



SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK

COUNTERFEIT COIN – R5

2003-05-07

Counterfeit coin of the R5 denomination bearing the 1994/1995/1997/1998/1999 dates have been discovered recently in the Gauteng area of South Africa.

For comparative purposes some features of a genuine coin are specified and differences on the counterfeit coins highlighted below.

	GENUINE COIN	COUNTERFEIT COIN
FEATURE		
	<i>FRONT (Coat of arms)</i>	
Lettering	Lettering is sharply edged.	Lettering is more rounded.
Date numbering		Date numbering is smaller than on the genuine coin.
Designers monogram (The letters "ALS" on the left, below the coat of arms)		Designers monogram is not as fine as on the genuine coin.
Coat of arms	Detail on coat of arms – lady holding the anchor on the top left corner is very definite.	Detail on coat of arms – lady holding the anchor on the top left corner is indistinct.
Border of the coin (raised area around edge)	Border of the coin is flat and sharply edged-off.	Border of the coin is rounded.
Waved line	The waved line running horizontally in the centre of the coat of arms is distinct.	The waved line is very indistinct.
	<i>BACK (Black wildebeest)</i>	
Detail	Detail on the chest-, mane- and tail hair of the black wildebeest is distinct.	Detail on the chest-, mane-, and tail hair of the black wildebeest is indistinct.
Lettering	Lettering is sharply edged.	Lettering is rounded.
Designers monogram		Designers monogram is not as fine as on the genuine coin.
Border of the coin	Border of the coin is flat and sharply edged-off.	Border of the coin is rounded.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS:

1. The counterfeit coin would appear fairly good to the man in the street and could be passed on to an unsuspecting individual.
2. The counterfeit coins appear as worn coins when tendered.
3. 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.

D J PUTTER

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