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SOUTH AFRICAN MINT COMPANY (PTY) LTD
SUID AFRIKAANSE MUNTMAATSKAPPY (EDMS) BPK



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Company: The South African Mint Company (Pty) Ltd

SA MINT ADVISORY: R5 COINS

The SA Mint, a subsidiary of the South African Reserve Bank, has noted public concerns about counterfeit R5 coins circulating in certain parts of the country.

There are more than 114 million authentic R5 coins circulating in the economy with a face value of over R570 million. A number of counterfeit coins have been discovered in Gauteng but the extent of counterfeit is nominal in relation to the total quantity of R5 coins circulating in the market. The SA Mint is addressing the issue in support of the SA Reserve Bank and the South African Police Services.

Identification of counterfeit coins

The use of a magnet to determine if a coin is genuine or counterfeit is not reliable and should not be used as both genuine and counterfeit coins could be attracted to or repelled by the magnet.

The only accurate method of determining the authenticity of a coin is to conduct a chemical analysis of the coins. However the public may detect such coins by scrutinising the visual details of the coin.

The detail on counterfeit coins is far less prominent and counterfeit coins are dull in colour. The surface of the coin is not flat but slightly rounded when compared with genuine coins. The waved line running horizontally in the centre of the Coat of Arms (on the obverse of a coin) on a counterfeit coin is very indistinct.

On the reverse of a R5 coin the platform on which the black wildebeest stands, as well as the finer detail of the animal, are far less prominent.



Action by the public

Any person who is not certain if a coin is counterfeit or not should take these coins to a branch of the SA Reserve Bank. Full details of where the coin was obtained should be disclosed for further investigation. Any person handing coins to an official of the SA Reserve Bank or the SA Police Service must obtain a receipt. Should the coins be found to be counterfeit, these coins will be confiscated and genuine coins will be returned. No refund will be given by the SA Reserve Bank for any counterfeit coins.

Any counterfeit coin brought into the system is not legal tender and is not worth its face value.

Below is an example of a counterfeit coin (A) and a genuine coin (B):