BANK OF GHANA

NOTICE NO. BG/GOV/SEC/2026/17

MISUSE, ABUSE AND ILLEGAL HANDLING OF GHANA CEDI BANKNOTES AND COINS

The Bank of Ghana has noted with concern, the misuse, abuse and some unconventional use of currency notes and coins, that undermine the quality, integrity, functionality, and image of the national currency in circulation.

The Bank issues this Notice to remind the general public that the Ghana cedi, (both notes and coins), constitutes the lawful currency of the Republic of Ghana and must be treated with respect and in accordance with the law.

A range of actions amount to misuse or abuse of the national currency and are expressly prohibited. The prohibition stem from statutory provisions intended to safeguard the integrity, value, and lawful acceptance of Ghana's currency and to uphold the Bank of Ghana's mandate under the Bank of Ghana Act, 2002 (Act 612) as amended

Acts That Devalue or Undermine the Currency

Criminal acts and conduct that physically impair the currency include the following:

1. Spraying money at events (popularly known as 'throwing' or 'showering'), and using the currency as decorations (e.g. artistic creations, money bouquets, jewelry, fingernail designs etc.) relate to offences under the Currency Act,1964 (Act 242) as tampering, altering, defacement and improper use of the currency. The Bank of Ghana wishes to draw particular attention to the growing and widespread practice of creating 'money bouquets' for weddings, birthdays, graduations, and similar occasions. This practice constitutes improper use of the currency and is a violation of the law;

2. Spreading or scattering currency notes on the ground, dancing or stepping on currency notes during social gatherings;

3. Tearing, crumpling, staining, soiling, defacing, melting or otherwise mutilating currency notes and coins;

4. Writing on notes, cutting, altering, or otherwise defacing notes and coins, as outlined under the offences relating to coins and notes in the Currency Act, 1964 (Act 242);

5. Using images of the banknotes or coins without obtaining permission from the Bank of Ghana;

6. Buying and selling of, or attempting to buy or sell a coin for an amount exceeding the face value of the coin; and

7. Other unconventional uses of currency notes and coins that affect the quality, integrity, functionality and image of the currency.

Additionally, the following acts constitute unlawful damage and are prohibited under the Currency Act, 1964 (Act 242):

1. Acts that tend to depreciate or impair the national currency, including any conduct that undermines its lawful value or use.

2. Acts involving the alteration or defacement of coins, which include:

   i) Gild, silver, or colour a coin,
   ii) File, cut, deface, or otherwise alter a coin,
   iii) Change the appearance, weight, or value of the coin; or
   iv) Impair, damage or reduce the weight or value of a coin.

3. The act of impairing coins and unlawful possession of materials from coins.

4. Possessing filings, scrapings, or parts of coins obtained from tampering.

The public is further reminded of the following:

1. **Legal Tender**

   Currency notes and coins are to exclusively serve their purpose as legal tender. Consequently, under no circumstances should the currency be tampered with or defaced (e.g. by stamping, engraving, or piercing), mutilated, crumpled or torn, as these constitute unlawful damage which is punishable under the laws of Ghana.

2. **Preserving Currency Integrity**

   The Bank of Ghana is mandated to take necessary action for the efficient performance of its functions; this includes the preservation of the integrity and functionality of currency notes and coins.

   In pursuit of its mandate, the Bank of Ghana allocates substantial resources to printing and minting currency and therefore entreats the public to help preserve the integrity of the Ghana cedi.

3. **Compliance and Enforcement**

   The public is strongly advised to desist from all forms of currency misuse. Persons who engage in prohibited acts may be subject to arrest, prosecution, fines, or imprisonment in accordance with law.

To ensure enforcement and compliance, the Bank of Ghana in collaboration with state law enforcement agencies, has initiated measures to deal decisively with any member of the public found culpable. Law enforcement agencies shall monitor the use of currency notes and coins and take appropriate action, including the arrest and prosecution of individuals who misuse, abuse, or improperly handle money.

The Bank of Ghana calls on all individuals, businesses, and institutions to support these efforts by handling the national currency responsibly and reporting any breaches to the appropriate authorities.

(SGD.)
AIMEE VYDA QUASHIE (MS)
THE SECRETARY OF THE BANK

14TH JULY 2026