MINING DEVELOPMENTS MAGAZINE

MAY - JUNE 2026



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New WearCheck agent in East Africa

WEAR® CHECK
Condition Monitoring Specialists

26 March 2026

Condition monitoring specialist company, WearCheck, recently teamed up with Tanzania-based condition monitoring company, Technical and Engineering Solutions (TES), to bring an extensive range of reliability solutions to customers in East Africa.

National sales manager for WearCheck, Juliane de Beer, says the partnership is already operational, with TES/WearCheck customers in Tanzania benefiting from the combined service offering. 'Through TES, we can now extend WearCheck's specialist services into a whole new part of East Africa, which complements our WearCheck branch in Mozambique'.

While TES provides local expertise in Tanzania, samples are processed through WearCheck's world-class laboratory infrastructure. This ensures that clients receive reports from a globally recognised leader, which is often a critical requirement for international insurance compliance and warranty validation.

The collaboration empowers Tanzanian customers with a combined service offering, enabling East African industries to transition toward internationally recognised reliability standards. By joining forces, TES and WearCheck are significantly enhancing condition monitoring capabilities across the region's expanding industrial and energy sectors

Mary Mwanukuzi, founder and technical manager for TES, is pleased to expand her company's condition monitoring programmes with the addition of WearCheck's testing techniques. 'In addition to oil and fuel analysis, we now offer a full suite of Condition-Based Maintenance (CBM) services using portable diagnostics, including on-site Dissolved Gas Analysis (DGA) for immediate follow-up on critical transformers, infrared thermography (IR), ultrasonic and acoustic inspections, power-quality analysis, vibration analysis and earth resistance and battery health assessments.

'We also provide specialised on-site electrical and mechanical diagnostics that complement WearCheck's laboratory expertise:

- Advanced Three-Phase Power Quality Analysis to analyse power stability.
- Stationary Battery Testing: Analysing critical backup systems.
- Acoustic Imaging: Detecting gas leaks and partial discharge.
- Earth Analysis: testing resistance and leakage current.'

TES serves customers in Dar es Salaam as well as throughout Tanzania. The company, while recently founded, is built on a foundation of 30 years of experience in power plant engineering, including 14 years specifically dedicated to the field of CBM.

Mary believes that quality is driven from the top. 'We are proud to share that our leadership team holds advanced Category I (CAT I) certifications in Infrared Thermography and Ultrasound (Mobius Institute) and Vibration Condition Monitoring (IRD Mechanalysis). This deep technical expertise ensures that every solution we provide is backed by industry-leading standards.'

Celebrating 50 years in business, WearCheck continues to prove that reliability knows no borders.

For more information,
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Mary Mwanukuzi is the founder and technical manager for TES, WearCheck's new partner in Tanzania. She believes that condition monitoring is not about tools, technology, and reports – rather, it is about fixing the findings. Reducing those findings to zero is the ultimate proof that the CBM programme is working.

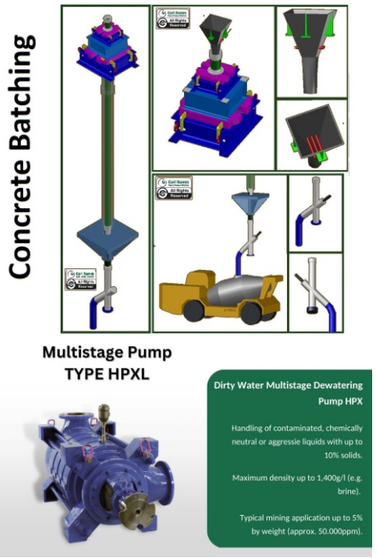


WearCheck national sales manager, Juliane de Beer, highlights the company's expansion into Tanzania and the broader East African region through its partnership with TES.

Released on behalf of WearCheck by Just Write Public Relations

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SEEPEX BN Pumps with Smart Joint Access Enhance Efficiency in Rock Blasting Operations

SEEPEX has introduced BN pumps with Smart Joint Access (SJA), engineered for the reliable and precise transfer of abrasive, corrosive, and chemical media in mining and construction. Designed for rock blasting, the pump features a large inspection opening for quick joint checks, a compact footprint for mobile or skid-mounted installations, and flexible drive and material options for consistent performance and uptime.

