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Kamoa-Kakula's Copper Surge: Inside the World's Fastest-Growing Mining Giant and What It Means for Africa's Future



By MWK
June 2026

In the heart of Central Africa, a mining project once considered ambitious is now redefining the global copper market. The Kamoa-Kakula Copper Complex has rapidly evolved into one of the most significant copper operations in the world, delivering extraordinary production growth that is reshaping supply dynamics, influencing commodity markets, and positioning Africa at the center of the global energy transition.

What sets Kamoa-Kakula apart is not just the scale of its output, but the speed, efficiency, and strategic vision behind its development. At a time when the world is racing toward electrification and decarbonization, the project has emerged as a cornerstone asset in meeting the rising demand for copper—a metal often described as the "backbone of the green economy."

A Project Built for Scale and Speed

The story of Kamoa-Kakula is one of calculated ambition and disciplined execution. Developed through a partnership between Ivanhoe Mines and Zijin Mining Group, alongside the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the project has consistently outperformed industry expectations.

From its earliest stages, Kamoa-Kakula was designed as a multi-phase development, allowing production capacity to scale rapidly in response to market demand. Each phase has been meticulously planned to integrate seamlessly with the next, minimizing downtime and maximizing efficiency.

The results speak for themselves. Within a relatively short period, the complex has transitioned from initial production to a multi-concentrator operation with output levels rivaling some of the world's longest-established copper mines. New concentrator plants have come online ahead of schedule, and throughput rates have exceeded design capacity—clear indicators of strong operational management and high-quality ore bodies.

Unlike many mining projects that struggle with declining grades over time, Kamoa-Kakula benefits from exceptionally high-grade deposits. This geological advantage allows for greater metal







recovery with lower energy input, enhancing both profitability and sustainability.

Production Growth That Is Rewriting the Copper Map

Global copper markets are undergoing a profound transformation. As demand accelerates—driven by renewable energy, electric vehicles, and infrastructure expansion—supply constraints have become a growing concern. Many traditional copper-producing regions are facing declining ore grades, aging infrastructure, and regulatory challenges.

Against this backdrop, Kamoa-Kakula's rapid production growth stands out as a rare success story. Recent expansions have pushed annualized copper output to levels that place the operation firmly within the ranks of the world's top producers. Industry forecasts suggest that with upcoming phases, the complex could soon rank as the second-largest copper mining operation globally.

This surge in output is not merely incremental—it is transformative. By adding significant volumes of high-grade copper to the market, Kamoa-Kakula is helping to stabilize supply chains and moderate price volatility in an otherwise tight market.

Moreover, the project's ability to scale efficiently provides a blueprint for future mining developments, demonstrating how strategic planning, modern technology, and strong partnerships can accelerate production timelines without compromising quality.

Copper and the Energy Transition: A Strategic Imperative

To understand the global significance of Kamoa-Kakula, one must first appreciate the central role of copper in the energy transition.

Copper is indispensable in modern energy systems. It is used extensively in solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicle motors, power grids, and energy storage systems. As countries around the world commit to reducing carbon emissions, demand for copper is expected to rise dramatically over the coming decades.

Some estimates suggest that global copper demand could double by 2040, driven largely by electrification trends. Yet, supply growth has not kept pace with this surge in demand, raising concerns about potential shortages.

This is where Kamoa-Kakula becomes critically important.

By delivering large volumes of high-quality copper, the project is helping to close the supply gap at a time when new discoveries are becoming increasingly rare. Its low-cost production profile also





ensures that it remains competitive even in fluctuating market conditions.

Equally significant is the project's relatively low environmental footprint. Powered largely by hydroelectric energy, Kamoa-Kakula produces copper with lower carbon emissions compared to many traditional mining operations. This aligns with the growing demand for "green copper"—a term used to describe sustainably produced metal.

Economic Transformation in the DRC

Beyond its global impact, Kamoa-Kakula is playing a transformative role within the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The mining sector has long been a cornerstone of the country's economy, but projects like Kamoa-Kakula are redefining what is possible in terms of scale, efficiency, and value creation.

Job Creation and Skills Development

The project has created thousands of direct and indirect jobs, providing employment opportunities for local communities and contributing to skills development in the region. Training programs have been implemented to ensure that Congolese workers are equipped with the technical expertise required for modern mining operations.

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Local Procurement and Business Growth

Kamoa-Kakula has also prioritized local procurement, supporting the growth of domestic businesses and supply chains. From construction materials to logistics services, local companies are benefiting from increased demand generated by the project.

Government Revenues and National Development

Through taxes, royalties, and dividends, the project is contributing substantial revenues to the government. These funds have the potential to support infrastructure development, healthcare, education, and other critical sectors.

In a country where economic diversification remains a priority, the success of Kamoa-Kakula offers a pathway toward sustainable growth.

Infrastructure as a Catalyst for Growth

One of the less visible but equally important aspects of the project is its contribution to infrastructure development.

Mining operations of this scale require significant investments in power, transportation, and logistics. At Kamoa-Kakula, these investments are not only supporting the mine itself but also benefiting surrounding communities and industries.

Power Supply and Sustainability

Reliable power is essential for large-scale mining operations. The project's reliance on hydroelectric power not only reduces carbon emissions but also strengthens the region's energy infrastructure.

Transport and Logistics Networks

Roads, rail links, and export corridors developed for the project are improving connectivity across the region. These networks facilitate trade and open up new economic opportunities beyond mining.

