

## Type 21A2

Type	Size of India
	Size of Setting
	Frame
	Style
	Inscription
	Wording
	Townmark
	Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
Variety	Format
	Inscription
	Positioning
	Inscription
	Sizing/Boldness
	Date
	Layout
	Date Text
	Size

Lic. No. BP06507, BotswanaPost, Gaborone Sorting Centre  
Bulk mail cover dated 4 December 2006 from Gaborone to destination within Botswana based on rate of 1.10 Pula for a standard letter posted by surface within the country.

This is a meter that BotswanaPost uses for imprinting bulk mailings. See also Types 21A3, 21A5, 21A6, and 21A7 for meters used by the post office in the same manner. The Postal Services is probably one of the oldest public services in Botswana, having been established in 1875 by the London Missionary Society. In those days, pairs of "runners" carried mail between various points on a stretch from Bulawayo up to Mafikeng. Historical records indicate that these runners (men on foot) carried up to 15,500 postal items of mail per annum. Subsequently, the post used the train and road transport contractors to deliver mail until the late 1990s, when BotswanaPost acquired its own fleet of delivery vehicles. The post office operated as a government department until 1989, when it was incorporated as a parastatal corporation and was rebranded as BotswanaPost.

The envelope is from Technique (Pty) Ltd. trading as Nashua Botswana. Nashua is an international company providing printers, copiers and other business solutions. As a bulk mail item, the envelope likely contained a bill being sent to a customer.



## Type 21A3

Type	Size of India
	Size of Setting
	Frame
	Style
	Inscription
	Wording
	Townmark
	Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
Variety	Format
	Inscription
	Positioning
	Inscription
	Sizing/Boldness
	Date
	Layout
	Date Text
	Size

Lic. No. BP06501, BotswanaPost, Gaborone Sorting Centre  
Bulk mail cover dated 16 September 2004 from Gaborone to destination within Botswana, based on a rate of 80 thebe for a standard letter posted by surface within the country.

As with Types 21A2, 21A5, 21A6 and 21A7, this is a meter that BotswanaPost uses for imprinting bulk mailings. Interestingly, even though it operates for the same organization out of the same facility as 21A2, the layout of the name in the townmark is different.

The envelope is from Barclays Bank of Botswana, a major personal services and commercial bank and as a bulk mail item, likely contained a statement. Interestingly, it does not appear that Barclays has acquired electronic meters despite operating its own meter prior to the required changeover to the new type of machines and is now using bulk mail services to deliver its statements and other mail.





## Type 21A4

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Inscription Sizing/Boldness
	Date Layout
Date Text Size	
Variety	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Inscription Sizing/Boldness
	Date Layout
Date Text Size	

Lic. No. BP06504, BOMaid, Gaborone Central  
Cover dated 5 May 2009 from Gaborone to destination within Botswana based on a rate of 1.10 Pula for a standard letter posted by surface within the country.

BOMaid is an acronym for The Botswana Medical Aid Society (see also Types 9D2 and 12E1). With BOMaid and other public and private health insurance schemes, people employed in Botswana have good access to health care even beyond the public health care system which offers free primary care to all citizens of Botswana.

## Type 21A5

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Inscription Sizing/Boldness
	Date Layout
Date Text Size	
Variety	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Inscription Sizing/Boldness
	Date Layout
Date Text Size	

Lic No. BP06527, BotswanaPost, Gaborone Sorting Centre  
Bulk mail cover dated 18 April 2007 from Gaborone to unknown destination within Botswana (and as this is likely a bill, within the city) based on a rate of 1.10 Pula for a standard letter posted by surface within the country.

As with Types 21A2, 21A3, 21A6 and 21A7, this is a meter that BotswanaPost uses for imprinting bulk mailings. Interestingly, even though all the marks are created for the Post Office, there are marked differences in their layout. This mark is very similar to 21A2 but the value mark has a triple tilde in front instead of a digit.

This envelope is from Gaborone City Council (see Type 19A1). It was likely used to send a tax or service bill.



## Type 21A6

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame
	Style
	Inscription
	Wording
	Townmark
	Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
Variety	Format
	Inscription
	Positioning
	Inscription
	Sizing/Boldness
	Date
	Layout
Date Text	
Size	

Lic. No. BP06501, BotswanaPost, Gaborone

Bulk mail cover dated 8 September 2004 from Gaborone. A possible destination is not able to be determined due to rating of 0.00 Pula. However, it could be summarised that this cover was used to mail an invoice from BotswanaPost, as they would not charge themselves, hence the lack of a rating in the value mark.

As with Types 21A2, 21A3, 21A5 and 21A7, this is a meter that BotswanaPost uses for imprinting bulk mailings. This meter mark has the same licence number as 21A3, but the font in the townmark is much larger and the word in the bottom of the townmark is "Botswana", not "Sorting". The mark also does not contain a BotswanaPost logo. While all the other marks have values ranging from 80 Thebe to 1.10 Pula, this mark has a value of 0.

The envelope is from Century Office Supplies (Pty) Ltd. (see also Type 9B1) and is likely associated with a bill.



