

# Launch Of The New Currency Family Heritage Series



**Mulungushi International Conference Centre**

31 March 2025



**Bank of Zambia**

# Introduction

- Today, **March 31, 2025**, marks a significant milestone in the history of Zambia's currency.
- The Bank of Zambia is issuing a **new currency family**.
- This new family consists of six (6) banknotes (**K500, K200, K100, K50, K20, and K10**), and six (6) coins (**K5, K2, K1, 50N, 10N, and 5N**).





# Legal Foundation for the Issuance



- The issuance of currency is a normal and regular key function of the Bank.
- Since 2016 it is provided for in the **Constitution** and the **Bank of Zambia Act, 2022**:
  - *Article 213 (2)(a) of the Constitution of Zambia (Amendment) Act, 2016.*
  - *Section 17 (1) of the Bank of Zambia Act, 2022.*

# Rationale for the New Currency

| No. | CATEGORY     | USE CASE                      | DENOMINATIONS    |                           |
|-----|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
|     |              |                               | OLD              | NEW                       |
| 1   | High Value   | Store of Value banknotes      | K100<br>K50      | K500<br>K200              |
| 2   | Medium Value | Transactional banknotes       | K20<br>K10       | K100<br>K50               |
| 3   | Low Value    | Small transactions and change | K5<br>K2         | K20<br>K10                |
| 4   | Coins        | Micro transactions Change     | K1, 50, 10N & 5N | K5, K2, K1, 50N, 10N & 5N |

# Rationale for the New Currency Cont'd

- Modern design.
- Enhance security features to combat counterfeiting.
- Introduction of higher value banknotes (**K500** and **K200** – convenience in day-to-day transactions).
- Redefining the note-coin boundary (new **K5** and **K2** coins).
- Introduction of durable substrate for low value notes (**K20** and **K10**).





# Design and security features of the new currency

- The theme of the new banknotes and coins, **Heritage Series**, highlights Zambia's **unique flora and fauna**.
- The banknotes also represent Zambia's **key economic pillars**, including mining, tourism, and agriculture.
- The front side of each banknote depicts the flying African Fish Eagle with one of Zambia's key economic sectors in the background. Endemic flowers add a distinctive and fresh appearance to the banknotes.
- The reverse side of each banknote **features one of Zambia's waterfalls** at the centre, with **Zambia's endemic animals and trees**.
- Each banknote denomination, **K500, K200, K100, K50, and K20**, features illustrations of the father, mother, and two young animals from the **Big Five animals** (lions, elephants, leopards, rhinos, and buffaloes).

e electrotpe, also use the fish eagle as their reference tag.

ve Fish Eagle is subtly integrated into the banknote's sign through small patterns in the backgrounds of all nominations, adding depth and significance to the overall look.

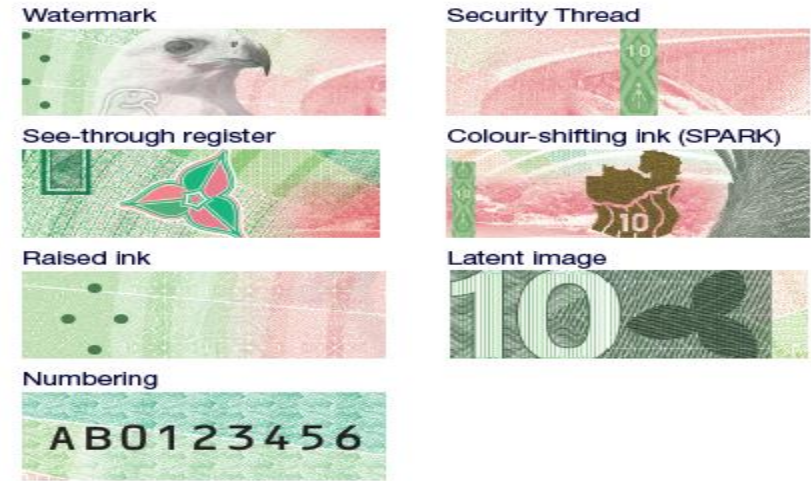
K500 – Polystachya Mafingensis  
K100 – Buchnera Hispida  
K200 – Crabbia Zambiana  
K500 – Crisclanthus Zambiensis

K100 – Kalambo Falls  
K200 – Kalambo Falls  
K500 – Victoria Falls



# Design and security features of the new currency Cont'd

- New security features to combat counterfeiting and improve currency integrity, include **watermarks**, **security threads**, and **color-shifting elements**.
- The **tactile marks** in the different designs are intended to assist the **visually impaired** in differentiating the various denominations. To further assist the visually impaired, the Banknotes and coins are of different sizes.
- Incorporated into all banknotes and coins is the **National Coat of Arms**.
- The emblem proudly displays the motto "**One Zambia, One Nation**", representing the core values of national unity, peace, and togetherness that Zambia strives to uphold as a country.

