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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BANK OF NAMIBIA DONATES N\$480 THOUSAND TO THE SAVE THE RHINO TRUST
NAMIBIA**

1. On Monday, 02 November 2020, the Bank of Namibia donated an amount of N\$480 000.00 to the Save the Rhino Trust Namibia. The funds are proceeds of an auction of a few pieces of the new N\$30 commemorative banknotes to international collectors for the purpose of raising funds towards anti-poaching activities.
2. The N\$30 commemorative banknote was officially launched on 21 March 2020 by H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, and was released into circulation as a legal tender on 15 May 2020. A distinctive feature of the banknote, is the Black Rhino, depicted in a see-through window on the reverse of the banknote.
3. The Black Rhino faces extinction as one of the world's most endangered species. Therefore, its incorporation on the N\$30 commemorative banknote is in support of the country's campaign to end rhino-poaching and demonstrates Namibia's commitment to natural resource management.
4. The anti-rhino poaching message has been well received locally and internationally, making the banknote a highly regarded collector's item, especially because it is a once-off-print in limited quantities. The Bank's auction was successful and generated funds to be channeled to the promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of Namibians and the economy.
5. Speaking at the handover of the donation, Bank of Namibia's Deputy Governor, Mr. Ebson Uanguta, stated that effective natural resource management and conservation is important for the tourism sector. Namibia's wildlife including the Rhino is part of the reason why the country attracts international tourists and it also has various other

economic values such as breeding and legal conservation-hunting trophies that benefits both communities and the national economy at large.

6. The Deputy Governor noted, however, that due to the impact of Covid-19 on the tourism sector, community-based initiatives in particular have been severely affected. He mentioned that unless concerted efforts are taken by government, private and international partners the gains recorded in the fight to preserve the rhinos to date and to support Namibia's most valuable resources are likely to be reversed. He called on partners to come on board and support similar initiatives countrywide under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, conservancies, and NGOs.
7. While receiving the donation, the Chief Executive Officer of the Save the Rhino Trust Namibia, Mr. Simson Uri-Khob, thanked the Bank for the donation, reiterating that the funds will have a direct positive impact on the country's campaign to end rhino-poaching activities. The assistance from partners is extremely valuable in achieving the Trust's aims of monitoring and evaluating the rhino population, enhancing security of the rhino and providing benefits to the community through conservation.
8. For the past 38 years, the Save the Rhino Trust has worked tirelessly in north-western Namibia to protect the last, free-roaming population of black rhinos left in the world. Their remarkable successes include carrying out patrolling activities which covered 25,451 km on foot last year and assisted greatly to stem the tide of criminal activities in communal areas.
9. The donation is earmarked to cover specific needs identified and agreed upon between the Bank and the Save the Rhino Trust. Among others, providing monetary incentives to rangers, meals and fuel for support vehicles for trackers on patrol, as well as field trips to regional and traditional authorities to raise awareness on the importance of Black Rhino conservation.
10. The Bank of Namibia has the sole legal mandate to issue currency, both notes and coins. The N\$30 commemorative banknote is available across the country at all commercial banks. To get the N\$30 commemorative banknote from commercial banks, one will have to exchange an equivalent amount of the current family of banknotes or coins. Recently, the banknote is also accessible at some commercial bank's Automated Teller Machines countrywide.

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