## Type 21A7

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame
	Style
	Inscription
	Wording
	Townmark
	Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
Variety	Format
	Inscription
	Positioning
	Inscription
	Sizing/Boldness
	Date
	Layout
Date Text	
Size	

Lic. No. BP06516, BotswanaPost

Bulk mail cover dated 14 October 2010. Because meter mark has a solid ring in its datestamp, it is not possible to determine an originating destination, however, as it is a bulk mailing from BotswanaPost, and the company doing the mailing is located in the city, one can assume that it is from a mail sorting centre in Gaborone. The rate of 1.10 Pula is for a standard letter posted by surface mail within the country.

This is a meter that BotswanaPost uses for imprinting bulk mailings. See also Types 21A2, 21A3, 21A5, and 21A6 for meters used by the post office in the same manner. This meter mark has a solid ring in its datestamp, so no location is provided.

This envelope is from Onlex (Pty) Ltd. a business management consulting firm established in 2002. As a bulk mailer, this envelope was likely used to send advertising materials. Given that the company is located in Gaborone, it is likely that the BotswanaPost meter machine is located at a facility in that city.





## Type 21B1

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Date Layout
	Date Text Size
Variety	

Lic. No. BP06003, Bank of Botswana, Gaborone Central  
Cover dated 17 March 2006 from Gaborone to unknown destination within Botswana based on the rating of 80 thebe for a standard letter posted by surface mail within the country.

For additional information on the establishment of this central bank (similar to the US Federal Reserve), see Type 10A1. The Bank of Botswana is a respected supervisor and has shown good judgement in assessing banking licence applications. It has also balanced firm regulation with flexibility in allowing banks to pursue their commercial interests in the context of a sound and stable financial sector. Botswana has never had a banking crisis, and where banks have faced problems these have been dealt with without threatening the integrity of the banking system.



## Type 21B2

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Date Layout
	Date Text Size
Variety	

Lic. No. BP06021, Marsh (Pty) Ltd., Gaborone  
Cover dated 21 January 2008 from Gaborone. Rated at 1.00 Pula, the cover is 10 thebe under-rated for an envelope up to 120x235x20mm to a destination within the country.

Marsh is an insurance company that has grown out of a number of companies doing business in Botswana back to 1984, see Type 9D1. The current company is a subsidiary of Marsh & McLennan Companies, which is a global firm originating out of the United States offering insurance broking and risk management. Marsh currently provides insurance brokerage and risk advisory services to over 70 percent of the mines across the globe.

## Type 21B3

Type	Size of India
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Date Layout
	Date Text Size
Variety	

Lic. No. BP06100, Ngwaketse Land Board, Kanye  
Cover with meter mark on tape dated 31 December 2009 from Kanye to Gaborone, rated at 2.60 Pula for a large letter 229x324x20mm posted within the country.

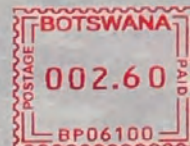
The Ngwaketse Land Board covers the area of the Bangwaketse Tribal Territory. Southern District Council (see Type 17A1) provides governance in the area, while the Ngwaketse Land Board allocates tribal land in the area. The Land Board and the District cover an area of 28,470 square kilometres and contain a population of approximately 198,000. The administrative capital of the area is the town of Kanye.

Land boards were established to provide a more effective management of tribal land. Before the independence, chiefs had been in charge for allocating land within each tribe. When the population of Botswana increased along with a more stable economy, it became difficult to execute land issues in a socially just way. The traditional administration process could not live up to the new developments and the needs for administration of tribal land.



P/Bag MK11  
Kanye  
Tel : 544 0343  
Fax: 544 0875

1  
00  
79  
08  
31  
49



THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS  
PIBAG 00128  
GABORONE  
ATTN O.C SELOLWANE

## Type 21B4

Type	Size of India
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Date Layout
	Date Text Size
Variety	

Lic. No. BP06081, Kgatleng Land Board, Mochudi  
Cover dated 29 January 2013 from Mochudi to Gaborone, rated at 3.20 Pula for a standard letter posted by surface mail within the country.

The Kgatleng Land Board covers the Bakgata Tribal Territory and its area corresponds to Kgatleng District. The population of the 7,960 square kilometre area is approximately 91,000. The administrative capital of the area is the village of Mochudi. The Kgatleng Land Board commenced operations in 1970.