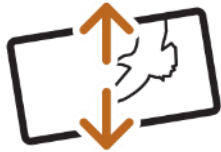


# Bank of Zambia

## Public Security Features

### Four Ways to Check The New Security Features

#### TILT



Security thread  
Colour-shifting element  
Latent image

#### LOOK



Watermark  
See-through register

#### FEEL



Visually impaired tactile marks  
Big numerals

#### CHECK



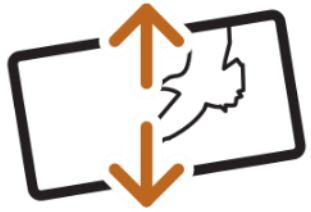
Serial numbers  
Small patterns



# Bank of Zambia

## Public Security Features

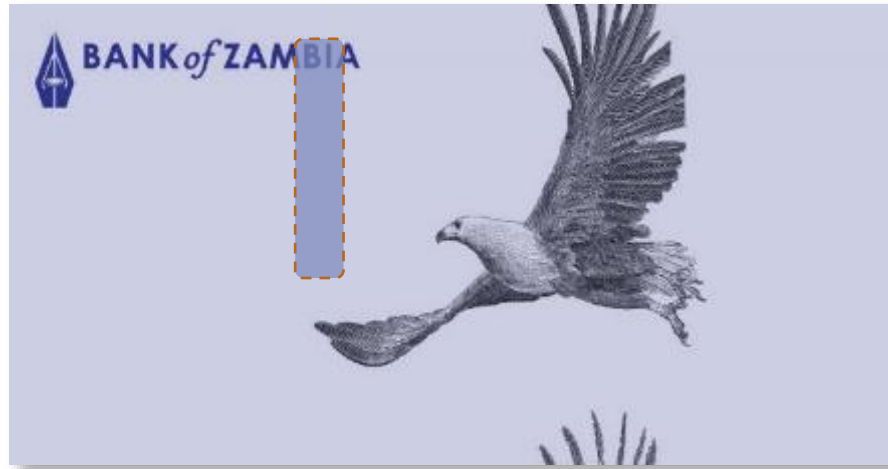
### TILT



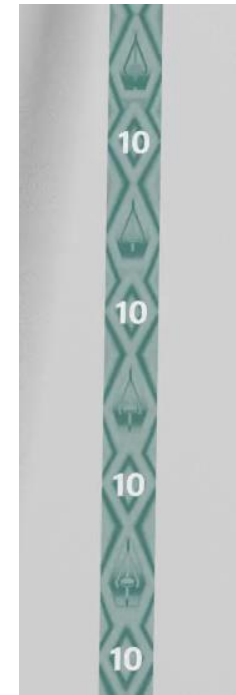
Tilt the banknote in any direction and the security thread will appear to move.

Front side

### Security thread – K10 & K20



Lines run up and down the thread.



