

ADVISORY NOTICE

NOTICE No: AF146/FIC/7

SALE AND ACQUISITION OF LUXURY VEHICLES WHICH MAY BE LINKED TO MONEY LAUNDERING ACTIVITIES

The Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC), acting in accordance with its mandate under the **Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044)**, wishes to draw the attention of the general public to ongoing investigations by Ghanaian and international law enforcement agencies into the importation and sale of **luxury vehicles stolen from the United States of America, Canada and other jurisdictions and illicitly trafficked into Ghana**.

Recent joint operations by the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), INTERPOL and the Ghana Police Service have recovered over 100 luxury vehicles and identified hundreds of others suspected to have been stolen abroad and shipped into Ghana for resale.

Legal Implications

Section 1 of the **Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020 (Act 1044)** clearly states:

1. A person shall not engage in money laundering.
2. A person commits the offence of **money laundering** if the person **knows or ought to have known** that a property is, or forms part of, the proceeds of unlawful activity and the person
 - a) Converts, conceals, disguises or transfers the property for the purpose of
 - i. Concealing or disguising the illicit origin of the property; or
 - ii. Assisting any person who is involved in the commission of the unlawful activity to evade the legal consequences of the unlawful activity;
 - b) Conceals or disguises the true nature, source, location, disposition, movement or ownership of, or rights to, the property; or
 - c) **Acquires, uses, or takes possession of the property knowing or suspecting at the time of receipt** of the property that the property is, or forms part of the proceeds of unlawful activity.

Accordingly, individuals who knowingly or unknowingly purchase, use or take possession of stolen vehicles trafficked into Ghana risk committing the offence of money laundering under Act 1044. Convictions carry severe penalties, including imprisonment and forfeiture of property.

High-Risk Vehicles frequently targeted by Criminal Syndicates

The following makes and models have been most frequently identified in ongoing seizures and investigations:

- Honda CR-V
- Toyota Tundra / Toyota RAV4
- Ford F-150
- Mercedes-Benz (including SUVs)
- Dodge Ram
- BMW (X7, X8, and other luxury series)
- Range Rover
- Lexus
- Rolls-Royce
- Lamborghini
- Cadillac Escalade
- Porsche
- Audi
- Bentley

Advisory to the Public

The FIC advises the general public to:

1. **Exercise extreme caution** when purchasing luxury vehicles, particularly at unusually low prices.
2. **Verify Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs)** through recognized databases (e.g., INTERPOL Stolen Motor Vehicle Database, Carfax, Auto Check) before purchase.
3. **Deal only with licensed and reputable dealers** and demand verifiable ownership and clearance documents.
4. **Report any suspicious offers or activities** to the FIC, EOCO or the Ghana Police Service immediately.

The purchase, possession or use of stolen vehicles not only exposes unsuspecting buyers to financial loss but also constitutes an offence of **money laundering** under Act 1044. The FIC urges all persons to act responsibly, remain vigilant and avoid becoming conduits for laundering the proceeds of crime.

ISSUED BY:
THE FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE CENTRE
September 11, 2025.

Approved

ATB

12/09/25