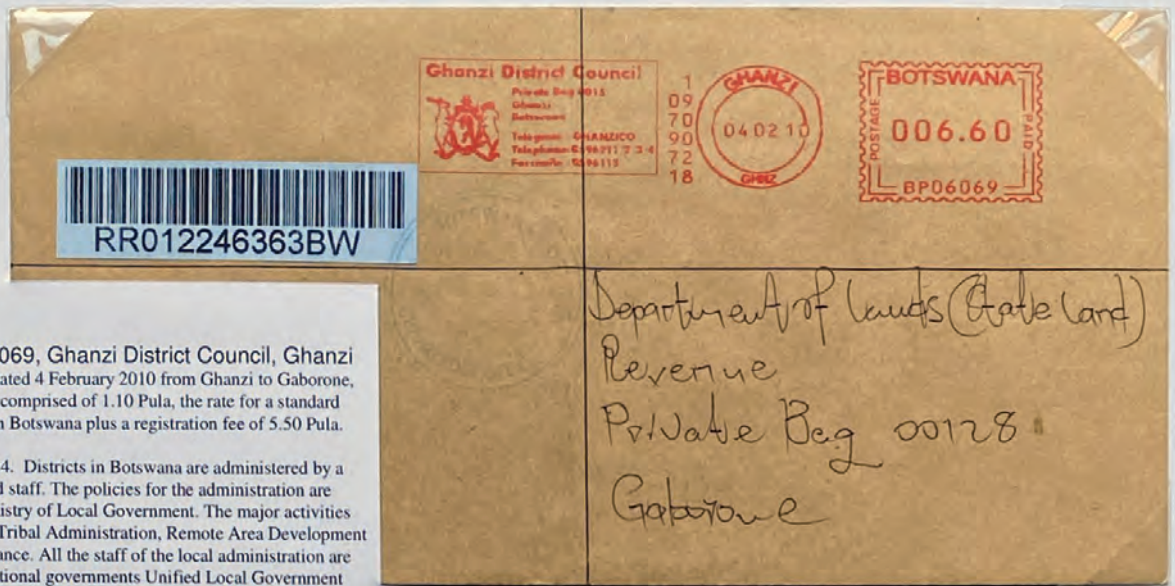


Private Bag 04  
Mochudi  
Botswana  
Tel: (267) 577 7217  
Fax: (267) 574 8247

1  
30  
81  
15  
01  
02



P/Bag 00128 Gaborone



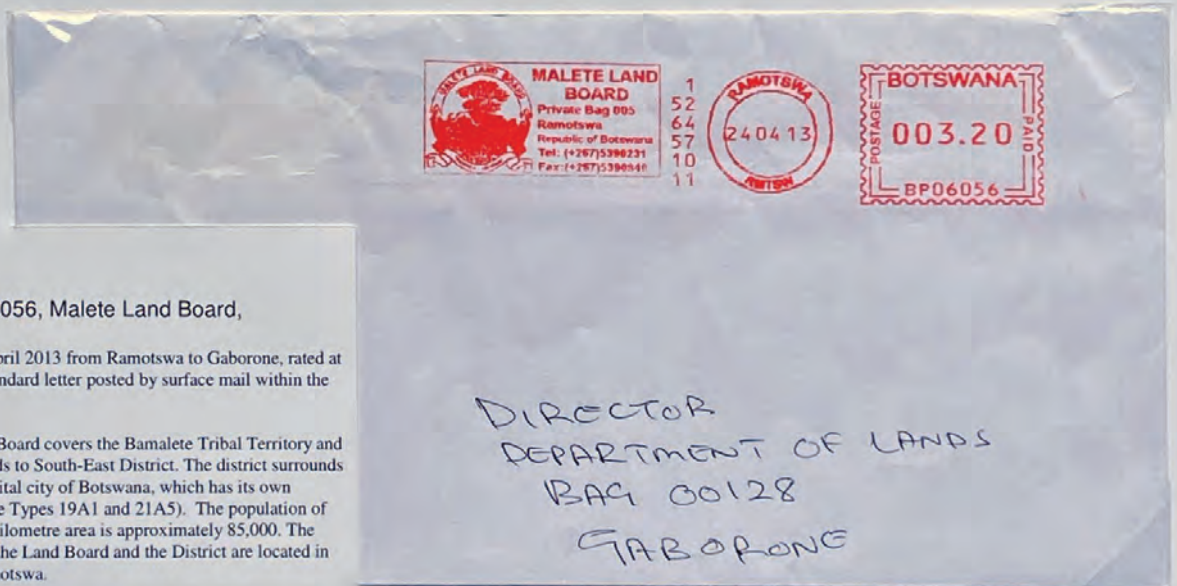
## Type 21B5

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Date Layout
	Date Text Size
Variety	

Lic. No. BP06069, Ghanzi District Council, Ghanzi  
Registered cover dated 4 February 2010 from Ghanzi to Gaborone, rated at 6.60 Pula, comprised of 1.10 Pula, the rate for a standard letter posted within Botswana plus a registration fee of 5.50 Pula.

See also Type 12B4. Districts in Botswana are administered by a district council and staff. The policies for the administration are framed by the Ministry of Local Government. The major activities of the council are Tribal Administration, Remote Area Development and Local Governance. All the staff of the local administration are selected via the national governments Unified Local Government Services and the Ministry of Local Government is responsible for their training, deployment and career development.

Department of Lands (Gaborone Land)  
Revenue  
Private Bag 00128  
Gaborone



## Type 21B6

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Date Layout
	Date Text Size
Variety	

Lic. No. BP06056, Malete Land Board,  
Ramotswa  
Cover dated 24 April 2013 from Ramotswa to Gaborone, rated at 3.20 Pula for a standard letter posted by surface mail within the country

The Malete Land Board covers the Bamalete Tribal Territory and its area corresponds to South-East District. The district surrounds Gaborone, the capital city of Botswana, which has its own administration (see Types 19A1 and 21A5). The population of the 1,780 square kilometre area is approximately 85,000. The administration of the Land Board and the District are located in the village of Ramotswa.

DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS  
BAG 00128  
GABORONE

## Type 21B7

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
	Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Inscription Sizing/Boldness
Variety	Date
	Layout
	Date Text
	Size

Lic. No. BP06105, Jwaneng Town Council, Jwaneng  
Cover dated 1 February 2010 from Jwaneng to Gaborone, rated at 1.10 Pula for a standard letter posted by surface mail within the country.

