KNOW YOUR PHILIPPINE CURRENCY

March 2004
For additional copies, please call BSP CORAO at 524-4702
Know your Philippine Currency

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has the sole power and authority to issue currency within the territory of the Philippines. Everyday, these issued currency notes and coins continually circulate or change hands among the public.

The public generally accepts and/or passes them on as legal tender, without full knowledge if the currency is genuine. Those who fail to carefully examine the money they receive are potential victims of counterfeit currency.

This booklet is designed to help the public recognize genuine Philippine currency and guard against counterfeits.

STEPS IN RECOGNIZING GENUINE BSP NOTES

STUDY and FAMILIARIZE yourself with the characteristics, designs and distinct features of BSP banknotes by following these steps:

PAPER

Feel the paper – The genuine note is printed on a special kind of paper which is rough when you run your fingers through it. It does not glow under the ultra-violet light. During paper manufacture, the watermark, security fibers, security threads and iridescent band are included.

WATERMARK (a)

Examine the watermark on the unprinted portion of the note – The watermark is the silhouette of the portrait appearing on the face of the note. Sharp details of the light and shadow effect can be seen when the note is viewed against the light. The contours of the features of the silhouette can be felt by running the fingers over the design on relatively new notes.

SECURITY FIBERS

Inspect the security fibers – Embedded red and blue visible fibers are scattered at random on both surfaces of a genuine note and can be readily picked off by means of any pointed instrument.

Ingatan ang ating salapi, larawan ito ng ating yamang-lahi
**Embedded Security Thread (b)**

View the embedded security thread – The embedded security thread is a special thread vertically implanted off center of the note during paper manufacture. This can easily be seen when the note is viewed against the light. It appears as a broken line for 5’s, 10’s and 20’s and straight line for 50’s, 100’s, 200’s, 500’s and 1000’s.

**Windowed Security Thread (c)**

View the windowed security thread on the improved version of 100’s, 500’s and 1000-piso notes and the new 200-piso notes. – The windowed security thread is a narrow security thread vertically located like “stitches” at the face of the note with cleartext of the numerical value in repeated sequence and changes in color from magenta to green or green to magenta depending on the angle of view.

**Iridescent Band (d)**

Look for the iridescent band on the improved version of 100’s, 500’s and 1000-piso notes and the new 200-piso notes – A wide glistening gold vertical stripe with the numerical value printed in series.

**Portrait (e)**

Recognize the portrait – Appears life-like. The eyes “sparkle”. Shadings are formed by the fine lines that give the portrait a characteristic facial expression which is extremely difficult to replicate.

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1000-piso banknote

View the embedded security thread – The embedded security thread is a special thread vertically implanted off center of the note during paper manufacture. This can easily be seen when the note is viewed against the light. It appears as a broken line for 5’s, 10’s and 20’s and straight line for 50’s, 100’s, 200’s, 500’s and 1000’s.

View the windowed security thread on the improved version of 100’s, 500’s and 1000-piso notes and the new 200-piso notes. – The windowed security thread is a narrow security thread vertically located like “stitches” at the face of the note with cleartext of the numerical value in repeated sequence and changes in color from magenta to green or green to magenta depending on the angle of view.

Look for the iridescent band on the improved version of 100’s, 500’s and 1000-piso notes and the new 200-piso notes – A wide glistening gold vertical stripe with the numerical value printed in series.

Recognize the portrait – Appears life-like. The eyes “sparkle”. Shadings are formed by the fine lines that give the portrait a characteristic facial expression which is extremely difficult to replicate.
SERIAL NUMBER (f)

Check the serial number – Composed of 1 or 2 prefix letters and 6 or 7 digits. The letters and numerals are uniform in size and thickness, evenly spaced and well-aligned; and glow under the ultra-violet light. A banknote with six “0” digit serial number is a specimen note and not legal tender note.

BACKGROUND/LACEWORK DESIGN (g)

Scan the background/lacework design – The background designs are made up of multicolored and well defined lines. The lacework designs are composed of web-crisscrossing lines which are continuous and traceable even at the intersection.