Challenges and Risk Factors

Despite its successes, Kamoa-Kakula operates within a complex environment that presents both opportunities and challenges.





Regulatory and Political Dynamics

The mining sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is subject to evolving regulations and policy frameworks. Ensuring stability and transparency will be critical to maintaining investor confidence and sustaining long-term growth.

Commodity Price Volatility

Copper prices are influenced by global economic conditions, making them inherently volatile. While Kamoa-Kakula's low-cost structure provides a buffer, fluctuations in market prices can still impact revenues.

Environmental and Social Considerations

As with any large-scale mining project, environmental and social impacts must be carefully managed. Ongoing engagement with local communities and adherence to international sustainability standards will be essential to maintaining the project's social license to operate.

A Model for Future African Mining Projects

Kamoa-Kakula is more than just a mining operation—it is a case study in how to develop large-scale resource projects in Africa.

Its success highlights several key lessons:

- **Strategic Partnerships Matter:** Collaboration between international investors and local stakeholders can unlock significant value.
- **Phased Development Reduces Risk:** Incremental expansion allows for flexibility and scalability.
- **Sustainability Is No Longer Optional:** Projects that prioritize environmental responsibility are better positioned for long-term success.
- **Infrastructure Investment Multiplies Impact:** Mining projects can serve as catalysts for broader economic development.

These lessons are particularly relevant for other resource-rich countries in East and Central Africa, where similar opportunities exist.





The Road Ahead: Toward Global Leadership

Looking to the future, the outlook for Kamoa-Kakula remains exceptionally strong.

Exploration activities across the broader Kamoa district continue to reveal additional high-grade resources, suggesting that the project's growth trajectory is far from over. Planned expansions are expected to further increase production capacity, potentially elevating the complex to one of the top two copper producers globally.

For Ivanhoe Mines, the project represents a flagship asset that underscores its ability to deliver world-class mining developments. For Zijin Mining Group, it is a strategic investment that strengthens its global footprint.

For Africa, however, the significance runs deeper.

Kamoa-Kakula demonstrates that the continent can host mining projects that are not only large and profitable but also efficient, sustainable, and globally competitive. It challenges outdated perceptions and sets a new benchmark for what African mining can achieve.



Conclusion: A Defining Moment for Copper and Africa

As the world navigates the complexities of the energy transition, the importance of reliable, sustainable copper supply cannot be overstated. The Kamoa-Kakula Copper Complex has emerged as a critical player in this landscape, delivering production growth at a scale and speed rarely seen in the mining industry.

Its impact extends far beyond the boundaries of the mine itself—shaping global markets, driving economic development, and redefining the role of Africa in the global resource economy.

In many ways, Kamoa-Kakula is not just a success story; it is a signal of what lies ahead. As demand for critical minerals continues to rise, projects that combine scale, sustainability, and strategic vision will lead the way.

And for now, all eyes are on Kamoa-Kakula.

Botswana's Strategic Shift: Expanding into Critical Minerals to Power the Future Economy

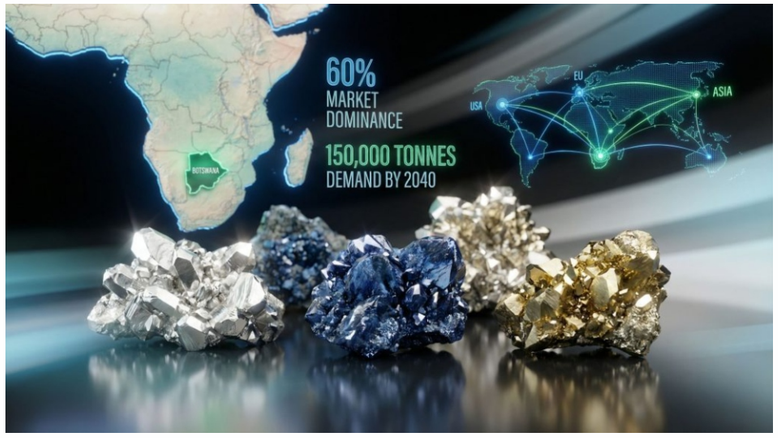


By MWK

June 2026

For decades, Botswana has stood as one of Africa's most remarkable economic success stories—built largely on the back of diamonds. From independence in 1966 to its rise as the world's leading producer of diamonds by value, the country leveraged its mineral wealth with discipline and stability. Yet, as global markets evolve and traditional revenue streams face mounting pressure, Botswana is now embarking on one of the most significant transformations in its modern history: a deliberate and accelerated pivot into critical minerals.

This shift is not merely a diversification strategy—it is a structural reorientation of the country's economic model, aligning Botswana with the rapidly expanding global demand for minerals essential to clean energy, digital infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing.



The End of an Era: Why Botswana Is Moving Beyond Diamonds

Diamonds have long been the backbone of Botswana's economy, accounting for roughly one-third of government revenue and a dominant share of exports. However, the global diamond market is undergoing profound disruption.

A combination of economic uncertainty, declining luxury demand, and the rapid rise of lab-grown diamonds has weakened prices and reduced revenues. Recent downturns have even led to production cuts and stockpiling challenges, highlighting the vulnerability of a single-commodity economy.



Recognizing these risks, policymakers have begun to rethink Botswana's long-term economic trajectory. The message from government and industry leaders is clear: the future lies in diversification—and critical minerals are at the center of that vision.

Critical Minerals: Botswana's New Frontier

Critical minerals—such as copper, cobalt, lithium, nickel, graphite, and rare earth elements—are essential for modern technologies. They power electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, batteries, and global telecommunications infrastructure.