“Operators can inspect joints quickly and rely on precise pumping of shear-sensitive and abrasive emulsions,” said Magalie Levray, Global Business Development Manager Mining at SEEPEX. “This is particularly critical in rock blasting, where every borehole counts for productivity.”

Industry Context

Rock blasting is essential for extracting hard rock and shaping safe excavation profiles in mining and construction. Accurate and consistent loading of explosive emulsions ensures controlled fragmentation, protects personnel, and maximizes productivity. Even minor deviations in pumping can cause delays or reduce product quality. BN pumps with SJA support routine maintenance and pre-operation checks by allowing fast verification of joint integrity, enabling more efficient operations.

Always Inspection Ready

Smart Joint Access is designed for inspection-friendly operations. The large inspection opening in the suction housing provides direct access to both joints, enabling rapid pre-operation checks while maintaining high operational reliability. Technicians can assess joint condition quickly, supporting continuous, reliable operation.

Key Features

- ***Compact Footprint:*** Fits truck-mounted mobile units, skid-mounted systems, and factory installations.
- ***Flexible Drive Options***: Compact hydraulic drive or electric drive configurations.
- ***Hydraulic Efficiency:*** Low-displacement design reduces oil requirements and supports low total cost of ownership.
- ***Equal Wall Stator Design:*** Ensures high-pressure performance in a compact footprint.
- ***Material Flexibility:*** Stainless steel or steel housings, chrome-plated rotors, and stators in NBR, EPDM, or FKM.

Operators benefit from shorter inspection cycles, reliable dosing, seamless integration, and fast delivery through framework agreements, helping to maintain uptime in critical rock blasting processes.
Applications – Optimized for Rock Blasting

BN pumps with SJA are designed for mining, tunneling, quarrying, civil works, dam construction, and other sectors requiring precise handling of abrasive or chemical media. They provide robust performance while enabling fast, reliable inspection and maintenance.

With SJA, operators can quickly access both joints without disassembly, ensuring emulsions are transferred accurately and consistently. This reduces downtime, preserves product integrity, and supports uniform dosing across multiple bore holes.

With the Smart Joint Access inspection opening, operators can quickly access and assess the condition of both joints without disassembly, enabling immediate verification of pump readiness prior to blast hole loading. This allows operators to confirm that emulsions are transferred accurately and consistently, protecting personnel, minimizing product degradation, and maintaining uniform dosing across multiple bore holes.

The combination of equal wall stator design, compact integration, flexible drives, and progressive cavity pump technology ensures continuous, reliable operation even in space-limited, high-pressure environments.

Operational Gains in African Deep Underground Mining

Deep underground mining in Africa is characterized by confined production drifts and long access routes. In this environment, blasting service providers rely on skid-mounted and semi-mobile emulsion pumping systems, making equipment accessibility and serviceability critical to maintaining production schedules.

A leading explosives company operating multiple deep underground sites in Southern Africa integrated SEEPEX pumps with SJA into its underground emulsion loading systems. Before the upgrade, routine inspections were time-consuming and labor-intensive. Pumps often had to be transported to surface workshops, fully drained, and dismounted for joint inspection. Without a dedicated inspection opening, full disassembly was required, and pumps were sometimes replaced on a scheduled basis rather than inspected, leading to unnecessary costs and high spare inventory levels.

SJA changes this by providing direct visual access to both joints without removing the pump. Technicians can assess joint condition quickly during routine checks, reducing downtime and improving asset utilization.

“The inspection opening has completely changed how we maintain our underground pumping systems,” said a maintenance technician. “What used to take hours can now be done quickly underground.”

As a result, the operator reduced the number of standby pumps required for redundancy, lowered inspection-related downtime, and improved overall asset utilization. The compact pump design also fits low-profile underground layouts, maintaining reliable and predictable emulsion loading in space-constrained conditions.

By shortening and simplifying inspection cycles in confined underground environments, SEEPEX pumps with SJA help blasting service providers maintain reliable, predictable operations. The solution supports higher equipment availability in deep underground mines, where every intervention must be carefully planned and executed.