K10

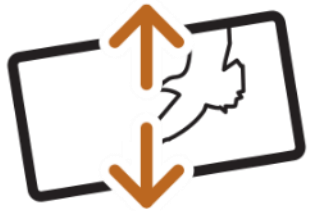


K20

# Bank of Zambia

## Public Security Features

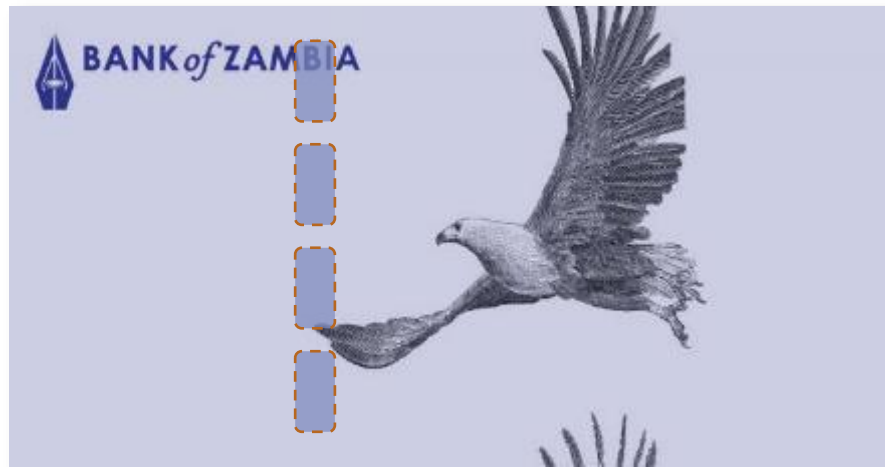
### TILT



Tilt the banknote in any direction and the security thread will appear to move and change colour.

Front side

### Security thread – K200 & K500



The security thread will change colour:  
K200 – Gold to Green  
K500 – Magenta to Green



K200

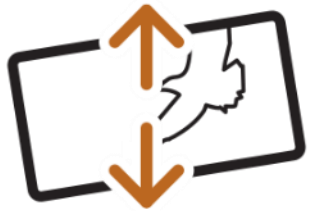


K500

# Bank of Zambia

## Public Security Features

### TILT



Tilt the banknote in any direction and some security features will appear to move.

Front side

### Colour-shifting Element – K200 & K500



A horizontal bar is going up and down the feature (top), while flames and moving up and down (bottom).



K200



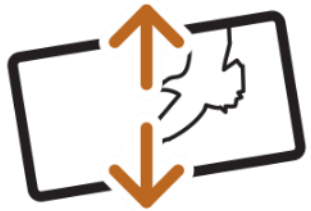
K500



# Bank of Zambia

## Public Security Features

### TILT



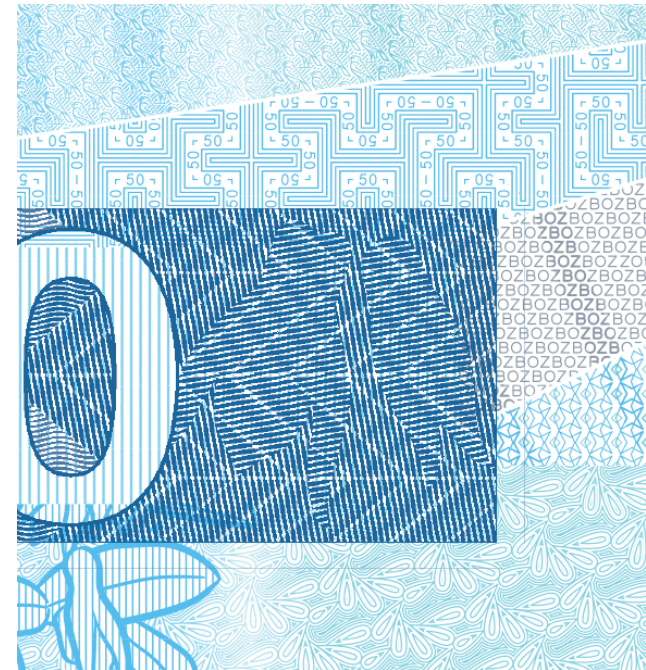
Tilt the banknote in any direction and some security features will appear to move.

Front side

### Latent image – All denominations



Tilt the banknote, and a stylised flower will appear next to the bottom left denomination value.



# Bank of Zambia

## Public Security Features

### LOOK



When viewed through a light source, hidden security features will appear to view.

Front and Back side

### Watermark – All denominations



Look for the African Fish Eagle's head combined with the face value of the banknote, which becomes visible when held up to a light source.



