

The Bank of Mauritius (Bank) is launching a Banknote Design Competition as part of a series of activities to celebrate its 40th Anniversary. The objective of the competition is to invite the general public to propose designs that may be used for the eighth issue of banknotes.

## **2. THEME**

The theme of the competition is “Banknotes-Mirrors of our Motherland”. Proposals by participants may relate to our history, culture, ecology, industry, architecture and landscapes reflecting facets of Mauritian life.

## **3. DESIGN GUIDELINES**

(i) Graphical techniques, such as photography, drawing and digital graphics may be used

(ii) Designs for each banknote chosen shall be presented in colour in full-blown A4 landscape format, using white A4 photocopy paper, accompanied preferably by a digital version on CD ROM, and shall be of original source which have never been publicly used or submitted for a competition previously

(iii) Submissions may be accompanied by a write-up of not more than fifty words in English or in French, expounding on the relevance of the designs to the theme chosen.

## **4. JURY PANEL**

A Jury Panel, comprising local artists with broad experience in specific fields of visual art, has been constituted to select the best designs.

Originality and creativity will be the overriding criteria in the selection process.

## 5. PRIZES

A sum of Rs30,000 will be awarded to the winner of the best design. Four other prizes of Rs25,000, Rs20,000, Rs15,000 and Rs10,000 will also be awarded to participants whose designs have been chosen by the Jury Panel in order of merit.

## 6. PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

This Participation Brochure, which provides details of the competition and specimens of banknotes in circulation in the past and currently, and the Participation Form will be posted on the Bank's website as from Tuesday 25 September 2007. Hard copies of the Participation Form and the Participation Brochure will be available at the Bank's counter as from Tuesday 25 September and Friday 28 September 2007, respectively.

### Submission of Proposals

All individuals who are interested to participate in the competition are required to submit their proposals in three sealed envelopes marked **A**, **B** and **C** respectively. To guarantee objectivity of the selection process, however, neither the envelopes nor the designs should bear the name of the participant or his signature.

(i) **Envelope A** should contain the designs of the banknote(s) and should be addressed to:

Jury Panel

Banknote Design Competition

Bank of Mauritius

Sir William Newton Street

PORT LOUIS

(ii) **Envelope B** should contain the Participation Form, duly filled in and signed by the participant, and shall be accompanied by a Photostat copy of the participant's national identity card. The name of the participant should be disclosed in Envelope B only.

(iii) Envelopes A and B should be enclosed in a third envelope marked **Envelope C** and forwarded, preferably hand-delivered at the counter of the Bank, to the Secretary of the Bank by **17.00 hrs on Wednesday 31 October 2007 at latest** at the address below:

Secretary

Bank of Mauritius

Sir William Newton Street

PORT LOUIS

The top left-hand corner of the envelope should be clearly marked “Banknote Design Competition”.

## **7. GENERAL CONDITIONS**

The Competition is subject to the following general conditions:

(i) Participation to the competition is open to individuals of Mauritian nationality only

(ii) The side of the banknote, either the recto or the verso, and the number of banknotes chosen are totally at the discretion of the participant. However, all designs should be forwarded to the Bank in the manner prescribed in paragraph 6 above

(iii) Participants may be required to provide additional visual documentation in respect of their proposals

(iv) Participants need not take into account features that normally appear on banknotes, namely currency, signatures, languages, security features and other features to help the blind and the partially sighted. These will be incorporated at the time of printing

(v) Failure to abide by the Terms and Conditions and Participation Criteria, as laid down in the Participation Brochure, may lead to disqualification

(vi) The decision of the Jury Panel, including whether to accept a design or otherwise, shall be final and irrevocable

(vii) After submission of the designs to the Bank for the purpose of the competition, all copyright and ownership rights and use shall be deemed to have been transferred to the Bank and the Bank reserves the right to use the designs, either wholly or partly, at any time after the competition

(viii) The Bank also reserves the right to annul at any time the competition or not to use any selected design without thereby incurring any liability whatsoever to any participant or any obligation to inform the participants of the ground of its action

## **HISTORY OF BANKNOTES IN MAURITIUS**

Looking at the history of banknotes in Mauritius over the past century is like reading a book with many fascinating stories. Banknotes have been designed in different eras and they have different characteristics. From the early banknotes printed in two colours to the lively and complex designs of present day, banknotes in Mauritius have undergone significant changes in colour, size, pattern and security feature. A closer examination of the different families of banknotes issued so far in Mauritius shows that banknote design has been influenced by societal, economic and technological factors.

The evolution of banknote design in Mauritius reflects a number of features from simplicity and straightforwardness to a great variety and adoption of mythical figures and vignettes, the transformation from colonial styles to local features and a solemn representation and dignity of the note-issuing authority and the nation.

On 29 March 1934, the Currency Commissioners were required by Ordinance to issue currency notes for Mauritius. The currency notes were issued under the aegis of the Treasury.

As from 1966, the responsibility for the issue of notes and coins has been vested with the Bank of Mauritius. The Bank of Mauritius issued its first banknotes in 1967. The family of banknotes issued consisted of four denominations, namely the Rs5, Rs 10, Rs25 and Rs 50. Subsequently, four families of banknotes were issued. The major changes in the four denominations issued were the signatures of the Governors and the Managing Directors of the Bank of Mauritius appointed in the years following the first issue.

The fifth issue was effected in 1985 and consisted of a complete new family of banknotes of Rs5, Rs10, Rs20, Rs50, Rs100, Rs200, Rs500 and Rs1,000 denominations. A close scrutiny of these banknotes reveals an interesting array of subsets which were printed by two banknote printing companies. As these notes were also designed in different years, they had very few identical design features. Varying banknote numbering systems, different types of security threads, variations in the design and size of the Mauritian Coat

of Arms, different ultraviolet light latent printing, inconsistent variations in size between the denominations and multiple different type sets were just a few of the differences. That family of banknotes lasted up to 1998.

In 1998, a sixth family of banknotes consisting of 7 denominations, namely Rs25, Rs50, Rs100, Rs200, Rs500, Rs1,000 and Rs2,000 was issued. These banknotes were characterized by a standard format and were all issued simultaneously in November 1998. All the banknotes of that issue were printed in England by Thomas de la Rue Limited. These banknotes remained in circulation up to June 1999.

A seventh issue of banknotes was made in June 1999 and they are still in circulation. Specimen copies of the different families of banknotes put in circulation in Mauritius are shown in the appendix of this document.