Mining machinery at work in a confined underground



Controlled rock blasting in action, capturing the post-detonation dust cloud.



Aerial view of a large aggregates quarry, showing heavy machinery, diggers, and storage warehouses.

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Kenya Pushes Forward with Ambitious Critical Minerals Strategy to Power Economic Growth

By MWK
Nairobi, Kenya – May 2026

The Government of Kenya has intensified efforts to position the country as a regional leader in the extraction, processing, and export of critical minerals, unveiling a comprehensive strategy aimed at boosting industrialization and supporting the global energy transition.

Led by the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, the initiative focuses on unlocking the value of key resources such as rare earth elements, niobium, graphite, lithium, and titanium—minerals increasingly essential for renewable energy technologies, electric vehicles, and advanced manufacturing.

Strategic Focus Areas

The new framework builds on reforms introduced under the Mining Act 2016, with a renewed emphasis on:

- **Value Addition and Local Processing**
  Kenya aims to move beyond raw mineral exports by encouraging local refining and processing. This is expected to create jobs, increase export earnings, and reduce dependency on imported finished products.
- **Investment Attraction**
  The government is actively courting global investors through improved licensing transparency, tax incentives, and public-private partnerships. Recent engagements with international mining firms signal growing confidence in Kenya's regulatory environment.
- **Geological Mapping and Data Digitization**
  Ongoing nationwide surveys are being expanded to improve data availability. This is intended to reduce exploration risk and accelerate project development timelines.



- **Sustainable and Responsible Mining**
  Environmental safeguards and community engagement are central to the strategy, aligning Kenya with global ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) standards.

Flagship Projects and Partnerships

One of the key pillars of the strategy includes reviving and expanding flagship projects such as the Kwale Mineral Sands Project, which has already demonstrated the commercial viability of titanium mining in the country.

Additionally, renewed interest in rare earth exploration—particularly in regions like Kwale and Kilifi—has attracted attention from multinational firms seeking to diversify supply chains away from traditional markets.

Regional and Global Positioning

Kenya's push comes amid rising global demand for critical minerals driven by clean energy transitions and digital transformation. By strengthening its mining sector, Kenya aims to compete with other African producers such as Tanzania and Democratic Republic of the Congo, while also serving as a stable and transparent alternative destination for investment.

The strategy also aligns with broader continental initiatives under the African Union, which advocates for beneficiation and value addition within Africa rather than exporting raw materials.

Economic Impact Outlook

According to government projections, the mining sector's contribution to GDP—currently below 1%—could rise significantly over the next decade if the strategy is fully implemented. Increased revenues, infrastructure development, and job creation are expected to follow.

