Safety brochures provide useful ATM tips

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Brighton Beach SAPS and Liaison Services hosted a brochure campaign to create awareness for the pre-holiday festive season on fraudulent activities, between Hill Side Mall and Bluff Towers Mall. “The expected various types of fraudulent actions can include fraud of identity, beneficiary, internet, cheque, online purchasing of goods and services, sim swap and smishing and phishing,” said sub-section media officer, Cpt LT Le Roux.

One thousand brochures were distributed and inside each of them there were safety guidelines to follow when at an ATM this festive season: Avoid isolated ATM’s and using the ATM late at night. If you are suspicious of individuals loitering in the vicinity of the ATM, trust your instincts and go away. Never write down your PIN, memorize it and keep it a secret. Don’t carry your bank cards with your ID in the same wallet. If you think your PIN might be known to anyone else, change your PIN. Anything can happen while doing your transactions at the ATM, so people are advised to follow the information provided on the brochures: Never accept help from strangers when using an ATM. Do not be distracted while doing your transaction. It is advisable not to insert your card until instructed to do so by the display screen. Be sure no-one is looking over your shoulder when you key in your PIN. Be suspicious of anyone offering you help. The brochure also stated that once the transaction is done, people must ensure that the card is returned, and they do not count cash in front of the ATM or while walking or sitting in an unlocked vehicle. “If you think someone is following you, take out your cell phone, pretend to make a call and say the word ‘police’ with enough volume for the person following you to hear,” said Cpt Le Roux.

Cpt Le Roux was thanked for creating the project, researching and developing the brochure and the foot patrols conducted by her at the two shopping malls while creating awareness. The people of Brighton Beach were also encouraged to report fraudulent activities to the SA Fraud Prevention Centre - 08600-10-12-48.