
MEDIA RELEASE

SOUTH AFRICA'S ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING MUTUAL EVALUATION REPORT RELEASED BY THE FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has today released its [Mutual Evaluation Report](#) following its assessment of South Africa's system for anti-money laundering, counter financing of terrorism and counter financing of proliferation (AML/CFT/CPF).

The mutual evaluation of South Africa was conducted by an assessment team led by the International Monetary Fund and included officials from the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group and the FATF member countries. The assessment commenced in April 2019 and was concluded in May 2021. This is the third mutual evaluation conducted on South Africa, following those conducted in 2003 and 2009.

The FATF is an international body that promotes policies and standards for combating money laundering, terrorist financing, and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. South Africa became a member of the FATF in 2003, and is one of 39 member countries. The members of the FATF have collectively set international standards for measures which countries should implement to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Mutual evaluations are peer reviews that are used to assess countries' level of compliance to the AML/CFT/CPF standards, and identify steps necessary for them to increase their effectiveness. Countries undergo these evaluations at regular intervals. The findings of mutual evaluations are geared to assist member countries in

strengthening their financial system, thereby enhancing the integrity of their financial system.

[The report](#) has identified significant weaknesses in parts of the country's AML/CFT/CPF system. South Africa is expected to take remedial steps within 18 months to address deficiencies identified in the mutual evaluation report.

Cabinet was briefed on the outcomes of the assessment on 1 September 2021, and recognised the findings and weaknesses brought to the attention of the South African government. The government is fully committed to implementing the recommendations contained in the report, and strengthening the entire system for investigating financial crimes, including the fight against corruption.

National Treasury chairs an interdepartmental committee of AML/CFT/CPF that is overseeing and coordinating a comprehensive response and the follow-up actions to be taken, based on the recommendations contained in the report. National Treasury will report regularly to Cabinet on the country's progress. The continuous strengthening of the country's AML/CFT/CPF system is central to protecting and helping to make the financial system intolerant to abuse.

Issued jointly by the National Treasury and the Financial Intelligence Centre

7 October 2021