

**Awareness Programme on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Obligations for Licensed Banks (Southern Province Regional Forum) - January 10, 2025**

An awareness programme on “Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Obligations” was conducted successfully for Licensed Banks (LBs) on January 10, 2025, from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., at the Auditorium of the Bank of Ceylon, Regional Office, Matara. The session was conducted parallel to the Southern Province Regional Forum, carried out under the leadership of the Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Central Bank Regional Office, Matara.



Around 150 participants representing LBs in the Matara District participated in the programme. The objective of the programme was to enhance the awareness of the sector in strengthening the compliance with Anti Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) obligations.

The awareness programme commenced with the keynote speech by Dr. Nandalal Weerasinghe, Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The Governor explained the pivotal role played by the LBs in ensuring an effective and efficient compliance culture within the sector. Further, Ms. Theja Pathberiya, Deputy Director, Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Mr. Supun Gunasekara, Senior Assistant Director, and Ms. Kasuni Alahakoon, Assistant Director of the FIU addressed the session as resource persons. Ms. Enoka Mohotty, Assistant Governor of the CBSL graced the occasion with Dr. Subhani Keerthiratne, Director, FIU.

A successful and interactive panel discussion was held at the end of the session, and the participants actively participated in the discussion and shared their views. Dr. Subhani Keerthiratne, Director of the FIU, Dr. Ayesh Ariyasinghe, Additional Director and the resource persons joined the discussion as panelists. Their contributions enriched the session, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas and challenges faced by some of the participants.