



PRESS RELEASE

LAUNCH OF COMMEMORATIVE D20.00 POLYMER BANKNOTES, A NEW FAMILY OF GAMBIAN BANKNOTES AND COMMEMORATIVE COINS

The Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG) in collaboration with the Government of The Gambia received approval to introduce New Redesigned Family of Gambian Circulation Notes. The change was aimed at reducing the sizes of the national currency notes to achieve efficiency and take advantage of technological developments in the currency industry. The new notes also have advanced security features that would make counterfeiting difficult.

As a result, the CBG on **Wednesday, February 25, 2015**, launched the following currency notes and coins:

1. Commemorative D20 Polymer (plastic) banknotes
2. Commemorative Gold and Gold-Plated Silver coins
3. Redesigned family of New Banknotes including a D200 banknote

The D20 Polymer will be put into circulation on Monday 02nd March, 2015 while the series of redesigned banknotes will be issued on Monday March 30, 2015. The Golden Jubilee Commemorative Gold and Gold Plated Coins will also be available for sale on Monday 02nd March, 2015.

1. Commemorative D20.00 Polymer Banknote.

This is the first series of Polymer Banknotes to be issued by the CBG and is intended, among other things, to Commemorate 20 Years of the July 22nd Revolution and to be in line with international best practice.

The Polymer Banknote is based on the existing D25.00 note and therefore similar in many aspects except that the colour background of the D20 Polymer banknote is green and bears the portrait of the President, H.E. Sheikh Professor Alhagie Dr. Yahya. A. J. J. Jammeh. The polymer banknotes have a date of **22nd July 2014** with the words “**20 Years of Progress and Self-Reliance**” written on the centre bottom of the obverse side of the note.

Few critical changes were made to incorporate security features that are unique to only polymer notes to enhance the overall security level of the denomination. However, both the polymer and the current D25.00 notes shall be in circulation side by side and the latter will continue to be legal tender and be in circulation until it is fully withdrawn over time.

2. New Family of Gambian Banknotes

Furthermore, the CBG will introduce into circulation a New Family of paper base Gambian Banknotes for all other denominations except the D25.00 which will be replaced by the D20.00 note. These notes will include a **New D200.00** denomination. A fundamental distinction is that all the notes are smaller in size and all of them bear the portrait of the President. This new family of banknotes will be circulated nationwide along with the existing banknote family of D100.00, D50.00, D25.00, D10.00 and D5.00 until these are fully withdrawn overtime.

3. New Commemorative Gold and Gold Plated Silver Coins.

In another development, the CBG also introduced New Commemorative Gold and Gold-Plated Silver Coins with face values of **D50, 000.00 and D500.00** respectively. This was to commemorate the country's **GOLDEN JUBILEE** marking the nation's **50th INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY** on **18th February, 2015**.

Commemorative coins are issued in limited quantities and are not meant for general circulation but they are legal tender and available for sale at the Currency Unit of Banking Department of the Central Bank of The Gambia.

Given that The Gambia is a cash-based economy, we urge the general public to handle the notes with utmost care. A massive sensitization campaign will be conducted nationwide very soon.

BANKING DEPARTMENT

February 26th, 2015