



Bank of Botswana

19 August 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

CIRCULATION AND USE OF LOWER DENOMINATION COIN

The Bank of Botswana advises members of the public, businesses and retailers that lower denomination coins, particularly the 5 Thebe and 10 Thebe coins, remain legal tender and should continue to be used and accepted in cash transactions. These coins are essential for facilitating everyday transactions and supporting the smooth functioning of the economy by ensuring accurate pricing and the availability of exact change.

The Bank has noted reports of limited availability of the 5 thebe coin, particularly where businesses face challenges in providing change. However, Bank records indicate that adequate quantities have been issued and remain within the economy. The observed constraint is therefore attributed largely to coins being retained outside active circulation for prolonged periods, including some being discarded and left on the ground, rather than to an insufficient supply. Members of the public are encouraged to deposit excess coins with commercial banks to support redistribution and continued availability.

The Bank further advises the public to observe the following practices to ensure the effective use and circulation of lower denomination coins:

1. Handle coins appropriately - Coins should not be bent, defaced, damaged, discarded or left on the ground. Damaged or unusable coins may be presented at a commercial bank branch for assessment and exchange.
2. Use coins for relevant transactions - Lower denomination coins should be used where appropriate for small-value payments and change.

3. Return excess coins to the banking system - Coins not required for immediate use should be deposited at commercial banks to facilitate redistribution. Avoid the practice of keeping them for a long time in piggy banks, coin boxes or other forms of long-term storage. Accumulated coins should be deposited with commercial banks or exchanged with trading businesses so that they can be redistributed into circulation.
4. Recognise the value of all denominations - All coins issued by the Bank of Botswana have monetary value and remain part of the national currency structure. Lower denomination coin, like all other coin, cost money to make. They should therefore be used carefully and not wasted, so that the country can save money.
5. Businesses and vendors have an obligation to provide the correct change, while customers have the right to expect and receive the correct change amount in every transaction.

The Bank is actively engaging relevant stakeholders to support the effective distribution of lower denomination coins across the country.

The Bank requests the cooperation of members of the public in ensuring that lower denomination coins remain available for use in daily transactions. This may be achieved by accepting coins as change, using them where appropriate, obtaining them from commercial banks when required, and depositing excess amounts for redistribution. Thus, all denominations of national currency remain important in supporting efficient transactions.

For further information, please contact Dr. Seamogano Mosanako, Head of Communications and Information Services, at mosanakos@bob.bw, +267 360 6083, 360 6382 or 360 6315, or visit the Bank website at www.bankofbotswana.bw.