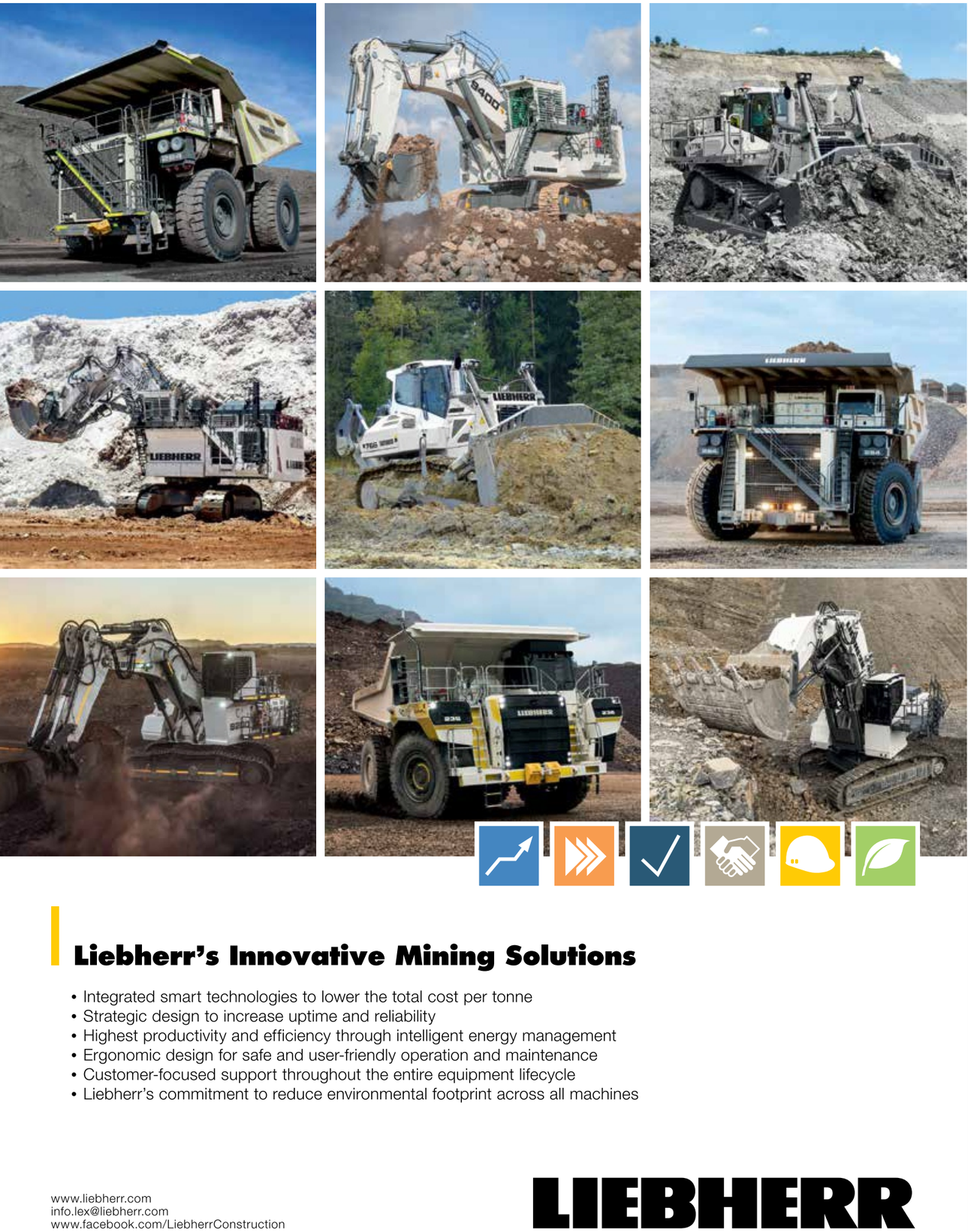
Looking Ahead

As global competition for critical minerals intensifies, Kenya's proactive approach signals a shift toward resource-driven industrialization. Successful implementation, however, will depend on balancing investor interests, environmental protection, and community benefits.

With strong policy backing and growing international interest, Kenya is poised to emerge as a key player in the global critical minerals value chain by mid-2026 and beyond.



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Kwale Mineral Sands Mine Nearing Transition Phase as Kenya Eyes Post-Mining Future





Kwale County, Kenya – May 2026

By MWK

Kenya's flagship mining operation, the Kwale Mineral Sands Project, is entering a critical transition phase as mineral reserves near depletion, marking a significant moment for the country's extractives sector and its long-term economic planning.

Operated by Base Resources (a subsidiary of Energy Fuels Inc.), the Kwale mine has been one of East Africa's most successful large-scale mining ventures, producing ilmenite, rutile, and zircon since it began operations in 2013.

A Decade of Mining Success

Over the past decade, the mine has:

- Contributed billions of shillings in export earnings
- Created thousands of direct and indirect jobs
- Supported infrastructure and community development in Kwale County

The project has also played a key role in demonstrating Kenya's potential as a credible mining destination.

Transition Phase and Closure Planning

As ore reserves decline, Base Resources has initiated a structured transition plan that includes:

- **Progressive mine closure and land rehabilitation**
- **Environmental restoration programs**
- **Community transition support initiatives**

The company has emphasized responsible closure practices aligned with international environmental standards and Kenyan regulations under the Mining Act 2016.

TLT-Turbo Africa



Focus on Sustainability and Community Livelihoods

A major priority during this phase is ensuring that local communities continue to benefit beyond the life of the mine. Key initiatives include:

- Agricultural land restoration for farming use
- Skills training and alternative livelihood programs
- Investment in local enterprises and infrastructure

Kwale County leaders have called for continued collaboration to ensure a smooth socio-economic transition.

