

**Comment of
Askat Mukamadiev, Head of NBK Unit for Examination of Banknotes and
Coins regarding identification of counterfeit banknotes in 2021**

In 2021, the National Bank of Kazakhstan (the NBK) and second-tier banks identified 519 counterfeit banknotes (513 banknotes and 6 coins) for the amount of 1,577,400 KZT. This is 37% less than in 2020 (823 counterfeit banknotes).

Last year, 2,000 KZT banknotes were mainly forged. These are 340 banknotes comprising 65% of the total number of the detected fakes. They are followed by fake banknotes of 5,000 KZT – 94 banknotes (15%), 10,000 KZT – 36 banknotes (7%). Banknotes of other denominations account for the remaining 13%.

The largest number of counterfeit banknotes was identified in Almaty – 355 bills. (68% of the total number) followed by Nur-Sultan – 54 bills and East Kazakhstan Region – 26 bills.

In order to independently distinguish a real banknote from a fake one, it is enough to know a few signs of its authenticity.

The bulk of counterfeit banknotes were made using a simplified technology that merely imitates certain signs of authenticity. It is possible to identify counterfeit banknotes without special equipment using the ‘feel-look-turn’ method.

There are several distinctive features of an authentic banknote.

First, it has its own specific crunch, and second, it has a special relief. Also, all the banknotes have marks for people with impaired vision, clearly perceived by touch. 1,000, 2,000, 5,000, 10,000 and 20,000 KZT banknotes have images in the form of a pattern applied with color-changing ink, when an angle of the banknote is changed, color of the images changes from green to gold. It is also worth paying attention to continuous magnetic and diving threads as dotted lines with inscriptions, which are clearly visible in transmitted light as one continuous thread with inscriptions.

These features of banknotes are sufficient for quick visual verification of authenticity without use of special equipment.