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Dam Safety Branch  
Irrigation Department  
Colombo 07  
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Regional Director ( )

### Discouraging Usage of Reservoir Embankments as Public Roads and Recreation Areas

This letter is to review the action taken by Range Directors and Divisional IEE for the instructions issued in several previous occasions to find alternate routes to relieve reservoir bunds from heavy traffic or disturbance due to human or cattle movements.

It is observed that most of the vulnerable reservoir bunds are still been used as public roads. Further some of the reservoir bunds are being increasingly become public recreation areas specially during religious and national festivals. Frequent requests are being received from television drama and film makers to use reservoir bunds as their shooting locations.

I would like to stress the fact that these dams are mainly constructed as water retaining structures, and neither at the design stage nor at the construction stage due consideration given for them to withstand heavy traffic loads. Due to ageing, degree of safety of dams is reduced. Therefore withstanding capability of dams to heavy traffic loads is being drastically reduced. Further disturbance done by human and cattle movement will disturb the riprap as well as downstream slope making the dams vulnerable to erosion and thereby reducing the stability.

Therefore, ID should always make it a point to raise this issue with relevant authorities, (RDA, PRDA, Divisional Secretaries) and at relevant forums such as DAC, DDC and PMC meetings to make them aware the danger involve in using the bund as a road or as a public recreation area.

As instructed to you earlier please liaise with the appropriate officers to finalise the alternate traffic arrangements where the bunds are still been used as roads, to ensure safety and their sustainability. Further it is necessary to discourage using reservoir bunds for holding festivals and gathering places whenever requests receive for permission for such events.

Should you need any assistance or further guidance in this regard from head office please contact Director (Assets Management).

Eng Dr G G A Godaliyadda  
Director General of Irrigation  
o/c

Copies to: All Divisional IEE

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for General of Irrigation