Future Opportunities and Exploration

Despite the approaching closure, attention is shifting toward new opportunities. Base Resources has been advancing exploration of the nearby Toliara Project, while Kenya continues to attract interest in rare earths and other critical minerals.

The Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs is also working to ensure that lessons learned from Kwale inform future mining projects across the country.

Economic and Policy Implications

The transition of the Kwale mine highlights:

- The need for **resource diversification**
- Strengthening **local value addition**
- Enhancing **mine closure frameworks and policies**

It also reinforces the urgency behind Kenya's broader critical minerals strategy, aimed at sustaining growth in the mining sector beyond single-asset dependence.

Looking Ahead

As the Kwale Mineral Sands Project nears the end of its lifecycle, it leaves behind a legacy of economic contribution and valuable lessons for Kenya's mining future.

The coming months will be crucial in determining how effectively stakeholders manage the transition—ensuring environmental restoration, economic continuity, and community resilience.

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Artisanal Gold Mining Formalization Drive Gains Momentum Across Africa



By MWK

Nairobi, Kenya – May 2026 — Governments and industry stakeholders across Africa are accelerating efforts to formalize artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), in a bid to enhance environmental sustainability, improve livelihoods, and boost national revenues.

The formalization drive—now gaining traction in countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda—seeks to transition informal mining operations into regulated frameworks that promote safety, transparency, and responsible mineral trade.

A Sector with Massive Potential

Artisanal gold mining supports millions of livelihoods across Africa, yet much of the activity remains informal, limiting access to financing, modern equipment, and fair markets. According to regional mining authorities, formalization could significantly increase gold traceability and reduce illicit trade flows.

In Kenya, pilot programs in gold-rich counties such as Migori and Kakamega are registering miners, issuing permits, and introducing cooperative structures. Similar initiatives in Tanzania have already demonstrated success through designated mining zones and government-backed buying centers.

Driving Responsible Mining Practices

The formalization push aligns with international frameworks such as the World Gold Council guidelines and the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains.

Key focus areas include:

- Eliminating the use of hazardous chemicals such as mercury
- Enhancing occupational health and safety standards
- Promoting environmentally responsible mining techniques
- Strengthening monitoring and compliance mechanisms

Stakeholders emphasize that formalization is critical to reducing environmental degradation and improving working conditions for miners.





Economic and Social Impact

Formalizing artisanal gold mining is expected to unlock significant



economic benefits. Governments can increase tax revenues, while miners gain access to formal markets, better pricing, and financial services.

In Uganda, recent partnerships between government agencies and private investors are supporting value addition through gold refining and export certification, further integrating artisanal miners into the global supply chain.

Public-Private Partnerships Leading the Way

The success of the formalization drive depends heavily on collaboration between governments, development partners, and private sector players. Organizations such as the African Development Bank are providing technical assistance and funding to support policy reforms and capacity building.

Additionally, local cooperatives and community-based organizations are playing a key role in mobilizing miners and ensuring compliance with new regulations.



Challenges Remain

Despite progress, challenges persist, including:

- Resistance from informal operators wary of taxation and regulation
- Limited access to financing for small-scale miners
- Inadequate infrastructure in remote mining regions

Experts caution that sustained investment and community engagement will be essential to achieving long-term success.

Looking Ahead

As Africa strengthens its position in the global gold market, the formalization of artisanal mining is emerging as a strategic priority. With continued policy support and stakeholder collaboration, the sector is poised to transform into a more sustainable and economically inclusive industry.

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Tanzania Expands Gold Production Capacity Through New Investments and Processing Infrastructure



By MWK

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania – May 2026 — Tanzania is significantly expanding its gold production capacity through new mining investments, processing infrastructure development, and enhanced value-addition strategies aimed at strengthening its position as one of Africa's leading gold producers.

The expansion comes as the country continues to record strong performance in the mining sector, with gold remaining the largest export commodity and a key driver of foreign exchange earnings.

