



BANK OF BOTSWANA

August 13, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

PUBLIC ALERT OF A SCAM, FRAUDULENT DOCUMENT, USING BANK OF BOTSWANA NAME

The public is informed of a fraudulent document circulating in social media platforms purportedly emanating from the Bank of Botswana titled “Bank of Botswana Standby Letter of Credit (SBLC)”. The fraudulent letter instructs a supposed asset management company, Ethos Management LLC, to facilitate the payment of a large sum of money to a company by the name Outoppe Sonke Holdings. According to this fraudulent letter, the payment is purported to be for procurement and installation of a Solar Photovoltaic Power System and Associated Works for North West Transmission Grid Connection Project in Shakawe, Samochini village.

The public is hereby advised to disregard the letter as the Bank of Botswana has no knowledge of, nor relationship with, any of the above-mentioned entities. The public is advised that the Bank of Botswana does not engage in transactions in the manner suggested. In particular, the Bank of Botswana has neither issued Letters of Credit nor instructed any Asset Management company to pay any third party. The Bank of Botswana is primarily a banker to the Government and, in that capacity, only processes payments on the basis of authentic and verifiable instructions from the Office of the Accountant General of the Republic of Botswana.

In this regard, the Bank of Botswana notes, with regret, the abuse of information and communication technologies for the proliferation of fraud, scams, misrepresentation of institutions and impersonation of key officials, with the intention to fraudulently obtain money from unsuspecting members of the public.

The public is assured that the Bank of Botswana has implemented robust controls and mitigation measures to safeguard its operations and systems, as well as resources. Notwithstanding, the Bank takes this opportunity to remind the public to be vigilant and alert to deceptive tactics such as fake emails, and unauthorised use of the Bank's logo and impersonation of Bank staff, generated by fraudsters targeting members of the public.

This is a cautionary notice that any member of the public who receives such communication or similar suspicious correspondence, should report to the Botswana Police and/ or relay the information to the undersigned.

For further information, please contact:

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