Botswana is positioning itself to become a key supplier of these materials.

Recent developments highlight the



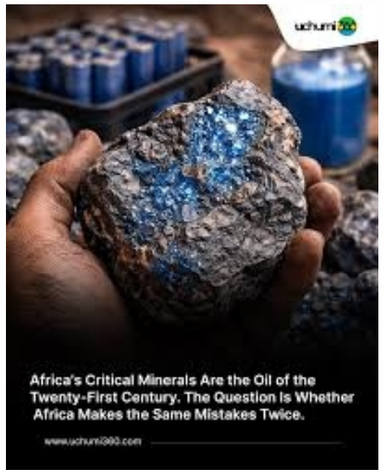
scale of ambition. In April 2026, Botswana signed major mineral exploration agreements with international partners, targeting copper, gold, graphite, and iron ore across approximately 70% of the country's largely unexplored territory.

This is a remarkable statistic: the majority of Botswana's geological potential remains untapped. By opening up these areas to systematic exploration, the country is effectively rewriting its mineral future.

At the same time, growing global demand for minerals such as copper and lithium—driven by electrification and decarbonization—has created a favorable investment environment. Botswana's entry into this space is both timely and strategic.

The Kalahari Copper Belt and Emerging Discoveries

One of the most promising regions driving Botswana's critical minerals expansion is the Kalahari Copper Belt. This geological formation, which extends into neighboring Namibia, has become a focal point for exploration and development.



New copper anomalies and mineralization zones are being identified, including extensive copper and silver corridors across large landholdings.

At the same time, companies are reporting discoveries of rare earth elements and other critical minerals in north-western Botswana, signaling the potential for entirely new mining subsectors to emerge.

These discoveries are not isolated—they represent the early stages of what could become a major mining boom.







From Exploration to Industrialization

Botswana's strategy goes beyond simply extracting minerals. The government is increasingly focused on beneficiation—the process of adding value locally through refining, processing, and manufacturing.

Historically, Botswana has successfully implemented this approach in the diamond sector, developing a domestic cutting and polishing industry. Now, similar principles are being applied to critical minerals.

Efforts are underway to promote local processing of copper, nickel, and other base metals, ensuring that a greater share of value is retained within the country.

This approach has several advantages:

- **Economic diversification:** Reduces reliance on raw exports
- **Job creation:** Expands industrial employment opportunities
- **Technology transfer:** Builds technical expertise and innovation capacity
- **Revenue growth:** Increases export value and tax income

By integrating mining with industrial development, Botswana aims to avoid the “resource curse” that has affected many resource-rich economies.

Energy, Infrastructure, and Strategic Partnerships

The expansion into critical minerals is closely linked to broader investments in energy and infrastructure.

A key component of Botswana's strategy is the development of renewable energy capacity. Recent agreements include plans for a 500-megawatt solar power plant, aimed at increasing the country's renewable energy share from 8% to 50% by 2030.

This is significant for two reasons:

1. **Energy security:** Reliable power is essential for mining and processing operations
2. **Sustainability:** Low-carbon energy enhances the global competitiveness of Botswana's minerals

In parallel, partnerships with international investors—from the Middle East to North America—are helping to finance exploration, infrastructure, and industrial projects.

Botswana's reputation for political stability, transparent governance, and investor-friendly policies makes it an attractive destination for foreign direct investment.



Copper, Nickel, and the Rise of Base Metals

While much attention is focused on future-facing minerals like lithium and rare earths, Botswana is also experiencing a resurgence in traditional base metals such as copper and nickel.

New projects and revived operations are contributing to increased production and exploration activity. These developments are being accompanied by updated regulatory frameworks, including stricter environmental and safety standards designed to ensure sustainable mining practices.

The reopening of mines and the development of new deposits are expected to generate billions of dollars in revenue and thousands of jobs, reinforcing the sector's importance to the national economy.



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Global Context: Botswana in the Critical Minerals Race

Botswana's expansion into critical minerals is part of a broader global trend.

Countries around the world are competing to secure supply chains for materials essential to the energy transition. Initiatives such as the Minerals Security Partnership reflect the growing geopolitical importance of these resources.

Africa, with its vast mineral wealth, is emerging as a key battleground in this competition. While countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia dominate in copper and cobalt, Botswana is positioning itself as a stable and reliable alternative.

Its strategic advantages include:

- Strong governance and low corruption levels
- Established mining expertise
- Untapped geological potential
- Proximity to regional transport corridors

These factors give Botswana a competitive edge in attracting investment and integrating into global supply chains.

Challenges on the Path Forward

Despite its promising outlook, Botswana's critical minerals strategy faces several challenges.

Exploration Risk

Mining exploration is inherently uncertain. Not all projects will lead to commercially viable discoveries, and significant upfront investment is required.

Infrastructure Gaps

While progress is being made, additional investments in transport, water, and power infrastructure will be needed to support large-scale mining operations.

Market Volatility

Prices for critical minerals can be highly volatile, influenced by technological changes, geopolitical dynamics, and shifts in global demand.

Balancing Sustainability

Ensuring that mining expansion does not come at the expense of environmental and social standards will be critical to maintaining long-term viability.

A New Economic Model in the Making

What is unfolding in Botswana is more than a mining story—it is a transformation of an entire economic model.

The country is moving from a mono-commodity dependency toward a diversified, multi-mineral economy integrated with global industrial trends. Critical minerals are not replacing diamonds overnight, but they are steadily reshaping the structure of the economy.

