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PUBLIC STATEMENT

PROPER HANDLING OF BANKNOTES AND COIN

This communication serves to inform the public about proper handling of banknotes and coin. Banknotes and coin must be looked after carefully to ensure that they remain clean and can last long.

Mutilation of banknotes and coin is prohibited under Section 27 of the Bank of Botswana Act, Cap 55:01 and the Bank of Botswana Clean Banknotes and Coin Policy. Any person who tears, perforates, staples, burns, defaces, writes, prints, stamps, draws, or applies adhesives on, or exposes money to moisture, excessive heat, and dirt; damages the banknotes and coin shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine, imprisonment, or both.

The Bank of Botswana (Bank) has observed a tendency to use banknotes in a manner that contravenes the law and policy as stated above, such as “money/cash bouquets”, cake decorations, confetti, and any other unauthorised handling. Furthermore, in accordance with Section 29 of the Bank of Botswana Act, any person who, without the permission of the Bank, photocopies or otherwise reproduces any banknote or coin shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine, imprisonment, or both.

The aforesaid activities compromise the integrity and quality of the Pula currency and may make the banknotes and coin unfit for circulation, which may lower public confidence in the currency.

Therefore, the Bank appeals to members of the public to handle banknotes and coin with care and report any misuse to the Bank or nearest police station, in support of the Bank’s mandate of ensuring public confidence in the national currency.

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.