VIGNETTE (h)

Verify the vignette – The lines and dashes composing the vignette are fine, distinct and sharp; the varying color tone gives a vivid look to the picture that makes it “stand out” of the paper.

VALUE PANEL (i)

Check the numerals found at the four corners of the front and back of the note. The numerals denote the denomination of the note.
COLOR

Recognize predominant color of each denomination:

- 1000-piso Blue
- 500-piso Yellow
- 200-piso Green
- 100-piso Mauve
- 50-piso Red
- 20-piso Orange
- 10-piso* Brown
- 5-piso* Green

*The BSP has stopped printing these banknotes and are being replaced by coins; however, the existing 10- and 5-piso notes remain legal tender.

FLUORESCENT PRINTING (j)

Look for the presence of the fluorescent print when the note is exposed under the ultra violet light – The fluorescent print is the invisible numerical value located off center of the face of the note that glows when exposed to ultraviolet light.

MICROPRINTING (k)

Verify under the lens the presence of the microprinting on the denominations 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 – Microprintings are the minute and finely printed words “Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas” or “Central Bank of the Philippines” located at the face or back of the note that are clearly printed and readable.
CONCEALED VALUE (I)

Check the concealed value on the 500-piso denomination – This concealed value is located at the lower left corner of the face of the note and is recognizable when the note is held at eye level.

OPTICALLY VARIABLE INK (m)

Check the optically variable ink on the 1000-piso denomination – It changes color from green to blue or blue to green when the note is held at different angles.

50-piso banknote

Embedded Security Thread (b)
Background/Lacework Design (g)
Fluorescent Printing (j)
Serial Number (f)
Watermark (a)
Vignette (h)
Value Panel (i)
Microprinting (k)
## Designs and Security Features of Philippine Legal Tender Currency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Design on Face</th>
<th>Back Design</th>
<th>Watermark</th>
<th>Other Security Features</th>
<th>Special Security Features</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50-Piso version 1</td>
<td>Sergio Osmeña</td>
<td>Dating Gusali ng Batasan</td>
<td>Sergio Osmeña</td>
<td>Security thread, red &amp; blue visible fibers and fluorescent printing</td>
<td>Micro-printing of “Dating Gusali ng Batasan” at the back of note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-piso version 2</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>&quot;Dating Gusali ng Batasan” renamed “Gusali ng Pambansang Museo”</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>Micro-printing of “Gusali ng Pambansang Museo” at the roof of building at the back of note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-Piso</td>
<td>Manuel L. Quezon</td>
<td>Palasyo ng Malakanyang</td>
<td>Manuel L. Quezon</td>
<td>Security thread (broken), red and blue visible fibers &amp; fluorescent printing</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-piso (Centennial Series) (being replaced by coin)</td>
<td>Apolinario Mabini &amp; Andres Bonifacio</td>
<td>Simbahan ng Barasoain and KKK blood compact</td>
<td>Apolinario Mabini and Andres Bonifacio</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-Piso (being replaced by coin)</td>
<td>Apolinario Mabini</td>
<td>Simbahan ng Barasoain</td>
<td>Apolinario Mabini</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-Piso (being replaced by coin)</td>
<td>Emilio Aguinaldo</td>
<td>Pagpapahayag ng kasarinlan ng Pilipinas noong Hulyo 12, 1898</td>
<td>Emilio Aguinaldo</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1000-Piso</strong></td>
<td><em>Portrait:</em> Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. <em>Others:</em> Jose Abad Santos, Josefa Llanes Escoda and Vicente Lim</td>
<td>Hagdan-hagdang Palayan ng Banawe, Manunggal Jar cover and Langgal</td>
<td>Jose Abad Santos, Josefa Llanes Escoda and Vicente Lim</td>
<td>Security thread, red &amp; blue visible fibers and fluorescent printing</td>
<td>Optically Variable Ink (OVI), micro-printing of “Central Bank of the Philippines” in lower left border of face of note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1000-piso version 2</strong></td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>500-Piso</strong></td>
<td>Benigno S. Aquino, Jr.</td>
<td>Philippine flag, Aquino’s typewriter, a dove and bank seal</td>
<td>Scenes from Aquino’s life and some allegorical groups</td>
<td>Benigno S. Aquino, Jr.</td>
<td>Security thread, red &amp; blue visible fibers and fluorescent printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>500-piso version 2</strong></td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>200-Piso</strong></td>
<td>Diosdado P. Macapagal</td>
<td>Aguinaldo’s Shrine in Kawit, Cavite</td>
<td>EDSA II scene, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo being sworn in as the 14th President of the Republic</td>
<td>Diosdado P. Macapagal</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>100-Piso</strong></td>
<td>Manuel A. Roxas</td>
<td>Raising of Philippine flag and lowering of American flag &amp; bank seal</td>
<td>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</td>
<td>Manuel A. Roxas</td>
<td>Security thread, red &amp; blue visible fibers and fluorescent printing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>100-piso version 2</strong></td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
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</table>
EXISTING LEGAL TENDER NOTES

1000-PISO
version 1

version 2

500-PISO

version 1

version 2

200-PISO

100-PISO

version 1

version 2

50-PISO

20-PISO

10-PISO

5-PISO
# General Features of the New BSP Coins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Shape</th>
<th>Edge</th>
<th>Obverse</th>
<th>Reverse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-piso</td>
<td>Profiles of Andres Bonifacio and Apolinario Mabini</td>
<td>Round (bi-metal coin with inner core and outer ring)</td>
<td>Intermittently reeded</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-piso</td>
<td>Profile of E. Aguinaldo/ Year Mark</td>
<td>Round</td>
<td>Plain</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-piso</td>
<td>Profile of J.P. Rizal/ Year Mark</td>
<td>Round</td>
<td>Reeded</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-sentimo</td>
<td>“25-sentimo”/ Year Mark</td>
<td>Round</td>
<td>Plain</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-sentimo</td>
<td>“10-sentimo”/ Year Mark</td>
<td>Round</td>
<td>Reeded</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-sentimo</td>
<td>“5-sentimo”/ Year Mark</td>
<td>Round with 4mm hole at the center</td>
<td>Plain</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-sentimo</td>
<td>“1-sentimo”/ Year Mark</td>
<td>Round</td>
<td>Plain</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
<td>Logo of BSP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**IF YOU SUSPECT A COUNTERFEIT NOTE**

- Do not return it to the passer.
- Delay the passer by some excuse, if possible, without risking harm.
- Observe and record the passer’s appearance and that of his/her companion/s.
- Note the license plate number and make of the passer’s car.
- Place the note in a protective envelope.

In case you get hold of a doubtful note, please contact the Cash Department, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for assistance at:

**Currency Analysis and Redemption Division**
Room 202, Multi-Storey Bldg., BSP Complex
Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 524-7011 local 2296
524-2777

**Investigation Staff**
Room 302, Multi-Storey Bldg., BSP Complex
Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 524-7011 local 2388
523-9806

or go to the nearest Bangko Sentral Regional Office/Sub-Regional Office Unit at Angeles City, Bacolod City, Batac-Ilocos Norte, Cabanatuan City, Cagayan De Oro City, Cebu City, Cotabato City, Dagupan City, Davao City, Dumaguete City, Iloilo City, Kalibo-Aklan, Legazpi City, Lucena City, Naga City, San Fernando-La Union, Tacloban City, Tuguegarao-Cagayan and Zamboanga City.

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**PERTINENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO PROTECT AND MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE CURRENCY**

1. **Article 163, Revised Penal Code (RPC).** Making and importing and uttering (issuing or circulating) false coins.

2. **Article 166, Revised Penal Code (RPC).** Forging treasury or bank notes or other documents payable to bearer; importing, and uttering (issuing or circulating) such false or forged notes and documents.

3. **Article 168, Revised Penal Code (RPC).** Illegal possession and use of false treasury or bank notes and other instruments of credit.

4. **Article 176, Revised Penal Code (RPC).** Manufacturing and possession of instruments or implements for falsification.

5. **PD 247 – Defacement, mutilation, tearing, burning or destruction of Central Bank (BSP) notes and coins.**

6. **Chapter II, Circular 61, Series of 1995.** Reproduction and/or use of facsimiles of legal tender Philippine currency notes.

7. **Chapter III, Circular 61, Series of 1995.** Reproduction and/or use of facsimiles of legal tender Philippine currency coins.
TEST YOURSELF

1. What security feature is found only in 1000-piso note?
   a) security thread
   b) fluorescent printing
   c) optically variable ink

2. Which denomination bears a concealed value?
   a) 500-piso
   b) 20-piso
   c) 200-piso

3. Whose portrait is on the 100-piso note?
   a) Benigno Aquino
   b) Emilio Aguinaldo
   c) Manuel Roxas

4. Which denomination has a predominantly orange color?
   a) 20-piso
   b) 100-piso
   c) 10-piso

5. Which denomination has a composite portrait of three Filipino heroes during the Japanese War?
   a) 10-piso
   b) 1000-piso
   c) 50-piso

6. Where is the watermark located in a note?
   a) Left side of the face of note
   b) Right side of the face of note
   c) Center of the note

7. What is the highest denomination in the present circulation coins series?
   a) 5-piso
   b) 1-piso
   c) 10-piso

8. What is the lowest denomination in the present circulation coins series?
   a) 5-sentimo
   b) 10-sentimo
   c) 1-sentimo
9. What is the highest denomination in the legal tender notes in circulation?
   a) 500-piso
   b) 1000-piso
   c) 200-piso

10. What design is at the back of 200-piso note?
   a) Portrait of former President Diosdado Macapagal
   b) Aguinaldo Shrine
   c) Oath taking of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
BRANCH OPERATION OFFICES

Angeles Branch
Sto. Entierro St.
Angeles City
Tel. (045)325-4101

Bacolod Branch
Lacson & Luzuriaga Sts.
Bacolod City
Tel. (034)433-3178

Batac Branch
National Highway
Quiling Norte Batac
Ilocos Norte
Tel. (077)792-2130

Cabanatuan Branch
Cor. Del Pilar & Paco
Roman Sts.
Cabanatuan City
Tel. (044)463-1734

Cagayan de Oro Branch
Cor. Don Apolinario Velez
and Recto Avenue
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. (088) 857-1554

Cebu Regional Office
Cor. Osmena Blvd. &
P. del Rosario St.
Cebu City
Tel. (032)254-0973

Cotabato Branch
Cor. Quezon Ave. &
Sinsuat Ave.
Cotabato City
Tel. (064) 421-3117

Dagupan Branch
Tondaligan, Bonoan
Guinness
Dagupan City
Tel. (075)614-3027

Davao Regional Office
Quirino Avenue
Davao City
Tel. (082)300-3709

Dumaguete Branch
July Dev. Corp. Bldg.
Cor. V. Lacson &
Cervantes Sts.
Dumaguete City
Tel. (035) 225-3464

Iloilo Branch
BSP Building
Sols St., Iloilo City
Tel. (033)335-1180

Kalibo Branch
RSL Bldg.,
Cor. Arch Reyes and
G. Panay Sts.
Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. (036)262-7030

La Union Regional Office
Quezon Avenue
San Fernando, La Union
Tel. (072)888-2083

Legazpi Branch
Del Rosario Bldg. II
Rizal Ave., Legazpi City
Tel. (052)480-5519

Lucena Branch
Quezon Ave., Lucena City
Tel. (042)710-3175

Naga Branch
Chua Oco Bldg.
Elias Angela Street
Naga City
Tel. (054)811-2472

Tacloban Branch
Uytingco Bldg.
Sen. Enaje Street
Tacloban City
Tel. (053)325-5134

Tuguegarao Branch
Cor. Mabini and
Gonzaga Sts.
Tuguegarao City
Tel. (078)844-3213

Zamboanga Branch
LHB Bldg. I, Veteranos Ave.
Zamboanga City
Tel. (062)991-2151