

## BANK OF BOTSWANA

### PRESS RELEASE

#### Forged P100 notes

The Bank of Botswana wishes to inform the public that a number of forged/counterfeit P100 notes have recently been found in circulation. Those found so far bear a wide range of serial numbers because numerous original notes have been used in the production of the forged notes. The forged notes are from the series with the portrait of the Three Chiefs; Khama III, Bathoen I and Sebele I.

The forgeries can be distinguished from genuine P100 notes in several ways.

First, the print on genuine notes has a slightly raised or rough feel, whereas the forged notes are smooth.

Second, the forged notes do not have a silver metallic security thread. On genuine notes this security is visible, on the rear of the note, as a shiny metallic line woven through the note. On the forged notes, the purported security thread has been painted on with a dull silver paint, with gaps to simulate the silver metallic thread woven into the note paper of a genuine note.

It should be noted that the forged notes are exactly the same size as the genuine notes.

The number of forged notes reported to the Police and the Bank of Botswana is significant. The public is therefore, urged to be extra vigilant when accepting P100 notes, especially old or worn ones, and should check for the specified security features. Any forgeries discovered should be immediately reported to the Police, or to the Bank of Botswana in Gaborone or Francistown. The public are reminded that it is illegal to knowingly offer a forged note in exchange for goods and services.

The Bank is working with the Police, both locally and internationally, to identify the source of these forgeries. The Bank also wishes to reassure the public that it is continually making improvements in the security features in the design of Botswana's Pula notes in order to ensure confidence in the value of the currency at all times.

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