Rising Output and Strong Sector Growth

Recent data shows that Tanzania's gold sector has experienced sustained growth, supported by rising global prices, increased exploration, and improved regulatory frameworks. Gold exports have generated billions of dollars annually, reinforcing the mineral's central role in the national economy

The mining sector now contributes close to 10% of national GDP, with gold accounting for more than half of total export earnings.





New Processing Facilities to Boost Capacity

As part of the expansion drive, the government has announced plans to establish new mineral processing centers, including a major facility in Shinyanga Region aimed at increasing local beneficiation and reducing raw mineral exports.

The facility is expected to support artisanal and small-scale miners while strengthening Tanzania's downstream gold value chain through refining and processing within the country.

Major Mine Expansions and Exploration Push

Large-scale mining companies operating in Tanzania are also increasing production capacity through mine expansions and improved recovery systems. Key projects include:



- Expansion of existing gold mines to increase ore processing throughput
- New drilling campaigns that have significantly increased proven reserves in major deposits
- Development of modern extraction technologies to improve efficiency





One major project has reported a significant reserve increase, extending mine life and strengthening long-term production outlook in the country's gold belt.

Government Strategy: Value Addition and Investment Attraction

The Tanzanian government has prioritized value addition and industrialization within the mining sector, focusing on:

- Expanding mineral processing infrastructure
- Increasing local participation in mining supply chains
- Attracting foreign direct investment into gold refining and export systems
- Strengthening regulatory frameworks to support sustainable mining

Officials say these measures are designed to ensure more value is retained within the country rather than exporting raw gold.

Outlook for the Gold Sector

Industry analysts project continued growth in Tanzania's gold mining sector over the coming years, driven by exploration expansion, infrastructure development, and strong global demand for gold.

The country is also positioning itself as a regional hub for gold processing and export, supported by ongoing policy reforms and public-private partnerships.



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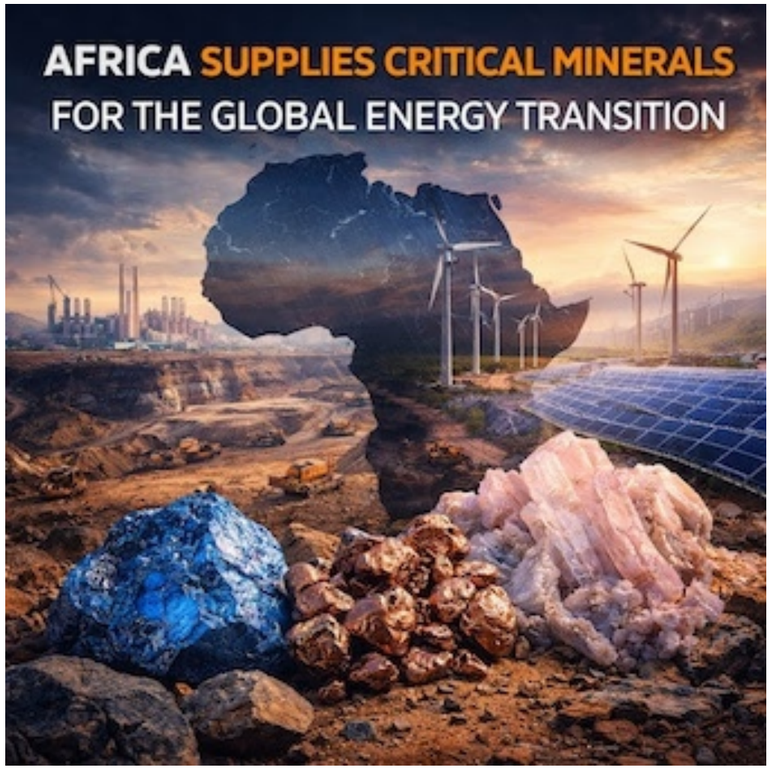
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Nickel & Battery Minerals Gain Momentum as Global Energy Transition Accelerates



By MWK

Nairobi, Kenya – May 2026 — Nickel, lithium, cobalt, and other battery-related minerals are experiencing strong global momentum as demand for electric vehicles (EVs), grid storage systems, and clean energy technologies continues to surge. The trend is reshaping mining investment strategies across Africa and strengthening the continent's role in the global energy transition.





