

BANK OF BOTSWANA

PRESS RELEASE

COUNTERFEIT BANKNOTES IN CIRCULATION

Further to recent Press Releases, the Bank of Botswana wishes to inform the public that forged P50 banknotes bearing the portrait of former President Sir Seretse Khama have been seen in circulation. The banknotes bear the serial numbers X/4 003049 and F/22 805314, and can be distinguished from other, genuine, P50 banknotes as they do not have a silver metallic security thread but rather a silver line drawn intermittently on them. The security thread on genuine banknotes should be visible as a shiny metallic line woven through the banknote. Furthermore, the print on the genuine banknotes has a slightly raised, or rough feel, whereas the forged banknotes are smooth to the touch. The forged banknotes also bear no watermark.

While the number of forgeries reported to the Bank is not significant, the public is requested to be vigilant when accepting any banknotes, especially those that are old and worn-out and should 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.

The Bank is working with the Police to identify the source of these forgeries and in the meantime, the Bank wishes to reassure the public that it is continually adding new security features in the design of the banknotes in order to reduce the incidence of counterfeiting.

April 28, 2005

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