For a description of the origin of the Town of Jwaneng, see Type 10A2. At its inception, Jwaneng was a 'closed town', meaning that permission was needed from the owners of the mine, Debswana, to live there. The town soon became an open community and it now has a population of around 18,000 people.

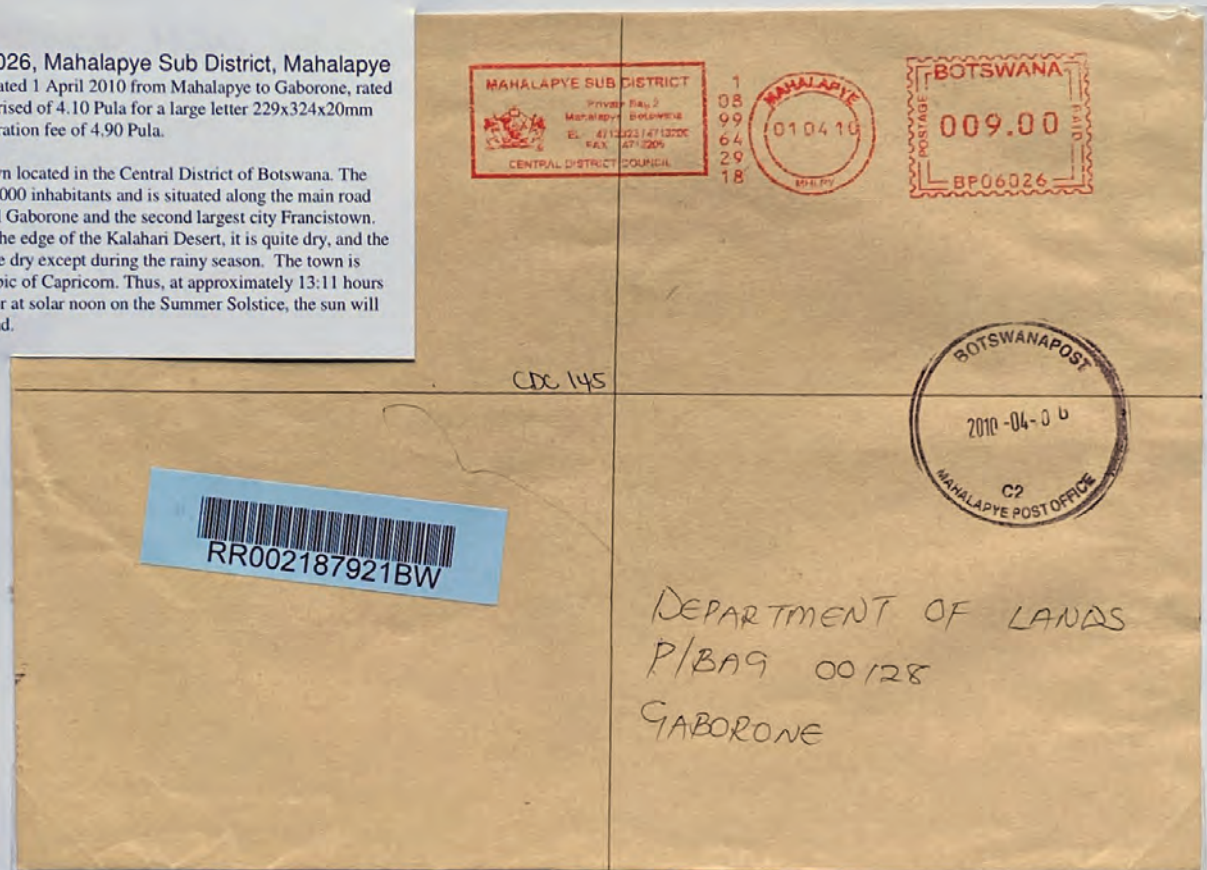


## Type 21B8

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
	Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Inscription Sizing/Boldness
Variety	Date
	Layout
	Date Text
	Size

Lic. No. BP06026, Mahalapye Sub District, Mahalapye  
Registered cover dated 1 April 2010 from Mahalapye to Gaborone, rated at 9.00 Pula, comprised of 4.10 Pula for a large letter 229x324x20mm posted and a registration fee of 4.90 Pula.

Mahalapye is a town located in the Central District of Botswana. The town has about 41,000 inhabitants and is situated along the main road between the capital Gaborone and the second largest city Francistown. Being situated on the edge of the Kalahari Desert, it is quite dry, and the local waterways are dry except during the rainy season. The town is located on the Tropic of Capricorn. Thus, at approximately 13:11 hours on 21 December, or at solar noon on the Summer Solstice, the sun will be directly overhead.



## Type 21B9

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame
	Style
	Inscription
	Wording
	Townmark
	Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
Variety	Format
	Inscription
	Positioning
	Inscription
	Sizing/Boldness
	Date
	Layout
Date Text	
Size	

Lic. No. BP06020, Chobe Land Board,  
Kasane

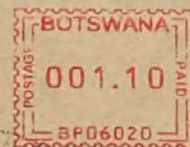
Cover dated 30 November 2009 from Kasane to Gaborone,  
rated at 1.10 Pula for a standard letter posted by surface mail  
within the country.

Following the original establishment of the lands boards  
covering traditional tribal territories in 1968, demand arose  
in those areas where significant populations resided on state  
land (where they had the status of tenants without clearly  
defined rights) for these areas to become tribal land where  
land would be administered by a land board.

