Polymer is Coming!

New Family of ECCB Banknotes
Outline

1. Key messages
2. What is polymer?
3. Why polymer banknotes? – *key benefits*
4. Polymer experience – international and regional
5. Features of EC polymer notes
6. Tips on handling polymer notes
7. Environmental concerns
8. Are we ready for the transition?
The ECCB will put EC polymer banknotes in circulation in June 2019 commencing with the new $50, followed by the $100, $20 and $10 in August/September and $5 in 2020.

The polymer notes and current paper notes will co-circulate.
Polymer – International and Regional Experience

- ECCB is the first Central Bank in the Caribbean to issue an entire family of banknotes in polymer.
- Canada issued polymer notes in 2011
- Trinidad and Tobago issued a polymer $50 commemorative circulation note in 2014
- The Bank of Scotland issued polymer notes in 2016
Polymer banknotes are produced from a thin, transparent and flexible plastic film made from polypropylene.

Key Benefits of Polymer Notes

- Difficult to counterfeit…safer
- Resistant to water and other liquids…more hygienic
- More resistant to dirt and moisture…cleaner
- Durable, difficult to tear…last longer
Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

EC Polymer Notes – *Major Changes*

- Portrait orientation
- Modernised images and landmarks
- **Unique tactile feature** on each note (for the blind and visually impaired)
- See through window with fuchsia/pink flowers
- Holographic foil strip on $20, $50 and $100
- New design on $50
- New Signature – Governor, Timothy N. J. Antoine
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The polymer $5 note retains all the features of the current note. It depicts the Trafalgar Falls – Dominica and Admiral’s House – Antigua and Barbuda.
The polymer $10 note retains all the features of the current note. It depicts the Admiralty Bay – St Vincent and the Grenadines and the Warspite – Anguilla.
The polymer $20 note retains all the features of the current note. It depicts the Government House – Montserrat and the Nutmeg – Grenada.
The polymer $50 note now features the image of the Hon. Sir K Dwight Venner and the Brimstone Hill – St Kitts and Nevis. The Pitons – Saint Lucia are now depicted on the $100 note.
The polymer $100 note retains the image of Sir Arthur Lewis. The image of the ECCB building is replaced with the Pitons – Saint Lucia.
Security Features

- Tactile Features
- Blind Emboss Value Numeral Within Polymer Window
- Lithographic Micro Text
- Holographic Foil Strip
- Magnetic Gravure “Thread”
Tips on Handling Polymer Notes

• Wipe soiled notes; dry wet notes
• Do not iron or apply other form of direct heat to the notes
• Avoid exposing to hot temperatures for extended period
• Avoid creasing, crumpling or stapling
• Flatten crumpled or creased notes by applying pressure to them or curling them in your hand
• Repair torn/cut notes with clear tape
Environmental Concerns

- Polymer notes are not single-use “plastic”
- Given the store of value of polymer notes, it is highly unlikely they will end up in the environment as a hazard
- Notes that are no longer fit for circulation will be returned to the ECCB
- De La Rue is conducting Environmental Impact Analysis and will advise the ECCB on recycling options to handle unfit polymer notes
Are We Ready for the Transition?
End of Presentation

Thank You!

Send us your questions, concerns, suggestions at: polymer@eccb-centralbank.org