# Bank of Zambia

## Public Security Features

### FEEL

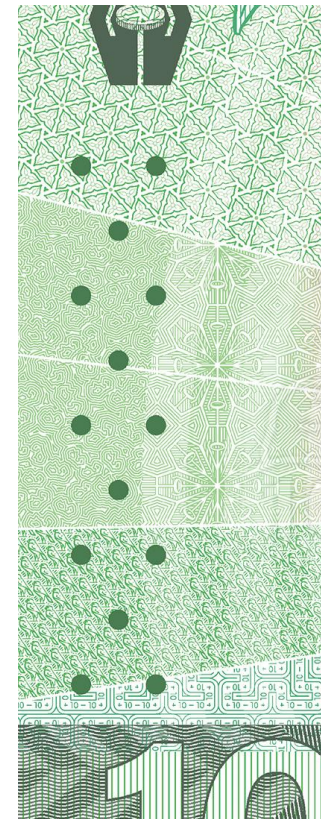


Feel the raised (intaglio) ink patterns on the banknote and discover new features.

### Visually impaired tactile marks – All denominations



Feel the raised (intaglio) ink patterns along the short edges of the banknotes to quickly identify the denomination.





# Bank of Zambia

## Public Security Features

### FEEL



Feel the raised (intaglio) ink patterns on the banknote and discover new features.

Front side

### Big numerals – All denominations



Feel the raised (intaglio) ink of the big numeral on the top right side to check the authenticity of the banknotes.



# Bank of Zambia

## Public Security Features

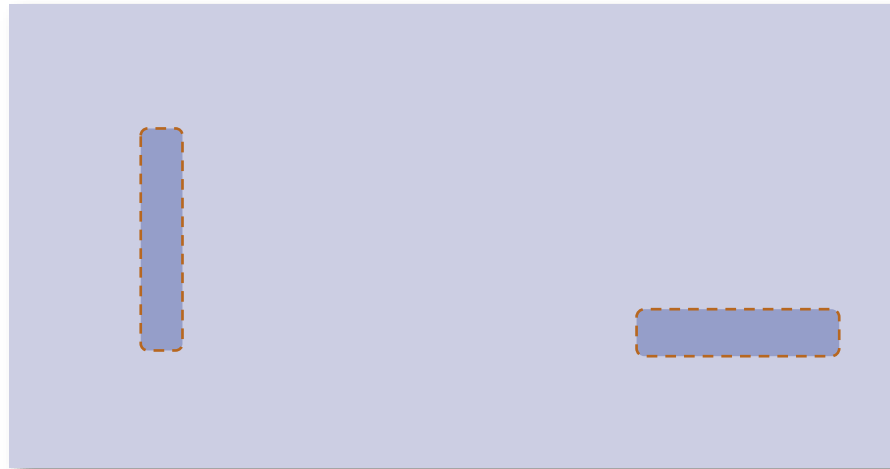
### CHECK



Check specific security features to authenticate the banknotes.

Back side

### Serial Numbers – All denominations



Two numbers are located on the left and right sides of the banknotes. Both numbers must be the same.



# Implementation and Transition

- The new banknotes and the new **K5**, **K2**, and **K1** coins, will from March 31, 2025, onward supplement the existing **K1**, **50N**, **10N**, and **5N** as legal tender in the Republic of Zambia.
- This means that the **K1**, **50N**, **10N**, and **5N** coins will remain legal tender even after March 31, 2026.
- **Seamless use:** Existing banknotes will continue to circulate alongside the new currency family from March 31, 2025, until March 31, 2026, ensuring smooth transactions for the public. The exchange of the old notes for the new currency will be free of charge.
- **Public awareness:** In February 2025, the Bank launched a nationwide currency sensitisation campaign to educate the public about the features of the new currency, as well as provide information on the exchange process.
- The campaign reached all **116 districts**, including chiefdoms, during its first phase.
- The overall response from the public has been generally positive.
- **Challenges Encountered:** False information regarding withdrawal of funds from mobile money accounts.
- This would potentially lead to fraud or theft.