Importantly, this transition is being managed proactively, rather than reactively. Policymakers are leveraging lessons from decades of diamond governance to build a more resilient and inclusive mining sector.

Implications for Africa and Beyond

Botswana's strategy carries broader implications for the African continent.

It demonstrates that resource-rich countries can:

- Anticipate global market shifts
- Diversify before crises deepen
- Leverage mineral wealth for industrial development
- Attract investment through stability and transparency

As demand for critical minerals continues to grow, Botswana's experience may serve as a model for other nations seeking to navigate the complexities of the energy transition.

Conclusion: From Diamonds to the Minerals of the Future

Botswana's expansion into critical minerals marks a defining moment in its economic evolution.

What began as a diamond-driven success story is now entering a new chapter—one shaped by copper, nickel, graphite, rare earths, and the technologies they enable.

The road ahead will not be without challenges, but the foundations are strong. With vast unexplored territory, strategic partnerships, and a clear policy direction, Botswana is positioning itself as a key player in the global critical minerals economy.

In an era defined by electrification, decarbonization, and digital transformation, the country's mineral wealth may once again prove to be its greatest asset—this time, powering not just its own future, but the future of the world.



West Africa's Gold Exploration Boom: A New Frontier in Global Mining Growth



By MWK

June 2026

West Africa is rapidly reasserting itself as one of the most important gold exploration frontiers in the world. Stretching across countries such as Ghana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Senegal, the region is experiencing a surge in exploration activity driven by strong gold prices, rising global demand, and the urgent need for mining companies to replenish declining reserves.

At the center of this resurgence lies the Birimian greenstone belt—one of the most mineral-rich geological formations globally. Despite decades of mining, large portions of this belt remain underexplored, presenting significant opportunities for new discoveries. Today, a combination of improved geological understanding, modern exploration technologies, and increased capital investment is unlocking this untapped potential.



Why Exploration Is Accelerating

The renewed focus on West Africa is not accidental. Globally, gold producers are facing a pressing challenge: maintaining production levels as existing mines age and reserves decline. In traditional mining regions, discoveries have become less frequent and more expensive to develop.

West Africa offers a compelling alternative. The region is known for relatively high-grade deposits, comparatively lower production costs, and favorable geology that supports both open-pit and underground mining. As a result, exploration budgets are increasingly being directed toward this part of the continent.



Major mining companies are leading the charge. Endeavour Mining, one of the region's largest producers, has committed hundreds of millions of dollars toward exploration over the next several years. The company's strategy focuses on identifying new deposits near existing operations, allowing for faster development and reduced capital costs.

This approach—often referred to as “brownfield exploration”—is becoming increasingly popular. By expanding known mining districts, companies can extend mine life while minimizing risk.

Burkina Faso: A Key Exploration Hub

Among the countries driving this boom, Burkina Faso stands out as a major center of activity. Over the past decade, it has evolved into one of Africa's leading gold producers, attracting both junior explorers and major mining firms.

Companies such as West African Resources are combining production growth with aggressive exploration programs. Their operations are not only delivering strong output but also generating new discoveries through extensive drilling campaigns.

This dual strategy is critical. By reinvesting profits into exploration, companies ensure a continuous pipeline of resources, reducing reliance on external acquisitions. In Burkina Faso, this model is already yielding results, with several deposits being expanded and new targets identified.

The Birimian Belt Advantage

The geological foundation of West Africa's gold boom lies in the Birimian belt, which spans multiple countries and hosts some of the richest gold deposits in the world.

Ghana, historically known as the Gold Coast, has long benefited from this geology. Major mines such as Obuasi Gold Mine have produced gold for over a century. Yet, even in such mature jurisdictions, exploration continues to reveal new opportunities.

In neighboring Côte d'Ivoire, the mining sector has expanded rapidly in recent years, supported by a stable regulatory environment and increased foreign investment. Meanwhile, Mali remains one of Africa's top gold producers, with ongoing exploration sustaining its output.

What makes the Birimian belt particularly attractive is its scale. Large areas remain underexplored, especially at depth. Advances in drilling technology now allow companies to target deeper ore bodies that were previously inaccessible.

Emerging Frontiers: Senegal and Beyond

While established producers dominate headlines, emerging markets are also gaining attention. Senegal is becoming a promising exploration destination, with new projects moving from early-stage exploration toward development.

Similarly, Guinea—better known for its bauxite resources—is witnessing increased interest in gold exploration. These frontier markets offer high-risk, high-reward opportunities, attracting smaller exploration companies willing to take on greater uncertainty.

The appeal of these regions lies in their untapped potential. Early entrants can secure large land positions at relatively low cost, with the possibility of significant discoveries.

Technology Transforming Exploration

Modern technology is playing a crucial role in West Africa's exploration boom. Unlike previous cycles, today's exploration efforts are highly data-driven.

Companies are using:

- Advanced geophysical surveys to map subsurface structures
- Satellite imaging to identify mineralized zones
- Artificial intelligence to analyze geological data
- Deep drilling techniques to access hidden deposits

These tools are significantly improving the efficiency and success rate of exploration programs. What once required years of trial and error can now be achieved with greater precision and speed.