Rising Demand Driven by Clean Energy Shift

Industry analysts report that battery minerals are now among the fastest-growing segments in the mining sector, driven by long-term electrification trends and energy security policies in major economies.

According to global market assessments, demand for key battery metals such as nickel is expected to significantly increase over the next decade, supported by EV production growth and renewable energy storage expansion.

Nickel, in particular, remains critical for high-energy-density batteries used in electric vehicles, while lithium and cobalt continue to underpin lithium-ion battery chemistry used across multiple industries.

Africa at the Center of the Battery Metals Boom

Africa is playing an increasingly strategic role in supplying global



battery minerals. The continent holds vast reserves of cobalt, lithium, copper, and nickel—resources essential for the energy transition.

Countries such as Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Zimbabwe are attracting growing exploration and development interest from global mining companies and investors.

Recent exploration activity highlights include:

- Expansion of nickel and cobalt exploration in Zambia and Côte d'Ivoire
- New lithium and nickel fieldwork programs in Namibia
- AI-driven mineral discovery projects targeting battery metals across multiple African jurisdictions

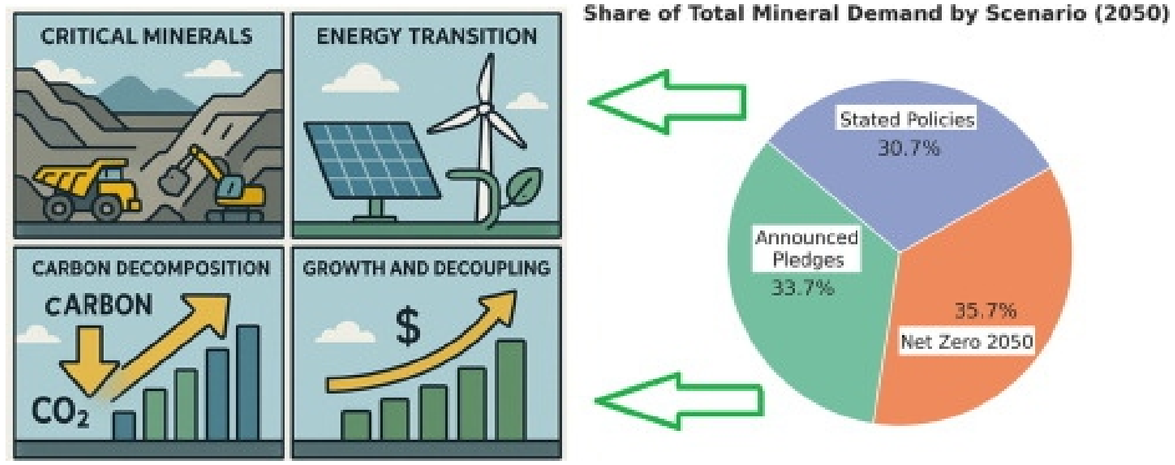
These developments reflect a broader shift toward securing long-term supply chains for critical minerals.





Investment and Supply Chain Restructuring

Global capital is increasingly flowing into battery metals projects, with investors prioritizing supply chain security and downstream processing capacity.



Recent trends show:

- Multi-billion-dollar offtake agreements securing nickel and lithium supply chains
- Increased partnerships between mining companies and automakers
- Growing emphasis on refining and value addition within producing countries

However, financing challenges remain, as projects face higher capital costs, permitting delays, and price volatility across lithium and nickel markets.

Strategic Shift Toward Value Addition

African governments are pushing to move beyond raw mineral exports toward local processing and manufacturing. This includes:

- Development of battery precursor and refining plants
- Policies encouraging domestic beneficiation of nickel and lithium
- Industrial partnerships aimed at EV supply chain integration