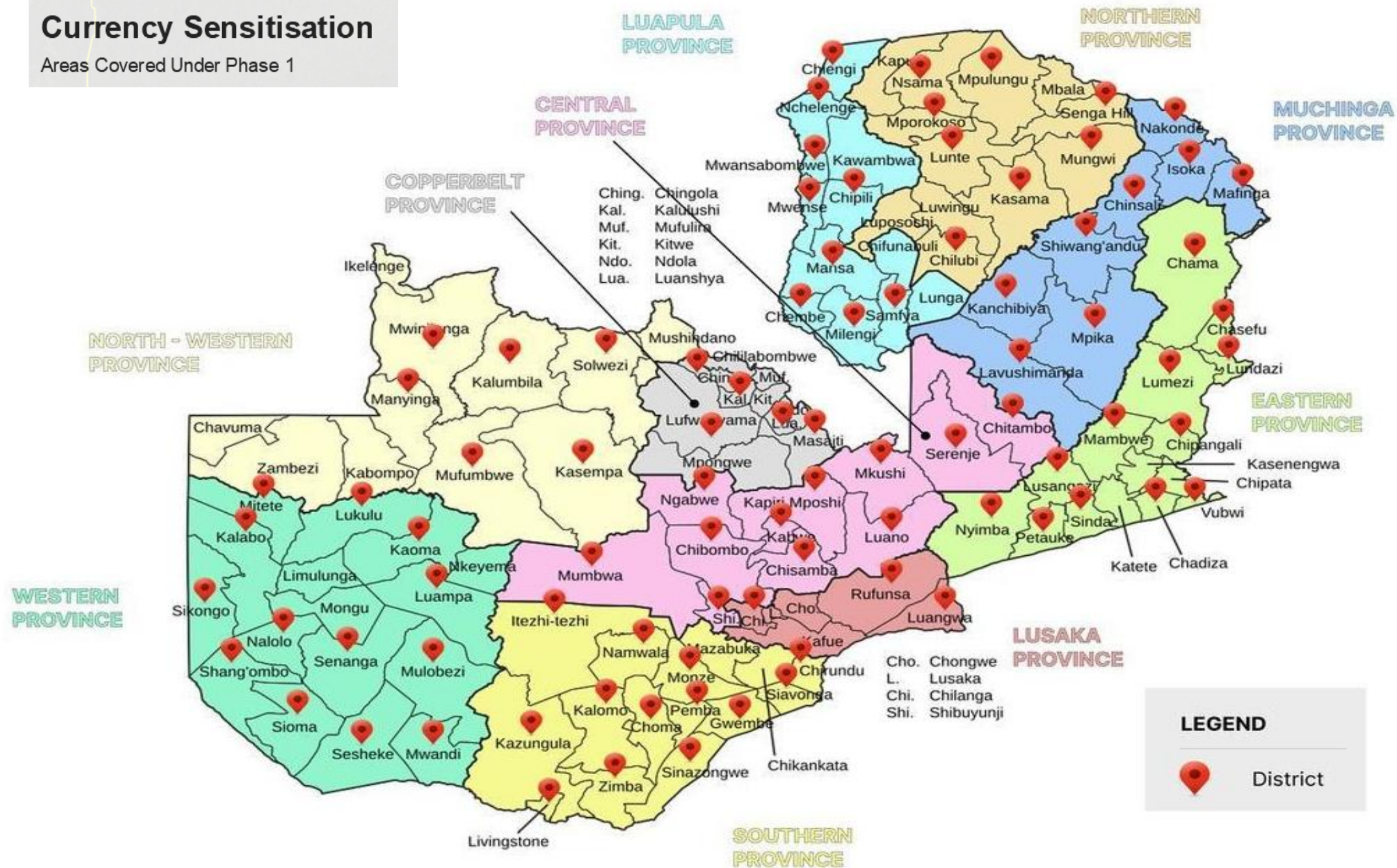
# Implementation and Transition Cont'd

- **Response:** The Bank is working with mobile money operators advising customers to remain alert to fraudulent messages.
- Distribution of New Currency – Availability and Usage
- The new currency will be available to the public beginning today, March 31, 2025.
- It is important to note that the new K100 and K50 banknotes will be available in September 2025.
- These banknotes are still in production and will be released once all logistics are completed.





### Areas Covered Under Phase 1



# Conclusion

- Today, Zambia takes an important step towards modernizing its currency.
- The Bank is committed to a secure and efficient currency that supports economic activity.
- The Bank will continue to monitor the circulation and adoption of the new currency for smooth and successful transition.
- The Bank will also continue sensitizing members of the public and businesses on the features of the new currency family and collaborate with law enforcement agencies to protect the public from fraudulent activities during the exchange period.
- To prolong the lifespan of the banknotes in circulation, we urge all of us users to handle them with great care.





**Thank you for your attention.  
GOD BLESS!**