



## Rainforest Protectors of Sri Lanka

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### **Bopath Ella or Bothal Katu Ella – will the authorities take action?**

Bopath Ella in Kuruvita is a popular destination among local tourists. But the same tourists who flock to enjoy this waterfall contribute towards its pollution by throwing garbage including non-biodegradables such as plastic, polythene and glass bottles. As a result, Bopath Ella has recently gained a bad reputation as "Bothal Katu Ella" (Crushed Glass Waterfall). Rainforest Protectors of Sri Lanka organization held a successful trash cleanup and awareness event on April 25, 2015 at Bopath Ella, and all collected glass bottles were handed over to Piramal Company in Horana for recycling. But within 5 months, the waterfall and surrounding area has been polluted again. It is sad to see that the general public does not understand that it is not environmentalists duty but every citizen's duty to keep our country clean and beautiful.

It is evident that awareness alone will not protect Bopath Ella. Therefore, we propose the following solutions to Kuruvita Divisional Secretariat and Central Environmental Authority to address this growing issue.

1. The main source of garbage into Bopath Ella is due to food, beverages and liquor being brought into the garden in front of the waterfall. Officials should prevent visitors from bringing above items into the garden near the waterfall and instead provide facilities for consumption of food & beverages in the extra space available in the car park.
2. Ticket prices should be increased reasonably to cover the cost of keeping the waterfall clean.
3. Additional security guards should be deployed and "Spot Fines" should be given to those who pollute and consume liquor in the garden and waterfall.
4. Request the help from public to keep Bopath Ella clean and beautiful by installing notice boards.

Will our authorities take timely action and protect Bopath Ella or will we lose yet another waterfall of Mother Lanka?



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