In order to address this issue, the Botswana government established four  
new tribal areas, each with its own land board, where large tracts of state  
land, occupied by a distinctive community, were tribalised. One of these  
areas was the Chobe Tribal Area, where the Chobe Land Board was  
established in the early 1970s.



1  
70  
89  
20  
51



ment of Lands

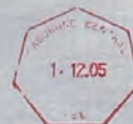
be Bag 00128

Gaborone

From the Desk of  
Mokgadi K. Nteta



**KGALAGADI  
BREWRIES**  
(PTY) LTD.



**Mr. Tommy Egner**  
Managing Director  
Quick Print  
P O Box 40313  
GABORONE

## Type 21C1

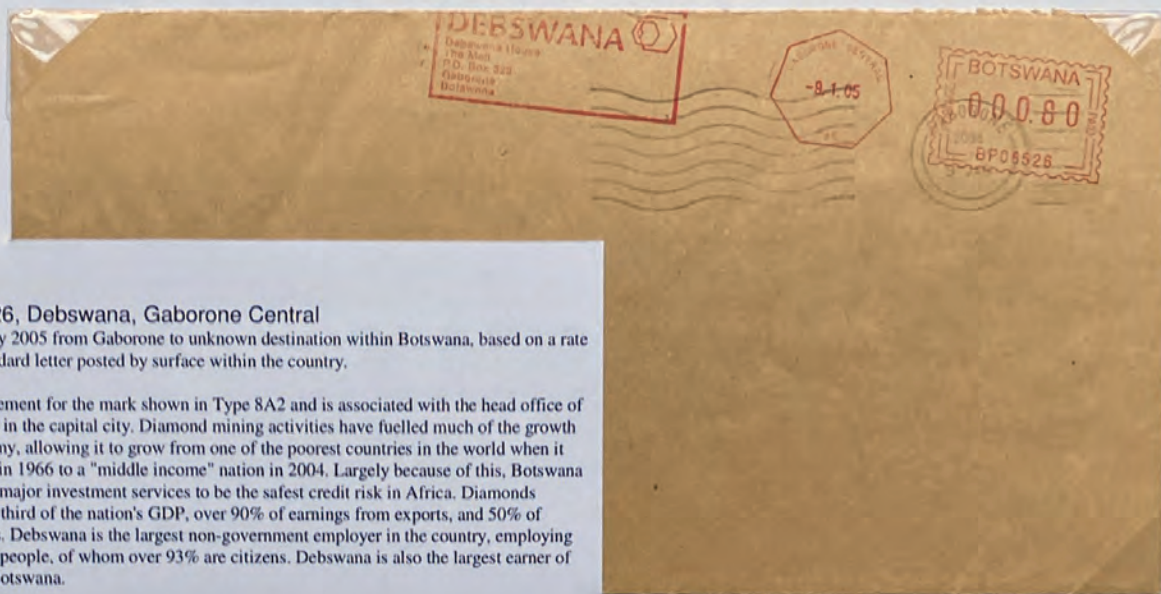
Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame
	Style
	Inscription
	Wording
	Townmark
	Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
Variety	Format
	Inscription
	Positioning
	Inscription
	Sizing/Boldness
	Date
	Layout
Date Text	
Size	

Lic. No. BP06505, Kgalagadi Breweries (Pty) Ltd.,  
Gaborone Central

Cover dated 1 December 2005 from Gaborone to a destination within the city,  
rated at 1.20 Pula, which is assumed to be an inversion of the proper rate or  
2.10 Pula for a large letter 229x324x20mm posted within the country.

In the late 1970s, Kgalagadi Breweries Ltd. (KBL) began bottling Coca-Cola  
products. The brewery later launched the first indigenous beer, St. Louis  
Lager in 1989, before acquiring Segwana Liquor Distributors in 1991 and  
commissioning a sparkling soft drinks plant in 1995. KBL operates four  
traditional beer breweries, a clear beer brewery, a sparkling soft drinks  
production plant and six sales and distribution depots around the country. See  
Type 9A5 for an older mark for this company.