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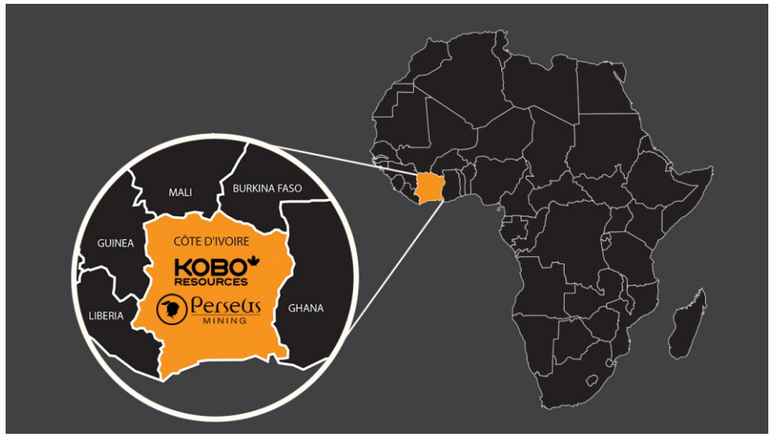


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Economic Impact Across the Region

The expansion of gold exploration is having a ripple effect across West African economies.

Employment and Skills Development

Exploration activities create jobs for geologists, engineers, and local workers, contributing to skills transfer and capacity building.

Infrastructure Development

Roads, power supply, and water systems developed for exploration often lay the groundwork for future mining operations and broader economic growth.

Government Revenue

Licensing fees, taxes, and eventual royalties provide important revenue streams for governments, supporting public services and development initiatives.

Countries such as Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are increasingly leveraging these benefits to strengthen their economies.

Challenges and Risks

Despite its promise, West Africa's gold exploration boom is not without challenges.

Security concerns in parts of the Sahel region can disrupt operations and increase costs. Regulatory changes in some countries may also create uncertainty for investors. Additionally, infrastructure gaps in remote areas can slow project development.

Environmental and social considerations are becoming increasingly important. Companies must balance exploration activities with responsible land use and community engagement to maintain their social license to operate.

Global Significance

West Africa's growing importance in gold exploration comes at a time when global supply faces increasing pressure. Aging mines in other regions and a lack of major new discoveries have created a gap that West Africa is well positioned to fill.

The region's combination of geological potential, cost advantages, and expanding expertise makes it a critical player in the future of the gold industry.

Conclusion: A Region on the Rise

West Africa's gold exploration expansion marks the beginning of a new chapter in global mining. With vast untapped resources, increasing investment, and rapid technological advancement, the region is poised to deliver the next generation of major gold discoveries.

From established producers like Ghana to emerging frontiers such as Senegal, the momentum is clear. Exploration is no longer just about finding gold—it is about building sustainable mining ecosystems that can drive long-term economic growth.

As companies continue to invest and discoveries unfold, West Africa is set to remain at the forefront of the global gold industry for years to come.





African Mining Week 2026: Unlocking the Continent's $8.5 Trillion Resource Potential

By MWK
June 2026

As global demand for critical minerals accelerates and competition for resource security intensifies, Africa is stepping decisively into the spotlight. At the center of this momentum is African Mining Week 2026—a flagship gathering set to highlight the continent's estimated **$8.5 trillion in untapped mineral wealth** and position Africa as a cornerstone of the global energy transition.

Bringing together policymakers, investors, mining executives, and technology leaders, the event is more than a conference—it is a strategic platform for shaping the future of mining across Africa.

A Continent Rich in Opportunity

Africa's mineral endowment is vast and diverse. From copper and cobalt in Central Africa to gold in West Africa and platinum group metals in Southern Africa, the continent hosts some of the world's most critical resources.

Countries such as Democratic Republic of the Congo dominate global cobalt production, while South Africa remains a leader in platinum and manganese. Meanwhile, emerging players like Namibia and Botswana are expanding into uranium, rare earths, and other critical minerals.

Despite this abundance, a significant portion of Africa's mineral resources remains underexplored. This gap between potential and production is precisely what African Mining Week 2026 aims to address.

From Potential to Production

A key theme of African Mining Week 2026 is bridging the divide between resource availability and actual development.



While Africa holds immense mineral wealth, challenges such as limited infrastructure, regulatory complexity, and financing constraints have historically slowed project execution. The event will focus on practical solutions to these issues, including:

- Streamlining licensing and permitting processes
- Expanding access to project financing
- Strengthening public-private partnerships
- Accelerating infrastructure development

By tackling these barriers, stakeholders aim to unlock large-scale investments that can transform exploration projects into producing mines.

Critical Minerals Take Center Stage

One of the defining features of African Mining Week 2026 is its emphasis on critical minerals—materials essential for clean energy technologies and digital infrastructure.

Copper, lithium, cobalt, graphite, and rare earth elements are expected to dominate discussions, reflecting their growing importance in electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, and battery storage.

The prominence of these minerals underscores Africa's strategic role in the global energy transition. With countries worldwide seeking secure and sustainable supply chains, Africa is uniquely positioned to meet this demand.



Investment Momentum Builds

Investor interest in African mining has been steadily increasing, driven by favorable geology, improving regulatory environments, and rising commodity prices.

At African Mining Week 2026, a major focus will be on attracting both traditional mining investors and new sources of capital, including:

- Sovereign wealth funds
- Private equity firms
- Development finance institutions
- Green investment funds

These investors are not only seeking financial returns but also opportunities aligned with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles.

The event will showcase bankable projects across the continent, providing a platform for deal-making and partnership formation.

Infrastructure and Energy: Enabling Growth

Mining development cannot occur in isolation—it requires robust infrastructure and reliable energy supply.

