

BANK OF BOTSWANA

PRESS RELEASE

Resurgence of Illegal Deposit Taking Activities in Botswana

The Bank of Botswana warns the public about the resurfacing of illegal deposit-taking activities in the country. The public is advised to exercise caution when confronted by people who claim to be selling investment schemes which promise returns within a short period of time. Recently, the Bank ordered a company called Aukemo Investments (Pty) Limited to cease and desist from operating an investment scheme which constituted banking business. The company collected deposits from the public by way of certificates in tranches of P200, P500, P1000, P1500 and P2000, with a promise to repay the money and interest after a period of 3 months.

The public is advised that no person is permitted to take deposits and/or conduct banking business without a valid licence to do so. In this respect, the investment schemes by Aukemo Investments (Pty) Limited are unlawful as the company had neither applied to the Bank nor been granted a licence to do banking business. Its deposit taking operation was, therefore, found to be offensive to Section 3(1) of the Banking Act, 1995.

The Bank of Botswana advises members of the public to refrain from depositing money and/or transacting banking business with any person without establishing the legality of such operations with the relevant Government institutions in their area, such as the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Wildlife and Tourism, the Police, the Bank of Botswana, etc.

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