

PROJECT : DYE STAINED BANK NOTES

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# PROJECT: DYE STAINED BANKNOTES

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*The international slogan, "A Stained Note is Probably a Stolen Note", has not been more relevant than in the past few days since the looting mayhem in KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng.*

*Visuals of looters vandalising ATMs have been rife on social media and the national broadcasting networks. ATM machines were ripped out of their casings in shopping malls and the cash stolen. The purpose of cash degradation systems is to protect cash from being stolen by "spoiling the reward", namely rendering the cash unfit for use by criminals after it has been stained. The technology acts as a deterrent, sending a message to criminals that there is no point trying to steal the cash protected by dye staining systems because they will be unable to use the cash after a theft or robbery. It is therefore imperative that dye-stained banknotes be removed from circulation.*

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The public is cautioned against accepting any dye-stained notes as legal tender because the onward use and value of these notes will not be honoured. A similar warning by SABRIC (South African Banking Risk Information Centre) has been issued as the number of these spoiled notes in circulation has increased dramatically.

- Currency protection devices (CPDs) may use either smoke and/or liquid dye to stain the notes.
- CPDs are broadly divided into two groups:
  - Cash in Transit/ATM protection.
  - Drop safes used by financial institutions and retailers.
- Devices equipped with smoke emit a bright red smoke and stain the notes with the same colour.
  - Such notes may give off a smell like a spent firework initially and will stain fingers when touched; both effects will fade with time.
- Liquid dyes may stain the notes with a bluish-purple, red, black or green colour.
  - Such notes may give off a smell like that of paint initially and will stain fingers when touched.

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*Banknotes are recognised as having no monetary value once they are stained.*

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Over 1400 ATM's were forced open and compromised during last week's looting spree. The South African Reserve Bank has also warned that those in possession of dye-stained banknotes make themselves suspects of a criminal investigation.

The central bank has also urged South Africans who were given or unknowingly accepted such notes to take them to their nearest police station immediately.

Affected banks are currently assessing the impact of the excessive destruction of ATM's. It is important to remember that it will hamper the customers ability to withdraw their salaries and make payments.

BASA (the Banking Association of South Africa) noted: "When bank operations are forced to close and services are suspended to protect employees from violence, it is the most vulnerable in our communities who suffer most. Many child support grants, pensions and other social security grants are accessed through the banking system. It will cause near-immediate suffering and distress if many of the 11.5 million South African Social Security Agency

(SASSA) beneficiaries, who use ATMs and other point-of-sales devices, are not able to collect their grants.”

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*Report any person in possession of dye-stained  
noted to the police on 0860 010 111.*

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## REFERENCES

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***STANDARD RULES APPLY:*** *Upon appointment, we require a formal mandate with detailed instructions. Please take note that should you not make use of our services – you may not under any circumstance use my name or the name of my organisation as a means to achieve whatever end.*

***POPI ACT 4 of 2013 South Africa:*** *Mike Bolhuis Specialised Security Services falls under Section 6 of the act. [Read more here.](#)*

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