

Environment Minister orders immediate probe into construction near Muthurajawela Sanctuary

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Thursday 14th October, 2021

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The Island News



Minister Amaraweera flanked by Secretary to the Ministry Dr. Anil Jasjinge and Ministry of State, Secretary General Palitha Fernando

Environment Minister Mahinda Amaraweera yesterday instructed the Central Environmental Authority and the Ministry of Wildlife

to deploy teams to investigate the construction work being carried out near the Muthurajawela Sanctuary.

The Minister ordered the investiga-

tions to be carried out immediately to check the legal status of any construction work being carried out by an individual near the Muthurajawela Sanctuary and whether such constructions were causing damage to the Muthurajawela Sanctuary and its induction zone.

The issue was taken up at the first State Ministerial Sub-Committee Meeting of the Presidential Task Force on a Green Economy held at the Ministry of Environment yesterday under the chairmanship of Minister of Environment.

State Minister of Wildlife and Elephant Fence Construction Wimalaweera Dissanayake, Secretary to the Ministry of Environment Dr. Anil Jasjinge, Secretary to the Ministry of State General Palitha Fernando and other officials were also present at the discussion. The Minister also inquired about the construction work being carried out by the Ministry of Wildlife near Muthurajawela.

It was revealed at the discussion that the construction work was being carried out at a place called Nonagewela outside the Muthurajawela Sanctuary. Minister Amaraweera said that before any construction was carried out, an environmental report should be obtained.