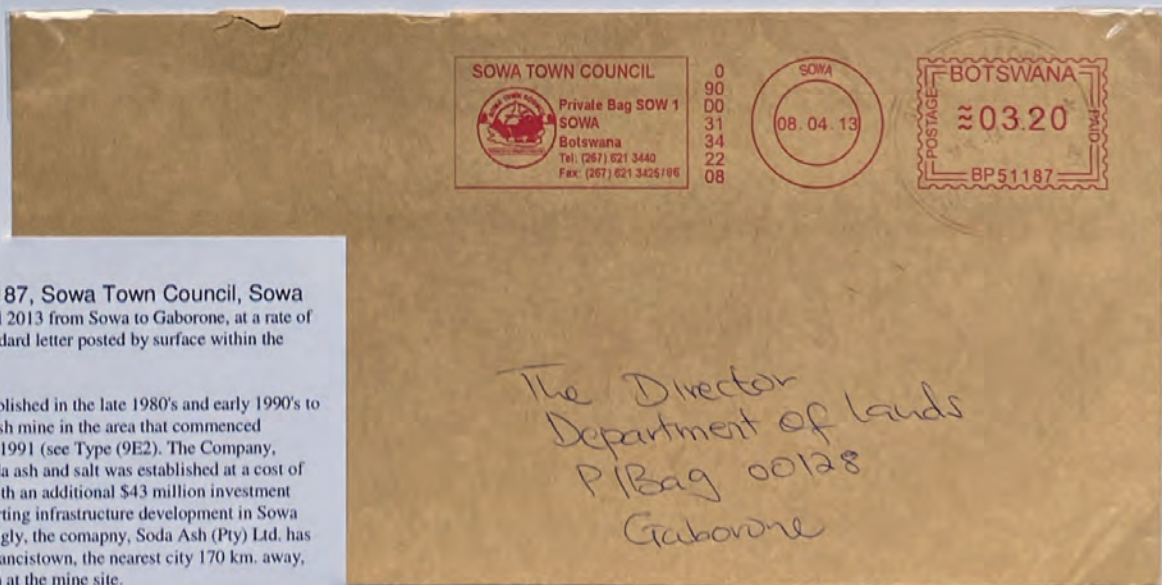


## Type 21C2

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
	Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Sizing/Boldness
Variety	Date Layout
	Date Text
	Date Text
	Size

Lic. No. BP06526, Debswana, Gaborone Central  
Cover dated 9 January 2005 from Gaborone to unknown destination within Botswana, based on a rate of 80 thebe for a standard letter posted by surface within the country.

This mark is a replacement for the mark shown in Type 8A2 and is associated with the head office of the company, located in the capital city. Diamond mining activities have fuelled much of the growth in Botswana's economy, allowing it to grow from one of the poorest countries in the world when it became independent in 1966 to a "middle income" nation in 2004. Largely because of this, Botswana is considered by two major investment services to be the safest credit risk in Africa. Diamonds account for fully one third of the nation's GDP, over 90% of earnings from exports, and 50% of government revenues. Debswana is the largest non-government employer in the country, employing approximately 6,300 people, of whom over 93% are citizens. Debswana is also the largest earner of foreign currency in Botswana.



## Type 21D1

Type	Size of Indicia
	Size of Setting
	Frame Style
	Inscription Wording
	Townmark Circles
	Text in Bottom of Townmark
	Value
	Format
	Inscription Positioning
	Sizing/Boldness
Variety	Date Layout
	Date Text
	Date Text
	Size

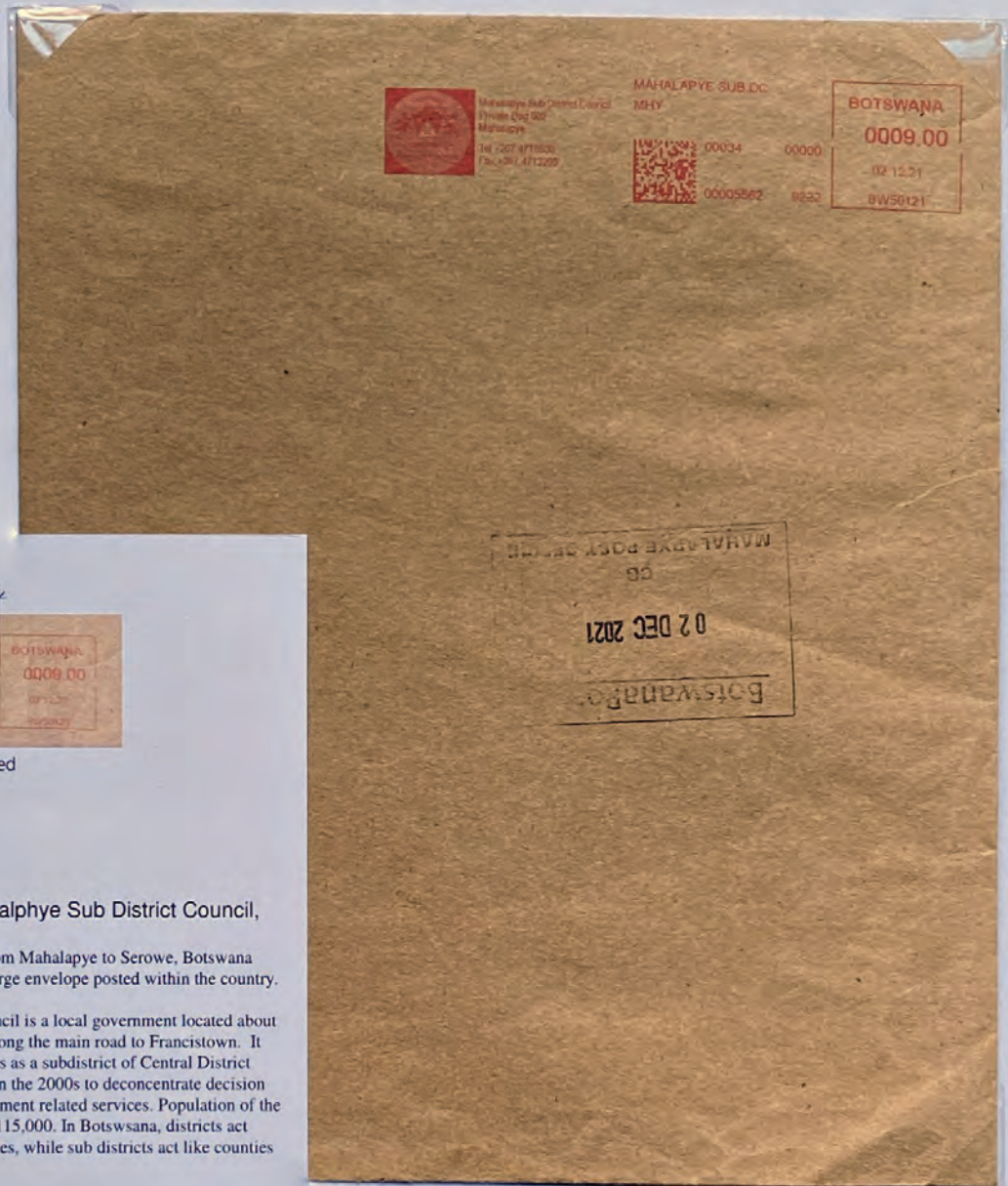
Lic. No. BP51187, Sowa Town Council, Sowa  
Cover dated 8 April 2013 from Sowa to Gaborone, at a rate of 3.20 Pula for a standard letter posted by surface within the country.

