

BANK OF BOTSWANA

PRESS RELEASE

CHEQUE FRAUD

The Bank of Botswana wishes to inform the public that there has been an increase in fraud cases involving Government cheques. Criminal syndicates are intercepting low-value Government cheques and forging them by changing the payee's details and inflating the amount payable. The forged cheques are then deposited to existing accounts with commercial banks, often using fake identity documents. Internal control procedures at the Bank of Botswana, commercial banks and Government departments have helped to prevent such criminal transactions from succeeding.

Businesses and the public are advised to be extra vigilant when dealing with large-value cheques presented for encashment or deposit. Cheques should be examined thoroughly for possible alterations pertaining to the payees' details and amounts payable. Any alterations to cheques which appear suspicious should be reported immediately to the nearest police station or the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime.

The law enforcement agencies are working closely with the Bank and commercial banks to apprehend the criminals involved and the public's support will be vital.

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For further information please contact:

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