full guidance of the respective Divisional and District-level Sasanarakshaka Mandala, in association with all temples, Dhamma schools, schools, and both state and non-state institutions across the country.

The programmes proposed to be implemented during Vesak Week.

I. State Vesak Festival and Vesak inaugural programmes held in parallel to that across the island-10.05.2025

Holding Vesak inaugural meritorious programmes at district and divisional secretariat levels across the island in parallel with the state Vesak festival to be held in Nuwara Eliya district

II. Organizing environmental conservation programs and Shramadhana campaigns concurrently with the “Clean Sri Lanka” programme-11.05.2025

In line with the teachings of the Buddha, programs such as lectures and workshops on the protection of Buddhism and the environment should be conducted with the aim of fostering environmentally conscious citizens. In addition, activities such as the cleaning of temples, schools, public places, offices, and residences; volunteer service (Shramadana) at elder care homes, children's homes, and hospitals; tree planting programs; and the establishment of herbal and forest gardens are to be implemented.

III. Seela Bhawana programmes (Vesak Poya Day Programme)- 12.05.2025

Since this day is Vesak Full Moon Poya day, conducting Seela Bhavana programme/events in every Buddhist temple and getting Dhamma schools, school students and youth to participate in these programmes/events. The day should not be turned into day of musical shows or carnivals, and instead, creating awareness amongst the community of patrons to spend the day as a full religious day to make practice-based offerings (Pratipatti Pooja) in commemoration of Sambudu Themagula (the threefold sacred events of Lord Buddha's life).

IV. Programmes to promote values- 13.05.2025

Organizing drug prevention programs for school and Dhamma school children, conducting awareness programs and counseling sessions to educate the youth on the value of traditional

Sinhala Buddhist customs, and organizing hospitality programs such as charitable processions and visits to elder care homes, children's homes, and hospitals.

V. Bhikkhus and Nuns training programmes- 14.05.2025

To conduct capacity-building programmes for the Buddhist monks who are studying in Pirivenas, to identify the resource persons in the area and provide the necessary facilities for the Buddhist monks who are in the district and are studying in Pirivenas and find it difficult to provide themselves with basic facilities required.

VI. Spiritual Development Programmes- 15.05.2025

Conducting Dhamma sermons, Dhamma discussions, and meditation programs centered around temples to promote the spiritual development of the people. Raising awareness among Dhamma school children and the youth about Buddhist customs, traditions, and rituals.

VII. ‘Sil Suwandai- Hela Diviyai’- A programme conducted in accordance with the Lord Buddha’s discourse for healthy life- 16.05.2025

Organizing free medical clinics, organizing blood donation campaigns, eye clinics etc., organizing registration programmes for eye donation and body organ donations, alongside the main program, implementing activities based on the available resources in each area, ensuring coverage across all Divisional Secretariat Divisions and Medical Officer of Health (MOH) areas.

05. On the three days of May 12, 13, and 14, 2025, all slaughterhouses and meat shops across the island, including meat counters in supermarkets, shall remain closed. In addition, all liquor stores, outlets selling alcoholic beverages, and social clubs throughout the country must also be closed on these days.

Focusing on the above points, all relevant parties should provide the necessary guidance and instructions with the aim of fostering a virtuous society that upholds Buddhist values during the Vesak celebration. By implementing meaningful and effective programs centered around every temple during Vesak Week, everyone should contribute towards building a morally enriched society nurtured by Buddhist principles.

Sgd / S. Alokabandara

Secretary

Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils, and Local Government

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- 2 To the Most Venerable Chairman Thero/Most Venerable
Secretary Thero - For respectful awareness Pls.
- 3 Secretary to the President - F.I. & N.A. Pls.
- 4 Secretary to the Prime Minister - F.I. & N.A. Pls.
- 5 Secretary, Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs