

Reserve Bank of Fiji Launches Commemorative \$7 Banknote and 50-cent Coin



Message from Barry Whiteside Governor, Reserve Bank of Fiji

It is my privilege to present to you our iconic \$7 banknote and 50-cent coin commemorating Fiji Rugby 7s Gold Medal win at the Rio 2016 Olympics. These notes and coins were officially unveiled by the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister for i-Taukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs, Rear Admiral (Retired) Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva on Thursday, 20 April 2017. This is indeed a proud moment for all Fijians as we continue to honour our rugby 7s heroes who brought such joy to our small nation through a sport that we excel in and a sport that continues to unite us all.

The \$7 banknote is truly unique in many ways. It is the first circulating denomination of its kind in the world. For the first time ever, Fiji now also has a banknote with an obverse (front) and reverse (back) that is vertically and horizontally oriented. These orientations complement the designs that have been selected. The coin is also unique in its own way. Both front and back have designs that are also truly remarkable and complement each other in much the same way as the banknote. I am truly thankful to Bruce Southwick of Zoom Fiji Photography for providing us the precious images that are present on these extremely beautiful banknotes and coins.

Soon after the Gold medal win in Rio last year, we had announced that a coloured (painted) commemorative circulation coin would be released in limited quantities commemorating this first ever achievement for us. However, due to a number of technological limitations, we had to reconsider our options of releasing painted coins into circulation. This was a disappointment to us at the Reserve Bank, but rather than completely shelving the project we decided to mint a silver coloured coin, thus enabling everyone, including our children, affordable access to the currency, and the wonderful memory of our gold medal win.

Oberthur Fiduciaire, a prominent banknote printer based in France, and the Royal Canadian Mint (RCM), were respectively awarded the contract for designing and printing of the 2 million banknotes and 1 million coins which we subsequently ordered. The entire design, production and delivery took 8 months compared to what has often taken 12-18 months or even longer at times. For this the Reserve Bank must extend its sincere appreciation to Oberthur Fiduciaire and RCM for their great technical support and guidance

in meeting these tight deadlines as well as to all those who assisted us during our journey on this project.

The designs, as well as the unique denomination of \$7, were chosen by the RBF's in-house Currency Technical Committee (CTC), with final approval obtained from the RBF Board of Directors. The CTC worked closely with the suppliers in ensuring the selected designs were accurately transformed for banknote and coin representations. The Reserve Bank also extends its sincere appreciation to owners of the various images that have been reproduced on these banknotes and coins as well as those who assisted towards the completion of this memorable project.

The \$7 and 50-cent commemorative banknotes and coins have been issued into circulation from Friday, 21 April 2017. They carry legal tender status, just like any other banknote and coin, and could be used for paying for goods and services. However, these are expected to fast become collectors items given the limited numbers produced.

On behalf of the Board and my colleagues at the Reserve Bank of Fiji, I trust that all Fijians will embrace these commemorative banknotes and coins as a reminder of the magnificent performance of our Rugby 7s Olympic Champions.



Features of the Commemorative \$7 and 50-cent Circulation Banknote and Coin

The \$7 Banknote

The primary colour of the \$7 commemorative banknote is blue, synonymous with the Fiji Flag. The vertical orientation on the front has been chosen to complement the front designs that feature Fiji Rugby 7s Olympic Team Captain Osea Kolinisau OF as the main image with the Fiji flag in the background being a reminder that Mr Kolinisau was also Team Fiji's flag bearer at the Rio 2016 Olympics. Fiji Rugby 7s Olympic Coach Ben Ryan CF sitting on the Sigatoka Sand Dunes in pensive thought mode is featured as a sub-image. The Fijian Coat of Arms is also depicted together with the signature of the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji. There is also a depiction of two winning tries being scored.

The word 'Fiji' appears on the top left hand corner of the note while the denomination numeral is present on the top right hand corner in gold font and in blue font in the bottom left hand corner. The denomination in words also appears on the bottom right hand corner.

A special Optically Variable Ink (OVI) is also present on the front in the form of a round golden patch resembling the gold medal and inserted with the RBF logo (the tagaga) and the year 2016.

There is also a see-through feature in the form of designs that complement the backdrop as well as designs from the reverse of the note. A watermark feature is also present, depicting Fiji Rugby 7s Olympian Savenaca Rawaca OF, a leading ball carrier, in motion with a rugby ball.

The watermark is oval-shaped with white rings around it depicting a rugby ball in motion.

The serial numbers of the note are vertically and horizontally oriented in red and blue fonts respectively with the prefix AU, the chemical symbol for Gold. A STARsheen® 2mm security thread has also been incorporated with the words 'FIJI 7s GOLD OLYMPIANS'

When viewed at an angle, the numeral '7' and a rugby goal post with a rugby ball can be seen. These designs, together with a gold medal around the Captain's neck, fluoresces to green and blue respectively when viewed under an ultra violet light.

The reverse of the banknote features the Fiji Rugby 7s Gold Olympians and team officials with the Prime Minister of Fiji and President of the Fiji Rugby Federation, Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama. The word 'Fiji' appears on the top left hand corner of the note while the denomination in words appears on the top right hand corner with the RBF logo. The denomination numeral is present on the bottom right hand corner in gold font. The watermark and the see-through feature are also visible on the back of the note with Fijian masi designs across the note complementing the design elements.

When placed under an ultraviolet light, the gold medals worn by the players are visible in gold colour while the RBF logo fluoresces to green.



1 Coaching Diagram
Depiction of two of the winning tries being scored.



2 Coat of Arms and Signature
Fijian Coat of Arms and Signature of the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji is present on all banknotes.



3 Optically Variable Ink (OVI)
A special Optically Variable Ink (OVI) depicting the gold medal is embossed with the RBF logo, the tagaga, and the year 2016.



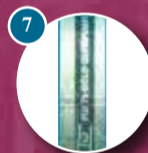
4 See-through Feature
Designs from the back of the banknote neatly fills the designs on the front of the banknote when the banknote is held up against the light.



5 Watermark
Watermark depicting Fiji Rugby 7s Olympian Savenaca Rawaca OF, in motion with a rugby ball.



6 Serial Numbers
Vertically and horizontally oriented serial numbers in red and blue fonts respectively with the prefix AU, the chemical symbol for Gold.



7 Security Thread
2mm STARsheen® security thread with the words 'FIJI 7s GOLD OLYMPIANS' seen when the banknote is held up against the light.



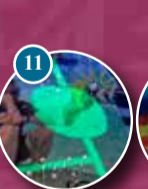
8 Numeral '7' and Goal Post
The numeral '7' and a rugby goal post with a rugby ball can be seen when the banknote is tilted at an angle.



9 Blind Recognition
There are raised areas in the shape of a rugby ball which can be felt by running your fingers over it.



10 Ultraviolet Light Features
Avalon®
Gold medal worn by Captain Osea Kolinisau OF fluoresces to blue when banknote is viewed under an ultraviolet light.



11 Ultraviolet Light Features
Numeral '7', a rugby goal post and a rugby ball fluoresces to green when the banknote is viewed under an ultraviolet light.



12 Ultraviolet Light Features
When placed under an ultraviolet light, the gold medals worn by the players are visible in gold colour while the RBF logo fluoresces to green.

The 50-cent Coin



The obverse of the 50-cent coin features the word 'FIJI' and the issuing year '2017' with the denomination '50 cents' and a representation of the Fijian Coat of Arms. The main image is that of Fiji Rugby 7s Olympic Coach Ben Ryan CF sitting on the Sigatoka Sand Dunes with arms folded with the ocean as the backdrop and the words 'BEN RYAN · SEVENS HEAD COACH' inscribed around the coin in a semi-circle.

The reverse of the coin features the words 'FIJI RUGBY 7s'. The main image is that of the Fiji rugby 7s team in their pre-game bonding ritual with the words 'GOLD OLYMPIANS' inscribed on the bottom of the coin. The coin is round with milled edges and do-decagon shaped on the inside edges.