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## **NEW LOOK, SAME VALUE: NAMIBIA INTRODUCES UPGRADED BANKNOTES AND BRAND-NEW COINAGE**

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1. The Bank of Namibia today officially launched its upgraded banknote series alongside a fully redesigned new Namibian coinage series, marking a historic milestone in the Bank's 35<sup>th</sup> year journey of promoting price and financial stability. Launched under the fitting theme, **“Our Currency, Our Heritage, Our Pride – Meet the Next Generation of the Namibia Dollar”**, the new series celebrates both continuity and innovation in the evolution of Namibian currency. The unveiling marks a significant chapter in Namibia's economic story, one that embodies continuity, national identity, and the spirit of innovation that is central to the Bank's mission.
2. The introduction of the new currency series is driven by a bold objective: to modernise Namibia's currency in line with international standards, while reinforcing its national identity and purpose. This upgrade is not merely aesthetic; it reinforces the security, functionality and integrity of our currency, ensuring it remains a trusted means of exchange while embodying the nation's ambitions, values, resilience and aspirations in a rapidly changing, technologically driven world. This means our currency must evolve with cutting-edge security features to stay ahead of counterfeiters and safeguard public trust.
3. The newly introduced second-generation coinage series, the first complete redesign since the Namibia Dollar's introduction in 1993, will enter circulation in **August 2025**. The coins are lighter, smaller, and more durable, making everyday transactions easier and more efficient. Instead of depicting **Namibia's fauna and flora**, the new coins now symbolically represent the five key sectors that anchor Namibia's economy.

These sectors were selected for their substantial contributions to national GDP and their pivotal roles in driving economic growth and development.

- The **N\$0.10 cent** coin features the pearl millet or mahangu, symbolising Namibia's agricultural backbone and its vital contribution to food security.
- The **N\$0.20 cent coin** is a new coin introduced to bridge the gap between the N\$0.10c and N\$0.50c coin denominations. It celebrates the manufacturing sector through the lens of renewable energy, reflecting Namibia's commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship.
- The **N\$0.50 cent** coin depicts the breathtaking landscapes of Sossusvlei and Deadvlei, a proud tribute to Namibia's tourism sector and its role in shaping the nation's natural heritage and sharing it with the world.
- The N\$1.00 coin honours the vibrancy of the retail sector, symbolised by the human connection in everyday trade through hands exchanging coins.
- Lastly, the **N\$5.00-coin** features both polished and rough diamonds, representing the mining sector's enduring contribution to the national economy and its global stature in the diamond industry.

4. In reimagining the third-generation banknotes, the Bank of Namibia has harmonised innovation with continuity. The upgraded banknotes feature a refined, modern aesthetic with richer colours, cleaner lines, and enhanced security features that provide robust protection against counterfeiting. A notable advancement is the introduction of a **high-tech composite substrate**, the material on which the banknotes are printed for the **N\$10.00** and **N\$20.00** denominations, combining the durability of polymer with the familiar feel of paper that Namibians are used to, ensuring greater longevity and resilience. The designs remain deeply rooted in national heritage, continue to honour the revered figures of the Founding Father, His Excellency Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, and Kaptein Hendrik Witbooi. The reverse side of the banknotes continues to celebrate Namibia's iconic wildlife, reflecting the country's natural wealth and enduring beauty.
5. Importantly, inclusivity was a key consideration in the redesign. The upgraded banknotes incorporate **tactile features** to better support the visually impaired and partially sighted, ensuring that all Namibians can confidently interact with their currency. The edges of each coin have been customised to enable easy identification.

6. In his address, the Governor of the Bank of Namibia, Mr. Johannes !Gawaxab, highlighted the symbolic and economic significance of the occasion, weaving the currency launch seamlessly into the Bank's broader legacy of institutional strength and national pride: "Today marks a historic moment in our journey as the monetary authority of Namibia as we unveil a new era of upgraded banknotes and new coins, whilst marking the 35th anniversary of the Bank of Namibia. Our history, as the Bank, has been characterised by excellence, macroeconomic stability, and sustainability. Since the landmark introduction of the Namibia Dollar in 1993, our currency has not only expanded in scale from N\$200 million in circulation to over N\$5 billion as of 30 June 2025, but a rise also matched by its sweeping transformation in form, function and sophistication. Through uncertainty, we crafted stability. Through disruption, we chose innovation. Through doubt, we built trust. Yet ours is not a journey completed, but a road still unfolding. Each milestone is a signal, not to rest, but to reach further. Because history remembers those who refused to stand still. And the next chapter is ours to write."
7. Reflecting on the profound meaning of currency beyond its transactional function, the Governor stated, "Currency is more than a medium of exchange. It is a declaration of confidence. A statement of sovereignty. A visible, tangible symbol of a people's identity, history, and aspirations. It tells our story to ourselves and the world. And with this new series, we are declaring that Namibia is bold, secure, and ready for the future."
8. **President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**, in her keynote address, underscored the broader national significance of the new currency series. She reflected, "When the Namibia Dollar was first launched in 1993, it marked a defining moment in our journey towards self-determination and the assertion of our own distinct national identity. The launch of this new series is not just a matter of updating our money; it is a statement of confidence in our economy and a reaffirmation of our sovereignty. These coins and notes are designed not just for durability but for identity, ensuring that every Namibian sees their story reflected in the money they hold. In their design, we see our past, present, and the promise of a dynamic, forward-looking Namibia."
9. The President further added, "I encourage all Namibians to familiarise themselves with the new features and to embrace this milestone with pride and shared responsibility. Our currency is not merely an instrument of trade; it is a living symbol of our unity, resilience and aspirations. As we adopt these new banknotes and coins, let them serve as daily reminders of what we have achieved as a nation and what more we can

accomplish together. The Bank of Namibia has once again demonstrated that it is more than a financial institution; it is a steward of our economic destiny and a fortress of financial stability. As we celebrate 35 years of central banking, let us continue to support and safeguard this critical pillar of our nation's sovereignty.”

10. The Bank of Namibia has confirmed that the new currency series will officially enter circulation in August 2025, alongside the current series to ensure a smooth and seamless transition. To support the public in recognising and adapting to the new features, the Bank will be conducting a comprehensive, countrywide awareness campaign. This campaign will educate citizens on the security features, proper handling, and authenticity checks of the upgraded banknotes and new coins, ensuring that all Namibians, across all regions, are well-informed and confident in the use of their money.
  
11. With the introduction of this modern, secure, and proudly Namibian currency, the Bank of Namibia continues to honour its mandate while driving innovation that reflects the nation's growth and resilience. As the Bank marks its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this milestone currency upgrade is both a celebration of Namibia's journey thus far and a bold step into the future **defined by trust, inclusion and progress.**

  
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