



PUBLIC NOTICE

WARNING ON THE MISUSE OF BANKNOTES

As the festive season approaches, the Central Bank of Samoa wishes to remind the public of the importance of handling our currency responsibly. Banknotes are a vital part of our economy, and their misuse can have serious legal and financial implications.

1. Defacing Banknotes is a Criminal Offense

In accordance with Section 39 of the Central Bank of Samoa Act 2015, writing on, tearing, mutilating, or defacing banknotes is strictly prohibited. This includes any activities that damage or alter the appearance of banknotes.

2. Use of Banknotes for "LEI" is Strictly Prohibited

The practice of using banknotes for "lei" or any similar traditional celebrations where currency is stapled, folded, or damaged is strictly forbidden. Such actions deface the currency and are considered illegal.

3. Legal Consequences

A person who defaces or misuses banknotes, including for cultural or festive purposes, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding 100 penalty units or to an imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.

4. Preserving the Value of Our Currency

Proper handling of banknotes helps maintain their integrity, prolongs their lifespan, and reduces costs for the economy. Respect for our currency reflects respect for our nation.

The public is urged to treat our currency with care and respect. Protecting the integrity of our banknotes is a shared responsibility!