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Police campaign focuses on fraud prevention

As the festive season is steadily rolling around, SAPS Brighton Beach recently embarked on an awareness campaign, which focussed on creating awareness of fraudulent activities.

The various types of fraudulent activities that the brochure included was identity fraud; internet fraud; phishing; smishing; sim swap; cheque fraud; beneficiary fraud; and online purchasing fraud (goods and services)

The SAPS also released safety tips and guidelines for the community to adhere to when operating an ATM.

Safety at the ATM:

- Avoid isolated ATM's and using the ATM late at night;
- If you feel unsafe at an ATM or you are suspicious of individuals loitering in the vicinity of the ATM, trust your instincts, go away and use another ATM;
- Never write down your Personal Identification Number (PIN) or carry it anywhere near your ATM card. Memorise it and keep it a secret;
- Don't carry your bank cards with your ID, passport or driver's license in the same

wallet or folder;

- Never give your card or your PIN to anyone for any reason
- not even a bank official, security personnel or a police official. If you think your PIN might be known to anyone else, cancel your card or change your PIN;
- Write down telephone numbers for reporting lost or stolen cards and keep them in a safe place.

While doing your transactions at the ATM:

- Never accept help from strangers when using an ATM;
- Take your time while doing your transaction. Don't be distracted;
- Never let a stranger touch your card;
- It is advisable not to insert your card until instructed to do so by the display screen;
- Never force your card into the card slot;
- Be sure no-one is looking over your shoulder when you key in your PIN; and
- Cancel your card if the machine retains it, by calling the card stop number. Be suspicious of anyone offering his or her help. Don't move away from the machine before you have called the card stop number and make a note of the reference provided by the bank.

After the transaction:

- Ensure that your own card is returned after the transaction;
- Wherever possible, keep your cash withdrawals to a minimum. Some banks give you an option to set your daily limit;
- Don't count your cash in front of the ATM or while walking or sitting in an unlocked vehicle, as you may be followed from an ATM;
- Be watchful of people following you after you have withdrawn your money (on foot or vehicle). Be on the look-out for people who may bump into you or offer you help, as they may want to pick your pockets or handbag. After having drawn money, be extra cautious when arriving at your next destination; and
- If you suspect that you are being followed, get yourself to the nearest public place as soon as possible. If you think someone is following you, take out your cell phone and pretend to make a call. Say the word 'police' with enough volume for the person following you to hear.

Fraudulent activities can be reported to the SA Fraud Prevention Centre on 08600 10 12 48.