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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTRODUCTION OF STANDARDS FOR A BASIC BANK ACCOUNT BY ALL BANKING INSTITUTIONS IN NAMIBIA

As part of the promotion of financial inclusion agenda, the Bank of Namibia, in consultation with the banking industry, has set specific standards for the introduction of a basic bank account (BBA) in Namibia. This basic bank account is intended for individuals earning N\$2 000 per month or less and will be offered at all banking branches in Namibia. In order to open this account, no proof of income will be required. Banking institutions shall however actively monitor these accounts to ensure that those targeted benefit from this product.

This initiative is in line with the Financial Sector Strategy and the Bank of Namibia's key strategic focus areas and plan for 2012 to 2016. Each banking institution is therefore expected to offer a Basic Bank Account that conforms to the following issued minimum standards by 31 October 2012:

Account Opening and eligibility	Eligible person must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Namibian citizen or permanent resident. • Entitled to 1 BBA per individual per banking institution. • Having a valid Identity Document required for opening the BBA. Earning N\$2,000 net per month or less. • Incoming deposits and credits cannot be limited but rather monitored.
Monthly fee/account management fee	Free (no monthly fee or account management fees should be charged)
First Card Issued Fee	First card issued is free but subsequent cards issued can be charged.
Debit card	Debit card service must be available and such

	services can be subjected to charges. This debit card allows Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) and Point of Sale (POS) transactions services.
Checks	No cheque book facility available
Cash deposits	First N\$ 2, 000 per month free , cash deposits above this can be subjected to charges.
Electronic deposits (Incoming)	Unlimited electronic deposits allowed for free
Cash withdrawals	Cash withdrawal service must be available and such services can be subjected to charges.
Debit order (outgoing)	Outgoing debit order service must be available and can be subjected to charges.
Minimum opening balance	N\$20.00
Minimum on going balance	N\$20.00
Internet Banking Facility	Accountholders of banking institutions which have mobile or internet banking services are entitled to have access to these services at no charge. These services should offer unlimited online account enquiries, fund transfers and payment of bills within the same banking institution at no charge. Transactions to other banking institutions can be charged.
Balance Enquiry	Balance enquiry service must be available free of charge at own ATM's.
ATM mini statement	ATM mini statement service must be available and can be subjected to charges.
Dormancy	Only accounts that have had no activity for 12 months are to be considered dormant.

Finally, the Bank of Namibia has published a comparative analysis of bank fees and charges on its website at www.bon.com.na under the *Public Education* tab in the *Public Education Column* section. The Bank of Namibia collects this information annually through statutory return from commercial banks.

This information is only meant as general information on fees and charges in an effort to enhance public information and market transparency. The Bank of Namibia will continue to annually publish comparative reports reflecting the fees and charges as reported by the banking institutions. The current publication is the first of its kind on banking institutions fees and charges as at 31 December 2011. Similar reports will be made available through the website from time to time. Further enquires pertaining to the above can be directed to Ms Barbara Gowaseb, Director: Payment and Settlement Systems, telephone: (061) 283 5031, Fax: (061) 283 5644 or email: barbara.gowaseb@bon.com.na.

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