



***Bank of Botswana***

18 September 2025

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NEW P50 COMMEMORATIVE BANKNOTE**

As part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations, on 12 September 2025, the Bank of Botswana announced the issuance of a limited-edition P50 commemorative banknote to mark its 50 years of existence. The banknote, which is a legal tender, will circulate concurrently with the existing banknote that bears the portrait of the first president of the Republic of Botswana, Sir Seretse Khama.

A commemorative currency is a special type of currency, be it coin or banknote, that can either be circulating (legal tender) or non-circulating, issued by a central bank to mark a significant national event or achievement, anniversary or tribute to a national hero. Commemorative currency is usually produced in limited quantities and often feature unique designs, colours, or security features that set them apart. It must be noted that in Botswana, several commemorative coins have been issued before. For example, the most recent was the P50 commemorative coin issued during the Bank of Botswana 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 2015. Others include the P2 coin minted in 1986 to celebrate the Commonwealth games, and the P5 coin issued in 1988 to signify the historic visit by Pope John Paul II to Botswana. Thus, the P50

commemorative banknote honouring the Bank of Botswana's 50 years of existence is a first commemorative banknote issued by the Bank of Botswana.

The Bank's decision to use the P50 denomination was informed by the direct link between "P50" and "50 years of its existence", thus the P50 was deemed the most symbolic and fitting choice. The design of the commemorative banknote incorporates elements of Botswana's heritage and achievements, while preserving the tourism theme reflected in the current P50 banknote. The front features the Bank of Botswana redeveloped headquarters building – PulaThebe and the Motswedi diamond, the second largest diamond ever found in the world, unearthed at Lucara Botswana's Karowe Diamond Mine. The Bank of Botswana building reflects the Bank's stewardship in the country's financial system, while the diamond reflects the significance of minerals in Botswana's economy. The reverse of the banknote features Botswana's 2024 Olympians, Letsile Tebogo, Bayapo Ndori, Busang Kebinatshipi and Anthony Pesela, following their historic performance at the 2024 Olympic Games. The inclusion of athletes in the banknote is a message of triumph and excellence and intends to inspire the young generation to aim higher. The Bank acknowledges that there are previous Olympians and sporting icons, and states that the inclusion of the most recent achievements in the form of 2024 Olympians is testimony to appreciation of sports in the country.

The P50 commemorative banknote retains the security features of the existing and circulating banknote, save for enhanced security features for anticounterfeiting purposes. The holographic strip has been replaced with a thread that displays an animated effect of a man running. 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.

The commemorative P50 banknote is not yet in circulation, and the Bank will continuously undertake an intensive public education campaign before issuing the commemorative banknote at a date to be announced. The banknote is expected to remain in use until it is taken out of circulation through natural attrition of banknotes

due to wear and tear from handling, circulation velocity and environmental factors rendering banknotes unfit for circulation as per the clean banknotes policy.

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