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## BANK OF NAMIBIA WARNS THE PUBLIC AGAINST COUNTERFEIT BANKNOTES

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The Bank of Namibia is warning the public to be on alert against N\$20 and N\$50 counterfeit banknotes imitating the newly designed banknotes issued in circulation on 15 May 2012. These counterfeited banknotes were detected and some were already confiscated. While the matter is currently under investigation, some suspects were already apprehended by the Police.

The new series of banknotes issued on 15 May 2012, contain the latest security features necessary to protect our banknotes from being forged. This is why the detected counterfeit notes could hardly compare with the real notes. It is, however, important that the members of the public familiarise themselves with the basic security features of the new banknotes in circulation to help them detect any counterfeit notes. The easiest way to detect a counterfeit banknote from a genuine banknote is to always **look, feel and inspect** the banknote. There is a combination of 8 security features on the banknotes, but for now the following three security features, which are easy to identify would be highlighted:

1. **The watermark:** Hold the banknote up against the light until you see the watermark image matching the main portrait of H.E Dr Sam Nujoma (and the number "10" or "20") or the portrait of Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi (and the number "50" or "100" or "200") depending on the specific note.
2. **Colour-shifting security thread:** Hold the banknote. On the front side, the thread should form a solid line and on the back side, dotted line with colour changing and the word "BoN" should appear.
3. **Feel the banknote** by identifying the raised ink on the braille dot (s), the value of the note and the word "Bank of Namibia" on the note.

The counterfeits that the Bank of Namibia has seen so far are of poor quality and the above described and other security features are absent. This makes it easy for members of the public to make a difference between real notes and fake notes.

Incidences of counterfeit banknotes are a global phenomenon, but in Namibia this is very low and there is no need for serious concern. Nevertheless, members of the public are encouraged to approach the nearest police station to report any case of counterfeited currency or the Bank of Namibia at telephone 061 283 5085/5134. This is important because possession and or reproduction of counterfeit Namibia Dollar are illegal and criminals will be punished accordingly.

The Bank of Namibia further commends the members of the public and the Namibian Police for their continuing prompt response in combatting the crime of counterfeiting the Namibian currency. More information on the security features of new banknotes are available on the Bank's website [www.bon.com.na](http://www.bon.com.na).

*Our money, our pride - know your currency!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'I' followed by a horizontal line and three dots.

**Ipumbu Shiimi**

**Governor**

Further queries should be directed to:

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