Security and design features to look out for

The security features incorporated in South Africa's banknote series are only useful if people use them. It is every user's responsibility to get to know the big-five banknote series and check the security features. There are several security features that are really easy to check with the naked eye. It will only take a second to examine your money. Do not only check one feature. Check a combination of security features. Do not be embarrassed to check your money and encourage others to do so too.

1 Watermark: This is smaller and the denomination numeral is added to the watermark of the main motif.

2 Perfect registration: This see-through security feature reveals the denomination numeral in perfect registration on the front and back when the banknote is held up to the light.

3 Windowed security thread: On the R50, R100 and R200 banknotes the thread is 4 mm wide. "SARB", "RAND" and the denomination numeral appear when the banknote is held up to the light, and a holographic Coat of Arms appears in the thread when tilted. On the R10 and R20 banknotes the thread is 2 mm wide and "SARB" and the denomination numeral appear in clear text.

4 Diamond shapes: The dots on the front that assist the blind to distinguish between the denominations have been replaced with diamonds: 1 diamond for the R10, 2 diamonds for the R20, 3 diamonds for the R50, 4 diamonds for the R100, and 5 diamonds for the R200.

5 Unique numbering: This has moved from the front to the back: a vertical number on the left-hand side and a horizontal number top right. The horizontal number is conical.

6 Microlettering: "SOUTH AFRICAN RESERVE BANK" appears in microlettering to the right of the animal's ear. The microlettering is printed in positive and negative text.

7 Iridescent band: This is a very prominent feature in a gold colour on the back of all banknotes. When tilted, the Coat of Arms and the denomination numeral appear.

8 Different geometric shapes: These have been added to the front of the banknotes as an aid for the partially sighted: diamond on the R10, square on the R20, circle on the R50, and different hexagons on the R100 and R200.

9 Latent image: When the banknote is held almost horizontally at eye level, the denomination numeral appears inside the geometric shapes.

10 Optically variable ink: On the R50, R100 and R200 banknotes the denomination numeral on the front bottom right is printed in colour-changing ink. When the R50 and R100 banknotes are tilted, the colour changes from green to gold. On the R200 it changes from magenta to green.

11 Denomination numerals: These are more prominent on both the front and back of the banknotes.

12 Raised printing: (Feel).

South African Reserve Bank

South African banknotes and coin

South African Reserve Bank

The South African Reserve Bank (the Bank), established in 1921, issued its first banknotes to the public in 1922.

The Bank, in the pursuance of its primary goal, the realisation of its business philosophy and the fulfilment of its responsibilities, assumes responsibility for

- formulating and implementing monetary policy in such a way that the primary goal of the Bank will be achieved in the interest of the whole community that it serves;

- ensuring that the South African money, banking and financial system as a whole is sound, meets the requirements of the community and keeps abreast of international developments;

- assisting the South African Government, as well as other members of the economic community of southern Africa, with data relevant to the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policy; and

- informing the South African community and all stakeholders abroad about monetary policy and the South African economic situation.

Banknotes serve not only as a medium of payment, but are a window on the country, its people, heritage and culture. Often regarded as second only to the national flag, banknotes reflect the pride and aspirations of a nation and its people.

South Africa's banknote series

The Bank and its subsidiaries, and the public continually work together to combat currency counterfeiting that could lead to erosion of public confidence in the South African currency and result in the Bank being exposed to reputational risk.

In terms of the South African Reserve Bank Act, 1989 (Act No. 90 of 1989), it is an offence to copy or counterfeit any South African banknote or coin.

The big-five series has state-of-the-art security features that work the first time, every time. The Bank is proud to state that South Africa's banknote series is highly regarded as one of the most secure currencies in the world.

South Africa's banknote series consists of five denominations, namely R10, R20, R50, R100 and R200.

Coat of Arms

The South African Coat of Arms is used prominently on the front top left corner of all the denominations. It can also be seen in the iridescent band on the back, and as a holographic image in the security thread of the R50, R100 and R200 banknotes.

The design and themes on the South African banknote series

Given that the big-five animals are a distinctively South African theme, and building on the national and international recognition that the country's banknotes enjoy, the key design features for these banknotes are as follows:

Denomi-nations	Dominant colour	Size	Motif (front)	Theme (back)
R10	Green	70 x 128	Rhinoceros	Agriculture
R20	Brown	70 x 134	Elephant	Mining
R50	Red	70 x 140	Lion	Manufacturing
R100	Blue	70 x 146	Buffalo	Tourism
R200	Orange	70 x 152	Leopard	Transport and communications

South Africa's coins in circulation

All coins produced to date remain legal tender.

Old R5 coin   New bi-metal R5 coin

What should you do when you realise that you have counterfeit currency in your possession?

In terms of current legislation, it is an offence to be in possession of counterfeit currency. Should you unwittingly come into possession of counterfeit currency, you are required to report the matter to the nearest South African police station or call **0860 010 111.**