



Sri Lanka Tourism

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Date: 21 May 2026

To: All Tourism Stakeholders / Hotel Service Providers Registered under SLTDA

MANDATORY REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN A VALID PERMIT FOR MONEY CHANGING BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

Dear Sir / Madam,

Your urgent attention is drawn to the attached directive issued by the Department of Foreign Exchange (DFE) of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) dated 08 May 2026.

The Central Bank has observed that several tourist service providers have been engaging in money-changing business activities—including the buying, selling, or exchanging of foreign currency notes—without a valid permit from DFE.

Please be informed that operating such services without proper authorization constitutes a direct violation of the **Foreign Exchange Act, No. 12 of 2017 (FEA)** and may subject the establishment to strict legal penalties.

Accordingly, all SLTDA-registered tourist enterprises are hereby instructed to:

- **Immediately refrain** from engaging in any unauthorized foreign currency exchange activities on your premises.
- **Ensure compliance** by operating money-changing services only if your establishment holds a valid, current permit explicitly issued by the DFE.

Tourist enterprises interested in legalizing their money-changing operations or obtaining a valid permit are advised to contact the Department of Foreign Exchange directly via **011 2477245** or **011 2477375**.

Thank you for your immediate attention and strict adherence to this regulatory requirement.

Yours faithfully,


Director General
Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

Attachment: Notice from the Department of Foreign Exchange, Central Bank of Sri Lanka