African Mining Week 2026 will highlight the critical role of infrastructure investments in unlocking mineral resources. Discussions will focus on:

- Transport corridors (rail, road, and ports)
- Power generation, particularly renewable energy
- Water management systems
- Digital infrastructure for modern mining operations

Renewable energy is expected to play a central role, with many African countries exploring solar, wind, and hydroelectric solutions to power mining projects sustainably.

Local Value Addition and Industrialization

A major shift in Africa's mining strategy is the move toward beneficiation—processing minerals locally rather than exporting raw materials.

Countries such as Zimbabwe and Namibia have already introduced policies encouraging local processing of lithium and other minerals.

At African Mining Week 2026, this topic will take center stage, with discussions on how to:

- Develop downstream industries
- Create jobs and build skills
- Increase export value
- Reduce dependency on raw commodity exports

This shift represents a fundamental change in how Africa approaches its mineral wealth—moving from extraction to value creation.

Technology and Innovation in Mining

The future of mining is digital, and African Mining Week 2026 will showcase the latest technological advancements transforming the industry.

Key innovations include:

- Automation and robotics in mining operations
- Artificial intelligence for exploration and data analysis
- Remote monitoring and control systems
- Advanced mineral processing techniques

These technologies are improving efficiency, reducing costs, and enhancing safety, making mining more competitive and sustainable.

Sustainability and ESG Commitments

As global scrutiny of mining practices intensifies, sustainability has become a central concern.

African Mining Week 2026 will emphasize the importance of environmental stewardship, community engagement, and responsible governance. Topics will include:

- Reducing carbon emissions in mining operations
- Water conservation and management



- Community development and social impact
- Transparency and accountability in resource management

By aligning with international ESG standards, African mining projects can attract responsible investment and ensure long-term viability.

Challenges to Overcome

While the outlook is promising, significant challenges remain.

Regulatory Uncertainty

Inconsistent policies and changes in mining laws can deter investment.

Infrastructure Deficits

Many resource-rich regions lack the necessary infrastructure to support large-scale mining.

Financing Constraints

Access to capital remains a barrier for many projects, particularly in early-stage exploration.

Geopolitical Risks

Political instability in certain regions can impact project development.

Addressing these challenges will be critical to realizing the continent's full potential.

A Platform for Collaboration

What sets African Mining Week 2026 apart is its focus on collaboration.

The event brings together a diverse range of stakeholders, including governments, private sector players, and international organizations. This collaborative approach is essential for:

- Sharing knowledge and best practices
- Building partnerships
- Coordinating regional development strategies

Through dialogue and cooperation, participants aim to create a more integrated and resilient mining sector.

The Global Context

Africa's mining sector is gaining increasing importance on the global stage.

As countries seek to secure supply chains for critical minerals, Africa's role is becoming more





strategic. Initiatives such as international mineral partnerships and trade agreements are reshaping the global mining landscape.

African Mining Week 2026 provides a platform for the continent to assert its position in this evolving ecosystem, highlighting its potential as a reliable and sustainable supplier of essential resources.

Conclusion: A Turning Point for African Mining

African Mining Week 2026 represents more than just an industry gathering—it is a turning point for the continent's mining sector.

With an estimated **$8.5 trillion in mineral resources**, Africa has the potential to play a transformative role in the global economy. The challenge lies in converting this potential into tangible development outcomes.

Through investment, innovation, and collaboration, African countries are beginning to unlock this wealth—creating opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and industrialization.

As the world looks to the future, one thing is clear: Africa's mining sector is no longer on the sidelines. It is at the center of the global conversation—and African Mining Week 2026 is where that conversation takes shape.

Aluminium Boom Opens Opportunity for Africa: A Strategic Moment for Industrial Growth



By MWK
June 2026

A surge in global aluminium demand is creating a pivotal opportunity for Africa to reposition itself in the global industrial economy. Driven by rapid growth in renewable energy, electric vehicles, construction, and packaging, aluminium has become one of the most strategically important metals of the modern era. For Africa—rich in raw materials yet historically limited in processing capacity—this boom presents a chance to move up the value chain and accelerate industrialization.

Rising Demand Meets African Potential

Aluminium's appeal lies in its unique properties: it is lightweight, durable, corrosion-resistant, and highly recyclable. These characteristics make it essential for industries shaping the future, from clean energy infrastructure to electric mobility.

As global demand rises, supply chains are under pressure, and new production hubs are needed. Africa is well positioned to respond, particularly due to its vast reserves of bauxite—the primary ore used in aluminium production.

Guinea leads the continent, holding the world's largest known bauxite reserves and serving as a major exporter to international markets. Other countries such as Ghana and Sierra Leone also possess significant deposits, many of which remain underdeveloped.



The Value Chain Gap

Despite this resource wealth, much of Africa's bauxite is exported in raw form. The aluminium value chain—spanning bauxite mining, alumina refining, and aluminium smelting—remains largely incomplete across the continent.

This gap represents both a challenge and an opportunity.

By investing in refining and smelting capacity, African countries can significantly increase the value of their exports, create jobs, and develop technical expertise. Moving beyond raw material exports toward local processing is increasingly seen as a key strategy for long-term economic growth.

Energy: Africa's Competitive Edge

One of the biggest barriers to aluminium production globally is energy. Smelting aluminium requires large amounts of electricity, making energy costs a critical factor.

Africa, however, holds a unique advantage: vast renewable energy potential. Countries such as



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industry strategy, aiming to link mining with refining and smelting.

