



New banknotes and coins to go into circulation

The South African Reserve Bank (SARB) has released the upgraded series of banknotes and coins, which went into circulation from the 4th May 2023. According to the bank, the upgraded notes and coins have enhanced security features and new designs. While the banknote designs will remain largely similar to that of old, with an enhanced look and feel, the coinage has the most significant changes, now boasting ecologically inspired designs.

“The banknotes continue to pay tribute to South Africa’s first democratically elected President, Nelson Mandela, with his portrait retained on the front of the banknotes, while the Big 5 animals are now illustrated as a family on the back. “We also celebrate our constitutional democracy, with the preamble to the South African Constitution printed in microtext around Madiba’s portrait and the country’s flag featured on the front and the back of the banknotes. “The theme of the coin series is ‘Deep ecology’, which acknowledges

the interconnectedness of living organisms as an integral part of the environment. These themes are depicted by our fauna and flora on the coin,” the SARB said.

Changes to the coins include:

The Cape honey bee is on the 10c; bitter aloe is on the 20c; the Knysna turaco is on the 50c; the king protea is on the R1; the springbok is on the R2 and southern right whale is on the R5 coin.

- The South African flag is on the front of the R1 coin.
- The words ‘South Africa’ are in one language on the R1 coin.
- The words ‘South Africa’ are in three languages on the R5 coin.
- The latent image on the R5 changes from ‘RAND’ to ‘FIVE’ when tilted.

The coin series has new landing patterns on the inside of the coin to assist the visually impaired community to differentiate between the various denominations by feel. The SARB explained that international best practice informs that banknotes and coins are

regularly upgraded to “combat counterfeiting and to stay abreast with technological advancements”.

“In general, banknotes are refreshed in intervals of six to eight years and coins in intervals of 20 to 30 years. In South Africa, the current Mandela banknote series was issued in 2012 and a commemorative series of banknotes was issued in 2018. The current coin series was issued in 1989. “The SARB does not demonetise its currency. All previously issued circulation banknotes and coins can be used as a means of trade together with the upgraded banknotes and coin. All circulation currency maintains its face value. “Members of the public are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the upgraded banknotes and coins and to use the look, feel and tilt method to authenticate their currency. Changes to the upgraded banknotes and coins are available on the SARB website and the SARB Currency App, which is available on the Apple iStore and the Google Play Store,” the SARB said.

– *SAnews.gov.za*



Zamdela Police urge community to help them locate Mr Brown's family

For the past few weeks, an unknown African male has been spotted living on the streets of Chris Hani Sasolburg. The unknown male was later interviewed by the police and he identified himself as Mr Brown from Matatiele. Mr Brown is perceived to be mentally challenged, because he believes he is in the rural areas of Matatiele. Anyone who may know anyone who matches this description or has a missing relative must contact Sergeant Josephine Rani at 079 499 6165 or #CrimeStop on 0860010111. Information can also be shared via #MySAPSApp.

SANEF lauds media freedom

While the South African National Editors’ Forum (SANEF) has lauded the respect afforded to media rights and freedom of expression in South Africa, the body says efforts must be intensified to safeguard these hard-won rights. Last Wednesday the 3rd May marked World Press Freedom Day, which was observed under the theme, ‘Shaping a Future of Rights: Freedom of Expression as a Driver for all other Human Rights’. SANEF said it is pleased to note that South Africa ranked 25th out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index by Reporters without Borders, which is 10 places up from last year’s position of number 35. The index, whose results were released on Wednesday, measures how free journalists are to do their job in a particular country.

Number one was Norway and last was North Korea. In Africa, the best country was Namibia (22), and the worst was Eritrea. According to SANEF, the most important measure

is the ability of journalists to publish news in the public interest, without interference and without threats to their own safety. Reporters without Borders warned of the rising challenges as media practices advance.

“Fake news - as in propaganda, disinformation and misinformation – as well as Artificial Intelligence (AI) - threaten press freedom worldwide. The difference is being blurred between true and false, real and artificial, facts and artifices - jeopardising the right to information. “The unprecedented ability to tamper with content is being used to undermine those who embody quality journalism and weaken journalism itself,” Reporters without Borders said.

AI, the organisation said, is “wreaking further havoc on the media world, with AI tools digesting content and regurgitating it in the form of syntheses that flout the principles of rigour and reliability”.



SANEF said while SA’s spot at number 25 still remains better than many western and northern countries -- for example, the US (ranked number 45) and the UK (27) -- this is not to say that the situation has satisfactorily improved in South Africa.

SANEF condemned the attacks on journalists by some political parties, law enforcement agencies and by some communities here in SA. “There has been a growing trend of online threats targeting journalists, especially women journalists, using hate speech, death threats and threats of physical harm. “There have been trends of trolling and doxing, (the act of disclosing journalist’s full name, address, contact number, and other identifying details without their consent).

“Threats to women journalists have also been pervasive, including attacks and threats on journalists’ families, death threats and threats of rape.



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