



# Press Release

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## CBL CELEBRATES THE BEST NEW COMMEMORATIVE BANKNOTE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The public is advised that the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) embarked on a journey to develop a new commemorative banknote to commemorate His Majesty the King's 60th Anniversary Birthday. His **Majesty's 60th birthday** was to be celebrated on the **17th of July 2023**. Cognizant of the time it takes from the design of a banknote to its launch, the conception of the idea to commemorate **His Majesty's 60th birthday began in January 2022**.

To fulfil its dream, the Bank consulted the **Office of His Majesty the King** to request his approval for the issuance of this special banknote. The Bank expresses its sincere words of appreciation and gratitude for His Majesty's favourable consideration of its noble gesture. The Bank is also humbled by His Majesty the King's generous cooperation and support throughout the journey.

**On 13th July 2023, the Bank issued the first M200 Commemorative Banknote** to commemorate His Majesty King Letsie III's Diamond Jubilee. This Banknote became a legal tender in Lesotho on **22nd December 2023**.

Each year, the High-Security Printing Conference that covers the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region nominates the best new banknotes and new commemorative banknotes of the year. In these awards, banknotes that combine design, technical sophistication, highest security standards and reflect the cultural background of their countries in an appealing manner are recognized with the **"REGIONAL BANKNOTE OF THE YEAR AWARD"**. This award is divided into different categories namely, Best New Banknote and Best New Commemorative Banknote of the Year. The Lesotho commemorative banknote was nominated for the **High-Security Printing EMEA awards** which were part of the **Conference held in Sofia, Bulgaria on March 4-6, 2024**. On March 5, 2024 the M200 banknote from the Kingdom of Lesotho by the Central Bank of Lesotho was announced as the winner of the Commemorative Banknote category.

**The selection of Lesotho's M200 currency was based on the following majestic features:**

- It was regarded as the very best banknote in design and innovation;
- It presented the cultural heritage and background of the country from which it was issued.
- It was one of the world's first green banknotes to be made with African organic cotton reflecting the King's passion for agriculture and environmental sustainability.

**The banknote has the following environmentally friendly features:**

- **75%** cotton made in Africa and **25%** FSC-certified wood pulp;
- Mineral oil-free inks were used for the simultaneous printing;
- Reduced plastic content; and
- Lowest lifecycle carbon print.

The Bank feels humbled and proud to share this exciting news and moment in the history of our Bank and the Kingdom with you and note the endless efforts of all its strategic partners who collaborated with it during the design of this exceptional banknote. The Bank cannot imagine a better commemoration of His Majesty's Diamond Jubilee than bringing this award and trophy home.