



Bank of Zambia

PRESS STATEMENT

MUTILATION OF THE ZAMBIAN CURRENCY

Lusaka, Tuesday April 8, 2025 – Following the launch of the new family of the Zambian currency on Monday March 31, 2025, the Bank has noted with great concern the continued mutilation of banknotes of both the old and the new currency family. Images of the currency having been cut into pieces, buried or burnt have been seen circulating on different media platforms. Such actions are retrogressive and undermine respect for the legal tender status of our national currency.

Members of the public are hereby reminded that ***wilful defacing, soiling, or damaging of banknotes or coins that are legal tender is a punishable offense under Section 67 (1) (f) of the Bank of Zambia Act, 2022 with imprisonment upon conviction of up to ten years.***

It is worth noting that banknotes and coins are procured at a significant cost, as such, they are designed to be durable and intended to circulate in the economy for several years. Handling them in ways that make them prone to quick deterioration reduces their lifespan and increases the frequency and the cost of replacing them.

Members of the public are therefore urged to desist from practices that undermine the integrity of the national currency. They are further urged to report any cases of currency mutilation to the Bank of Zambia or Zambia Police.

Issued by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Besnat Mwanza'.

Ms. Besnat Mwanza
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – COMMUNICATIONS