This town was established in the late 1980's and early 1990's to support the Soda Ash mine in the area that commenced operations in April 1991 (see Type (9E2)). The Company, which produces soda ash and salt was established at a cost of US\$318 million, with an additional \$43 million investment allocated for supporting infrastructure development in Sowa township. Interestingly, the company, Soda Ash (Pty) Ltd. has its head office in Francistown, the nearest city 170 km. away, rather than the town at the mine site.

## Group 22

This type illustrates a new digital meter machines very recently introduced to Botswana. Note the presence of a laser readable block or datamatrix.

Meter Type Number	Size of Indicia	Size of Setting	Frame Style	Inscription Wording	Townmark Circles	Text in Bottom of Townmark	Value Format	Inscription Positioning	Inscription Sizing/Boldness	Date Layout	Date Text Size	Machine Type
22A1	25 x 25 mm	26 mm	1	1	n/a	n/a	0000.00	1	1	1	1	Neopost "IS" or "IX" (MV)



Copy of mark showing how setting is measured (reduced to 75%)

## Type 22A1

Type	Variety	Description
Size of Indicia		Lic. No. BW501212, Mahalphye Sub District Council, Mahalapye
Size of Setting		Cover dated 2 December 2021 from Mahalapye to Serowe, Botswana based on rate of 9.00 Pula for a large envelope posted within the country.
Frame Style		
Inscription Wording		
Townmark Circles		
Text in Bottom of Townmark		The Mahalapye Sub District Council is a local government located about 200 km. northeast of Gaborone along the main road to Francistown. It was originally created in the 1980s as a subdistrict of Central District and was given expanded powers in the 2000s to deconcentrate decision making and better provide government related services. Population of the subdistrict area is approximately 115,000. In Botswana, districts act similar to states in the United States, while sub districts act like counties or municipalities.
Value Format		
Inscription Positioning		
Inscription Sizing/Boldness		
Date		
Layout		
Date Text Size		
Size		

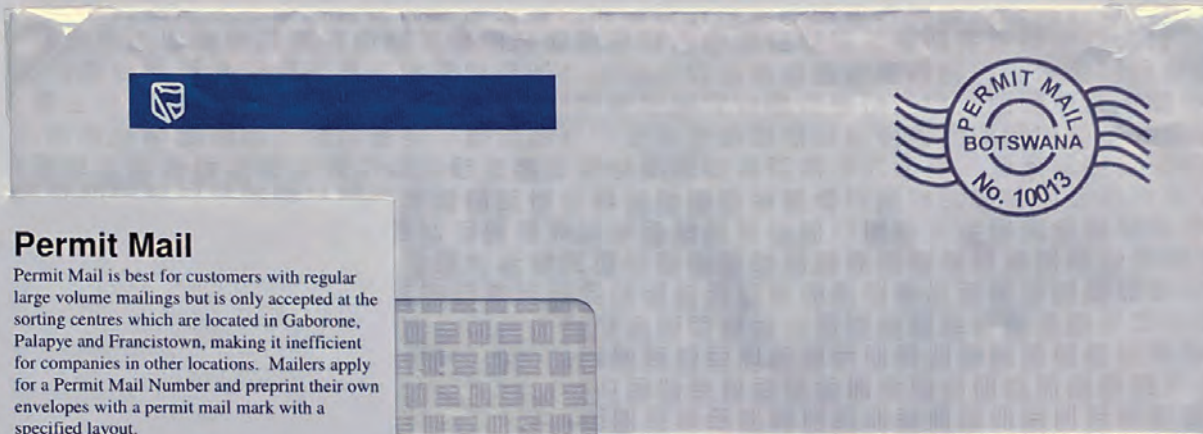
## Other forms of large volume mailing in Botswana

Enabling the use of meter machines is not the only way that BotswanaPost supports large volume mailers. Other forms include Postage Paid mail handling, Permit Mail and Bulk Mail.



