

# Press Release

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## **PUBLIC WARNING AGAINST ACCEPTING BLUE AND GREEN INK STAINED BANKNOTES**

The Central Bank of Lesotho warns the public against accepting blue and green ink-stained South African Banknotes. These ink stained banknotes are believed to be proceeds of crime from Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) that were looted during last week's violence in some parts of the Republic of South Africa.

ATMs hold cash in special containers protected with dye-staining technology, which activates when the container is broken open.

Banknotes stained with security dye can no longer be redeemed or accepted as a means of payment. Therefore, the public and the retail industry should refuse to accept them. The ink marks stolen banknotes to make them unusable and worthless, thus reducing the risk for retailers, banks and other cash handlers of becoming victims of crime.

However, if a banknote is discoloured by something other than this special security dye, it can be exchanged at any bank branch countrywide.

**For more information and enquiries, please contact the Corporate Communication Office of the Central Bank of Lesotho at +266 59039189.**