

BANK OF BOTSWANA

Press Release

COUNTERFEIT P200 AND P20 BANKNOTES IN CIRCULATION

The public is hereby warned that the Bank has detected fake P20 and P200 banknotes in circulation. The fake banknotes are poor photo/scanned copies of genuine banknotes and thus, metallic features such as the holographic stripe and the windowed security thread appear as black/grey or brown patches on the surface of the banknotes. Furthermore, the fake banknotes are made of ordinary commercial paper and thus, have a smooth surface and are much lighter in colour when compared to genuine banknotes. The fake banknotes bear serial numbers AA5025270, AA6307254 and AA6291664 in respect of the P200, and AA9270401 in the case of the P20.

A genuine P200 banknote has a holographic stripe, which appears as a wide silver stripe on the front of the banknote. The holographic stripe has an image of the Botswana coat of arms and switching images of a zebra's head and the numeral "200". The two images should not all appear at the same time, but should switch from one to the other when the banknote is tilted from side to side. The P20 banknote has no holographic stripe.

All genuine Botswana banknotes have the windowed security thread, which changes colour from red to green, according to the viewing angle, in the case of the P20, P50, P100 and P200 banknotes. The windowed security thread on the P10 banknote is silver. The thread appears on the front of the P10 and the P20 banknotes and on the back of the P50, P100

and P200. When held up to the light the thread on each of the denominations can be seen as a continuous line reading “BoB 10, BoB 20, BoB 50, BoB 100 and BoB 200” in the case of P10, P20, P50, P100 and P200 banknotes, respectively.

The public is urged to be vigilant and exercise caution 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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For further information, please contact:
Mr. Andrew Sesinyi
Head of Communications
Tel: 3606083