

BANK OF BOTSWANA

PRESS RELEASE

Dye-Stained Bank Notes

The Bank of Botswana wishes to inform the public that the stolen dye-stained bank notes that were fraudulently put into circulation during June and July 2004 have now largely been withdrawn. During the past month, there has been a substantial reduction in the incidents of suspected dye-stained bank notes reported to the commercial banks and the Bank of Botswana. However, the value of the dye-stained bank notes withdrawn from circulation is less than the value of such notes known to have been stolen. It is possible, therefore, that some of these notes are still held by various individuals with the intention of putting them into circulation at some time in the future. Members of the public are, therefore, urged to remain vigilant in order to ensure that any remaining dye-stained bank notes are not inadvertently accepted in payment in the normal course of business.

The Bank of Botswana and the commercial banks are ensuring that the public are reimbursed for the value of suspected dye-stained bank notes that were confiscated but which, subsequently, were found to have marks other than the anti-theft dye stains. This is an ongoing process which will take some time. Members of the public can follow-up at bank branches where the bank notes were confiscated so that they may be reimbursed.

The Bank of Botswana would like to thank the public for its co-operation on this matter.

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