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PRESS RELEASE

Commemorative P50 Banknote Enters Circulation

Members of the public are informed that the commemorative P50 banknote, launched by the President of the Republic of Botswana, Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Bank of Botswana (Bank) on 12 September 2025, will officially enter circulation on 6 February 2026.

The commemorative banknote is legal tender, albeit of limited quantity (limited edition), and will circulate alongside the existing P50 banknote that bears the portrait of the first President of the Republic of Botswana, Sir Seretse Khama. The note will remain in use until it is taken out of circulation through natural attrition of banknotes as it will not be reprinted, unlike the hitherto current note (bearing the portrait of Sir Seretse Khama).

The banknote incorporates elements of Botswana's heritage and achievements, while preserving the tourism theme reflected in the current P50 banknote. Its portrait features the Bank's redeveloped headquarters building (PulaThebe building) and Motswedi diamond, the second-largest diamond ever found in the world, unearthed at Lucara's Karowe Diamond Mine in Botswana. The PulaThebe building reflects the Bank's stewardship in the country's financial system, while the diamond reflects the significance of minerals in the country's economy. The reverse of the banknote features Botswana's 2024 Olympians, Letsile Tebogo, Bayapo Ndori, Busang Collen Kebinatshipi and Anthony Pesela, symbolising national achievements, pride and sporting excellence.

The commemorative P50 banknote retains the security features of the existing and circulating banknote, save for enhanced security features for anticounterfeiting purposes. Specifically, the holographic strip has been replaced with an animated colour shifting thread that displays an animated effect of a running athlete. Apart from the distinctive new features celebrating the Golden Jubilee mentioned above, the overall look and feel of the banknote remains consistent with the circulating P50 banknote including the braille dots for the visually impaired, albeit with colour differential. It also bears the signatures of the Minister of Finance, Mr Ndaba Nkosinathi Gaolathe and former Governor Mr Cornelius K Dekop.

Distribution will take place through commercial banks nationwide, ensuring accessibility to the public. The Bank encourages the public to familiarise themselves with the new design and security features.

For further information, please contact, Dr. Seamogano Mosanako, Head of Communications and Information Services, at mosanakos@bob.bw, or +267 360 6083, 360 6382 and 360 6022 or visit the Bank website at www.bankofbotswana.bw.