

BANK OF BOTSWANA

Press Release

COUNTERFEIT BANKNOTES IN CIRCULATION

The public is hereby informed that it has come to the Bank of Botswana's attention that there are fake P100 and P50 banknotes in circulation. The fake notes are photo/scanned copies of genuine banknotes and thus, metallic features such as the hologram and windowed security thread appear as black/grey or brown patches on the surface of the banknotes. In an attempt to make the features on the counterfeit notes appear genuine, the counterfeiters have:

- (a) in some cases, applied a thin film of a silver coloured substance on the hologram to give it a shiny effect so as to appear like a genuine note; and
- (b) in others, applied a shiny glue-like substance on the windowed security thread to give it a shiny appearance.

In addition, some of the counterfeit notes are printed on a paper that closely approximates a genuine banknote material but are slightly thicker and coarser than ordinary printing paper, have a rough feel and are ultra violet light neutral.

The public is reminded that the following features are contained in the genuine banknotes:

- (a) the hologram is a silver coloured dual-image metallic patch. The images of the zebra and the number “100” on the P100 banknote hologram should not all appear at the same time, but should switch from one to the other when the banknote is tilted, and small diamonds should appear in the background;
- (b) similarly, the images of the Kingfisher and the number “50” on the P50 banknote hologram should not appear at the same time, but should switch from one to the other when the banknote is tilted, with small kingfishers appearing in the background; and
- (c) the windowed security thread is a metal strip woven into the banknote and it changes colour from red to green, according to the viewing angle. When held up to the light, the thread appears as a continuous line reading “BoB 50” and “BoB 100” on the P50 and P100 banknotes, respectively.

The public is urged to be vigilant and exercise care when accepting banknotes from any source, especially old and worn-out banknotes and should closely examine the specified security features. Any suspicious banknotes discovered should be immediately reported to the nearest Police station or Bank of Botswana offices in Gaborone or Francistown.

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