



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**New Substrate (Paper) for \$50 Banknote**

Bank of Jamaica wishes to advise that as of **24 March 2014**, a new version of the \$50 banknote dated 1 June 2013 will be released into general circulation.

The features of the note remain virtually unchanged and will continue to have the portrait of National Hero, the Rt. Excellent Samuel Sharpe on the front and an image of Doctor's Cave Beach on the back. However, the horizontal serial number on the front right will have a different appearance. The serial number will now have a wave shape with the last three digits set against a blue background. This new feature will enable the BOJ to realise efficiency gains in note processing.

**\$50 on Hybrid<sup>®</sup>**

Additionally, the note will be printed on a material known as Hybrid<sup>®</sup>. Hybrid<sup>®</sup> is a combination of protective polyester film layered around a cotton fibre core. The cotton core will continue to be embedded with the usual security features such as the watermark and security thread, to ensure that the banknote remains secure against counterfeiting. The weight of this composite material is 112 grams per square metre. The polyester film in Hybrid<sup>®</sup> makes the banknotes more durable and ensures that they stay clean longer and remain firm even in extreme circulation conditions. Hybrid<sup>®</sup> therefore, improves soiling resistance while continuing to give the same touch and feel as notes printed on cotton.

This is the second banknote that is being printed on Hybrid<sup>®</sup>, the first being the 2012 Commemorative version of the \$100 banknote.

**Cost Savings**

While Hybrid<sup>®</sup> will cost more initially, the Bank expects to realize substantial savings as the notes will remain in circulation for up to 50% longer than the cotton version, thereby reducing the number of new notes required to refresh the circulation stock.

## Co-circulation

This new version of the \$50 banknote will circulate alongside the older versions which will not be withdrawn from circulation.



Front of 2013 Hybrid \$50 Banknote



Front of older version \$50 Banknote

*Bank of Jamaica*  
17 March 2014