These developments highlight a broader shift: aluminium is no longer just about extraction—it is about building complete industrial ecosystems.

Economic Impact and Industrialization

The benefits of developing an aluminium industry extend far beyond mining.

- **Higher export revenues** through value-added products
- **Job creation** across mining, processing, and manufacturing
- **Industrial growth** in sectors such as construction and automotive
- **Skills development** in engineering and technical fields

For many African economies seeking diversification, aluminium offers a pathway to sustainable industrial development.

investment and long-term planning. Energy infrastructure, while promising, still needs expansion in many regions. Clear and stable regulatory frameworks will also be essential to attract investors.

Environmental and social considerations must be carefully managed to ensure responsible development and maintain community support.



Conclusion: A Window of Opportunity

The global aluminium boom presents Africa with a rare and timely opportunity. With abundant bauxite resources, growing investment interest, and significant renewable energy potential, the continent has the foundations to become a major player in the aluminium value chain.

The path forward will require strategic investment, strong governance, and collaboration between governments and industry. If these elements align, Africa can move beyond being a













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WearCheck strengthens onsite sampling capabilities



WearCheck national sales manager Juliane de Beer

The precise accuracy of taking an oil sample from a machine component is one of the most critically important steps in the scientific analysis of oil as part of a condition monitoring programme.

According to condition monitoring specialist company, WearCheck, taking samples is often a very specialised task, and not all maintenance teams have the correct training. Samples that are not taken correctly potentially contain external contamination and other material - even in miniscule amounts - that could compromise the accuracy of the test results.

'It is for this reason that we decided to grow our onsite sampling team, equip the technicians with extra training for a wider scope of fluids, and allocate dedicated vehicles to them,' says Juliane de Beer, WearCheck's national sales manager.

'The WearCheck onsite sampling team now consists of eight highly skilled, technically certified professionals, collectively bringing over 40 years of industry experience. Their primary mission is simple - to make our customers' lives easier through efficient, reliable, and expert onsite sampling services.'

De Beer explains that by taking the hassle out of sample collection, the team ensures that every sample is obtained using the correct procedures and best practices. This guarantees accuracy, consistency, and integrity, which are critical for dependable analysis results.

'The sampling technicians travel to clients located anywhere in South Africa as well as internationally, to take samples.

'Our onsite sampling technicians collect a wide range of fluids from industrial equipment, including oil, fuel, coolant, transformer oil, brake fluid, AdBlue® and other fluids. Whether operating in demanding industrial environments or routine maintenance settings, our team delivers precision and professionalism at every step.'

The convenient onsite service eliminates the need for customers to manage the sampling process themselves, saving valuable time while reducing the risk of contamination or human error.

To book the taking of an onsite sample, please contact WearCheck Johannesburg on +27 11 392-6322 or martind@wearcheck.co.za

This year, WearCheck celebrates 50 years of taking samples correctly. For more information, please visit www.wearcheck.co.za. Alternatively, please contact WearCheck on marketing@wearcheck.co.za. or call +27 (31) 700-5460.

ENDS [340 words]

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WearCheck onsite sampling technician Jaco de Beer takes sample from centrifugal pump

BHP Group Limited Launches Exploration Collaboration Initiative to Accelerate



Nairobi, Kenya – June, 2026 — BHP Group Limited today announced the launch of its Exploration Collaboration Initiative, a strategic program designed to transform how new mineral resources are discovered through partnerships, innovation, and shared expertise.

The initiative brings together governments, junior exploration companies, investors, and technology partners to unlock new opportunities in mineral-rich regions, particularly across Africa. By fostering collaboration and leveraging advanced geological data, the program aims to accelerate the discovery of critical minerals essential for the global energy transition.



“The future of mineral exploration depends on collaboration and innovation,” said a spokesperson from BHP Group Limited. “Through this initiative, we are creating a platform where ideas, data, and expertise converge to unlock resources that were previously out of reach.”

Driving Innovation in Exploration

The Exploration Collaboration Initiative will focus on:

- Hosting regional workshops and knowledge-sharing forums across key mining jurisdictions
- Promoting the use of advanced technologies such as AI-driven geological modeling and data analytics
- Supporting early-stage exploration companies through funding and technical mentorship
- Building partnerships that reduce exploration risk and improve success rates

A key component of the initiative is the BHP Xplor program, which provides non-dilutive funding and access to global expertise for early-stage explorers working on high-potential projects.

Strengthening Africa's Mining Future

Africa is expected to play a critical role in meeting rising global demand for minerals such as copper, nickel, and other resources vital for renewable energy technologies. Through this initiative, BHP Group Limited aims to support sustainable development, enhance local capacity, and attract long-term investment into the mining sector.

Governments and industry stakeholders across the continent have welcomed the move, noting that collaborative exploration models can unlock untapped potential while promoting responsible mining practices.

About BHP

BHP Group Limited is a leading global resources company producing essential commodities, including iron ore, copper, nickel, and potash. The company is committed to sustainable development and delivering long-term value through safe and responsible operations.

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Surge in Exploration Licenses Signals Africa's Rising Role in Global Mining



Nairobi, Kenya – June, 2026 — Africa is experiencing a significant surge in mineral exploration licenses, marking a new phase of growth in the continent's mining sector as global demand for critical minerals accelerates.

Recent data indicates that several African countries have sharply increased the issuance of exploration permits and project approvals. South Africa alone granted over **350 new exploration licenses**, while Ghana is advancing more than **90 exploration projects**, and Namibia has received **over 800 license applications**, highlighting a continent-wide push to unlock untapped mineral resources.

