



CENTRAL BANK of SOLOMON ISLANDS  
P.O. BOX 634, Honiara, Solomon Islands

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## Rise in ATM card theft

**Honiara 11.10.16** – The general public is warned to be very careful when using the Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) in Honiara and around the country, whenever they decide to withdraw money.

This is because there is a rise in ATM card theft around the region, and Solomon Islands is no exception. This information was confirmed by the Director for Solomon Islands National Financial Intelligence Unit (SIFIU), Jimmy Sendersley.

“Reports have reached us that some Asians (Chinese) Nationals are going around the Pacific Island countries with bulk of ATM cards purposely to use them in the ATM machines to steal from people’s accounts,” Sendersley stated.

Sendersley added that banks here are aware of what has been going on in other neighbouring countries and are now on alert to ensure this does not happen in the Solomon Islands.

Last week Radio Pacific reports confirmed that Samoa, Tonga and Fiji have experienced this crime and are now warning other neighbouring countries to be on alert.

Two Chinese Nationals were caught and arrested in Fiji in the recent weeks for carrying out such activity.

ATM skimming is a growing problem in the world today and the increasing use of technology has made it easier for these criminals to carry out this fraudulent activity.

In some countries where this criminal activity is rife, hidden cameras are installed somewhere close to an ATM device. The camera capture’s card holders punching in their passcodes/PIN numbers. The criminals also insert into the ATM card slot some kind of plastic equipment that can extract and pickup information whenever a card is slotted into an ATM machine. The information is then sent out electronically to a computer stationed somewhere close by. After getting the information and the hidden camera, criminals move on to producing fake ATM cards that have the information of customers who have just been targeted as their victims. The criminals then go to another ATM machine and withdraw money from these people’s accounts.

It is advisable that the general public must always check the ATM slot carefully for any plastic like material that may be inserted into the card slots by criminals prior to carrying out transactions.

Also protect the ATM keyboard with your other hand while punching in your passcode/PIN with the other hand. Make sure you do this in order to block away whatever hidden camera that might be installed somewhere close by, from capturing you punching in your passcode/PIN.

Finally, it is a good practice for account holders to regularly check their bank account balances for any irregularities.

The public must know that the act of ATM skimming is fraudulent and criminal in nature. Anyone caught doing this crime will be brought to justice. It is stealing people's money.

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For more information, please contact:

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