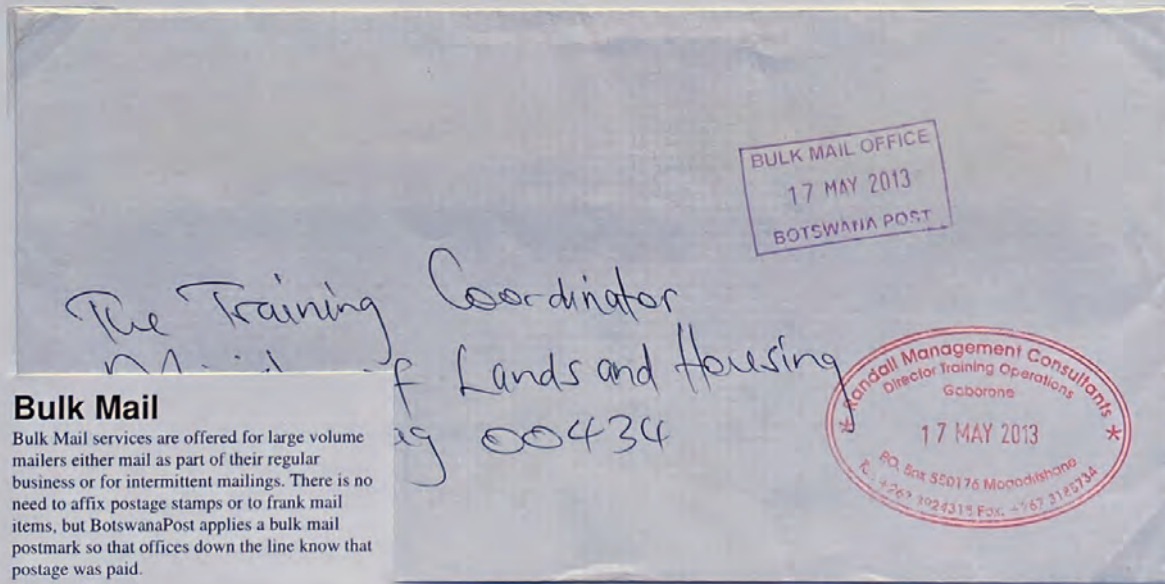
### Postage Paid

The Postage Paid postmark is used by BotswanaPost when providing a service similar to bulk mail services. In reviewing the postmarks bearing this text, it appears that it is only available at the sorting centres. In addition to applying a handstamp denoting the use of the bulk mail service, the Gaborone centre appears to have an automated means of applying the postmark, while Francistown appears to have only a handstamp. No mark denoting bulk mail services at Palapye has been identified by the exhibitor.



### Permit Mail

Permit Mail is best for customers with regular large volume mailings but is only accepted at the sorting centres which are located in Gaborone, Palapye and Francistown, making it inefficient for companies in other locations. Mailers apply for a Permit Mail Number and preprint their own envelopes with a permit mail mark with a specified layout.



### Bulk Mail

Bulk Mail services are offered for large volume mailers either mail as part of their regular business or for intermittent mailings. There is no need to affix postage stamps or to frank mail items, but BotswanaPost applies a bulk mail postmark so that offices down the line know that postage was paid.

# A Typology of Botswana Meter Marks

## Typology Endnotes

- a. Bottom of outer townmark circle aligns with bottom of indicia frame unlike 2A4, which is not aligned.
- b. Larger space between 'Botswana' and 'Postage Paid' and licence number is also higher from the bottom of the frame.
- c. Licence number and prefix higher from bottom of the frame.
- d. Licence prefix letters are different sizes.
- e. 'Postage Paid' is located in the bottom of the mark and there is no partial second line at the top of the mark.
- f. The small extensions on both sides of the opening at the bottom of the frame is a minor variation, which is not significant enough to require a change in type.
- g. The small extension on the right side of the opening at the bottom of the frame is a minor variation, which is not significant enough to require a change in type.
- h. While there is a range of settings in this group, the variations are not as obvious as differences in inscription wording. Therefore, inscription wording was chosen as the primary indicator of types within this group.
- i. Small tabs at all 4 corners of indicia.
- j. Large tabs at all 4 corners of indicia.
- k. Large tabs on top corners and small tabs on bottom corners of indicia.
- l. Licence prefix 'R' is centred under 'P' in 'Postage', and not aligned with the left side of it.
- m. Last 2 digits of licence number are smaller than 12A1.
- n. Inscription font generally bolder.
- o. Licence number is very small.
- p. Middle digit of licence number is smaller than others.
- p. Middle digit of licence number is smaller than others.
- q. Licence number is bolder.
- r. Location of value is different.
- s. '0' is missing in date.
- t. Licence prefix and numbers are larger.
- u. 'Botswana' is in bottom of datestamp.
- v. Date encroaches into townmark frame on right due to shift of townmark to the left.
- w. Text in bottom of datestamp is curved.

## References

- Case, John. June, 1971. Meter Stamp Bulletin. Journal of the Meter Stamp Study Group. No. 95 (vol. XI, No. 7). p. 78.
- Inglefield-Watson, John. September, 1991. 'Meter Marks' in The Runner Post, the Journal of the Bechuanalands and Botswana Society, Issue 24. p.454.
- Pyle, Robert L. et al. 1951. Classification of United States Postage Meter Prints. The Meter Stamp Society and Meter-Slogan Associates.
- Smith, Gordon. Botswana Meter Marks web site . Accessed on the world wide web on 10 May 2015 at [www.postalhistory.ca](http://www.postalhistory.ca).
- Stambaugh, Rick and Hawkins, Joel. The International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog, Botswana Section. Originally published as a book in 2005, now accessible as a wikibook on the world wide web at:  
[http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International\\_Postage\\_Meter\\_Stamp\\_Catalog/Botswana](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog/Botswana)