

RESERVE BANK OF FIJI

PRESS RELEASE



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COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY AWARENESS

The Governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji, Mr Barry Whiteside, urges members of the public to be extra cautious when receiving Fiji currency notes in light of the recent discoveries of counterfeit notes.

In general we have found the counterfeits passed in Fiji are usually of poor quality and can be spotted quite easily if people take the time for a quick examination. Our appeal to the public is to at least check the main security features such as the *watermark* (i-taukei man), security thread and other foil features on paper notes when receiving them. These basic security features are easily identifiable within a few seconds for those well versed in the notes' security features and who know what to look for. For businesses that have ultra violet light sources, the notes will also emit special fluorescent features when placed against such light sources. This is a powerful recognition tool in low light conditions.

These security features will be missing on counterfeit notes. For cashiers who handle notes on a daily basis, "feel" of the note also becomes an important ally as the quality of the counterfeit paper is usually very different from that of real notes.

But often, as with supermarket checkout cashiers, roadside sellers, nightclub operators and other cash recipients who go through busy periods, they unfortunately do not make the necessary checks until later when they have a bit of time and are counting up the day or night's takings. It is at these times that they spot the counterfeits, which does indicate they know what to look for but just missed it the first time around.

Governor Whiteside added that any counterfeit note found should be immediately forwarded to the police for investigation. The act of counterfeiting or being in possession of counterfeit notes is a serious offence and anyone caught will be prosecuted.

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Banknote Security Features: -

Security Feature	Method of Inspection
Watermark	Present on \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 denominations only. Hold the note up against the light to see an outline (Watermark) of an <i>i-taukei</i> man appearing on the front left hand side of the note.
Security Thread	Present on \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 denominations only. When viewed under normal light, the thread will appear as metallic dashes. Hold the note up against the light and you will find the thread appearing as a continuous line with the letters "RBF", RBF logo <i>tagaga</i> and the denominational numeral clearly written on the thread.
See-through Feature	Present on all note denominations. Hold the note up against the light and you will find that the white circle inside the RBF logo <i>tagaga</i> on the front of the note is neatly filled in with the patterns on the back of the note.
Foil	Present on \$10 note denomination only. Features a foil with a star printed over it. Tilt the note to see a movement inside the star.
Hologram	Present on \$20 note denomination only. Tilt the note at different angles to see the image of the bird <i>Kacau ni Gau</i> , letters "RBF", RBF logo <i>tagaga</i> and the number 20 inside the hologram. You will also be able to see different colours in the hologram as and when you tilt the note.
Holographic Stripe	Tilt the note at different angles to see the Fiji Coat of Arms, the letters "RBF", RBF logo <i>tagaga</i> , the denominational numeral and flora & fauna design decorations. You will also find that the thread displays bright colours as and when the note is tilted.
Fluorescent Features	Present on all note denominations. The fluorescent features are seen on both the front and back of the notes when the note is placed under an ultraviolet light and appear in the form of denomination numeral and other note designs.

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