



**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE 2012 COMMEMORATIVE BANKNOTE SERIES**

**Remarks by**

**BRIAN WYNTER**

**Governor**

**19 June 2012**

Madam Chairman

Hon Dr Peter Phillips, Minister of Finance & Planning

Hon Lisa Hanna, Minister of Youth & Culture

Members of the Board of the Bank of Jamaica

Deputy Governors of the Bank of Jamaica

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with pleasure that I welcome you today as Bank of Jamaica launches the 2012 Commemorative Series of Banknotes.

I am pleased that the Honourable Minister of Finance, Dr Peter Phillips is here to launch the new banknotes and that the Honourable Lisa Hanna, Minister of Youth and Culture is also here to share in the occasion as their presence reflects the support the Bank enjoys in its efforts to provide better service to the public.

One of Bank of Jamaica's statutory roles is to issue and redeem currency notes and coins. In carrying out this role, the Bank has, over the past 50 years, widened the range of denominations, popularised the use of coins for small value transactions, adopted a clean currency note policy, acquired note processing machines that automatically sort out clean notes for reissue and included features on currency notes to assist the public to easily

differentiate genuine notes from counterfeit notes. The Bank has also adopted design features to assist members of the public with impaired vision to be able to distinguish the different denominations of currency notes. The Bank continually reviews the security features of currency notes so as to keep ahead of counterfeiters.

The Bank has also introduced an electronic funds transfer system followed by a real time gross settlement system which provide alternatives to cash in the transfer of value between persons. Cash, however, remains the predominant method of settlement for many of us in Jamaica. And so, the Bank must respond to the demands of the public for banknotes in parallel to our efforts to deepen the use of non-cash instruments.

One challenge which the Bank has had to grapple with over the years is how to increase the durability of banknotes. Because of the tropical climate and the high velocity of circulation of cash, Jamaican banknotes are exposed to varying conditions which reduce the useful life of the notes. This affects the cost of providing banknotes as more notes have to be issued to replace banknotes that are no longer fit to be reissued. In that regard, the Bank carried out extensive research to find a more durable substrate – the material on which the notes are printed – in order to extend the useful life of the notes.

Based on the results of our research, the substrate on which our banknotes are printed will be changed or enhanced for all but one of the denominations currently in circulation. The \$5000 note will continue to be printed on pure cotton as the main security thread, *Optiks*, is only compatible with cotton-based material. The \$100 note, which is the most widely used note, will be printed on a substrate that is a composite of cotton and polymer called *Hybrid*<sup>®</sup>, which was developed by a German security paper manufacturer Louisenthal, a subsidiary of the Munich-based technology company, Giesecke and Devrient GmbH (G&D). The durability of the \$50, the \$500 and the \$1000 notes will be enhanced by an application of varnish to the cotton substrate after the printing process.

While the initial cost for banknote acquisition will increase due to the use of improved substrates, significant savings will be realised over the medium term. With the

introduction of the new substrate for the \$100 note, the note will now be printed by G&D (the developers of *Hybrid*<sup>®</sup>).

As we are all aware, Jamaica this year celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of independence. To commemorate this significant milestone, the Government of Jamaica has planned a series of activities and we at the Bank of Jamaica are pleased to be a part of the celebratory events.

This morning, we are gathered here to participate in the official launch of one of the activities, being undertaken by the Bank in recognition of ‘Jamaica 50’ – the issue of the 2012 Commemorative Banknote series. Let me say here that this is not the first time that the Bank has issued commemorative banknotes. As far back as 1973, we issued a \$2 note in commemoration of “25 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights” and, more recently in October 2010, a \$50 note commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Bank of Jamaica Act.

The 2012 Commemorative Banknote Series consists of the five denominations currently in circulation, the \$5000, the \$1000, the \$500, the \$100 and the \$50 note, with modifications to their original design. The modified design includes the ‘Jamaica 50’ logo on the front of the notes. The logo, the Doctor Bird, our National Bird in midflight with its head pointing skyward, is superimposed on the watermark of each note.

The unique image on the reverse of each denomination has been replaced by a common image – a photograph of a group of children from the Central Branch Primary School (circa 1962) depicting the National Motto, “Out of Many, One People”, which formerly appeared on the back of the \$2 note which was in circulation from 1969 to 1994. I am pleased to know that one of the children in that photograph – Carl Wauchope – is here with us today.

Let me emphasise that the integrity of these commemorative banknotes has been maintained as the security features are the same as those on the regular banknotes. The

new banknotes will circulate alongside the current banknotes and both series will be legal tender and should continue to be used in cash transactions. We expect the public to accept them with the same level of confidence that is associated with the regular banknotes.

I now invite the Honourable Dr Peter Phillips to address us and launch the new 2012 commemorative banknote series which will be issued to the public and become legal tender on 23 July 2012.

Thank you.

**BANK OF JAMAICA**