Driving Forces Behind the Surge

The rapid increase in licensing activity is being fueled by multiple global and regional factors:

- **Rising demand for critical minerals:** The global energy transition is driving demand for copper, lithium, nickel, and rare earth elements essential for renewable energy and technology industries.
- **Regulatory reforms and digitalization:** Countries such as Namibia are streamlining licensing processes through digital platforms, reducing approval timelines and boosting investor confidence.
- **Increased investor interest:** Africa is emerging as a strategic destination for mining investment, supported by improved geological data and policy frameworks.

Key Regional Highlights

- **Namibia** is leading the surge, positioning itself as a frontier exploration hub with hundreds of new applications and investor inflows.

- **West Africa**, particularly Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, continues to attract strong gold exploration investment due to stable regulatory environments.
- **Southern Africa**, including Zambia and South Africa, is expanding exploration efforts, particularly in copper and battery minerals.

Economic and Strategic Impact

The increase in exploration licenses reflects Africa's growing importance in global mineral supply chains. Governments are increasingly prioritizing policies that ensure exploration translates into economic benefits such as job creation, infrastructure development, and revenue generation

.

At the same time, the surge is reshaping the continent's investment landscape, with countries competing to attract capital through improved governance, transparency, and incentives.

Outlook

Industry analysts expect exploration activity to continue rising as Africa strengthens its position as a key supplier of minerals critical to the global economy. The continent's vast and underexplored geological potential presents significant opportunities for both local and international stakeholders.

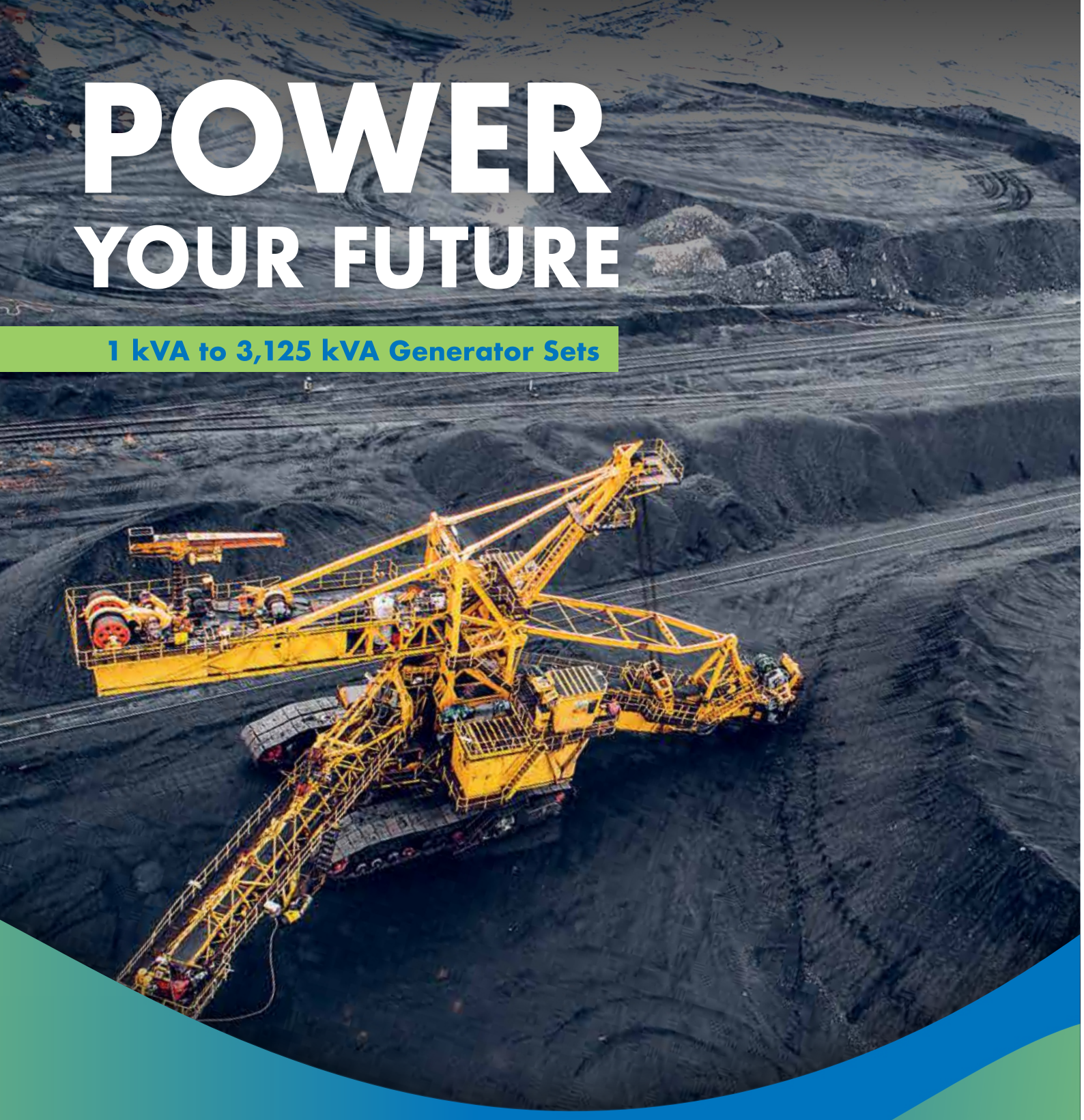
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