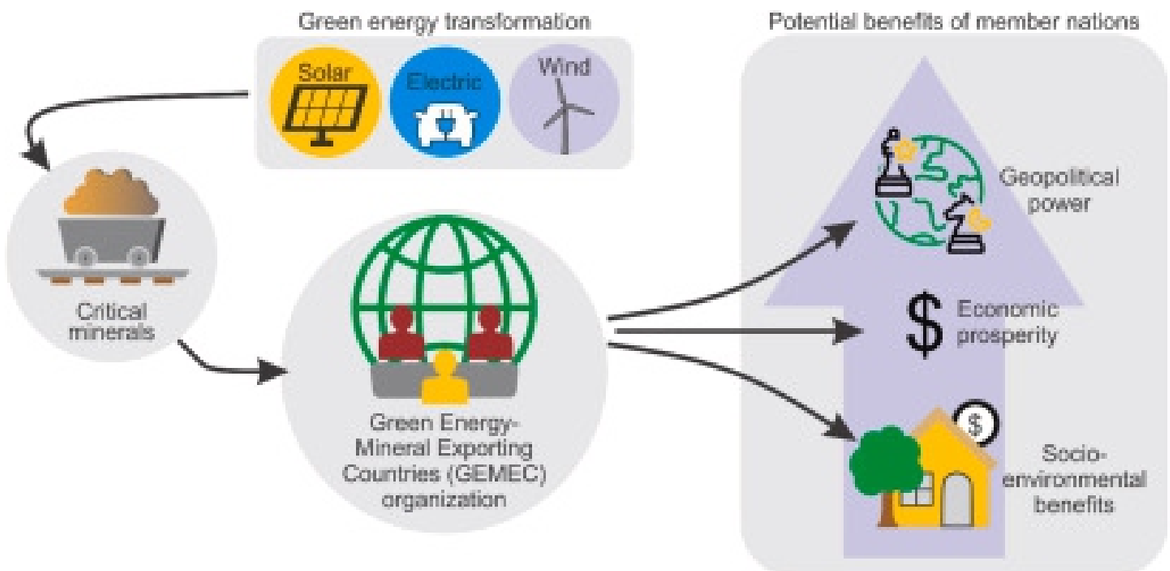
This shift is intended to capture more value locally and strengthen economic resilience in mineral-producing countries.

Outlook

Despite short-term price fluctuations, the long-term outlook for battery minerals remains strongly positive. Structural demand growth from EV adoption, renewable energy deployment, and industrial electrification is expected to sustain momentum through the 2030s.

Analysts note that supply constraints, permitting delays, and infrastructure gaps may further tighten markets, reinforcing the strategic importance of Africa's resource base.

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Exploration Licenses Surge as Africa Attracts New Wave of Mining Investment



By MWK

Nairobi, Kenya – May 2026 — Mining authorities across Africa are reporting a sharp increase in the issuance of exploration licenses, signaling renewed investor confidence and growing global demand for critical minerals, gold, and energy-transition metals.

The surge is most evident in East Africa, where jurisdictions such as Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda are positioning themselves as competitive exploration hubs through regulatory reforms and streamlined licensing systems.

Record Licensing Activity Signals Strong Investor Appetite

Recent sector data indicates that mining regulators are experiencing a significant uptick in applications for prospecting and exploration rights, particularly in gold, nickel, graphite, and rare earth elements.

In Tanzania, the Mining Commission has issued tens of thousands of licenses in recent years, reflecting both formalization of small-scale mining and increased exploration interest from international firms.

In mineral-rich zones such as Mahenge, officials have also reported a steady rise in new exploration and mining permits, a trend attributed to improved governance and investor confidence in the regulatory system.

Critical Minerals Driving the Surge

The exploration boom is being driven largely by global demand for energy-transition materials, including:

- Nickel for EV battery cathodes
- Lithium for energy storage systems
- Cobalt for battery stability
- Graphite and rare earth elements for advanced manufacturing

Governments are increasingly opening new geological basins for exploration, particularly in underexplored regions with high mineral potential.

In Tanzania, state-linked initiatives are actively targeting new exploration licenses for critical minerals such as nickel, cobalt, and graphite in previously underexplored basins.

Policy Reforms Accelerate Licensing Approvals

Across the region, mining policy reforms are streamlining approval processes and improving transparency in licensing systems.







Key reforms include:

- Digital mining cadastre systems
- Faster turnaround times for prospecting licenses
- Clearer environmental compliance frameworks
- Increased local participation requirements

These reforms are designed to balance investor attraction with stronger resource governance and community benefits.

Investor Confidence Strengthens Across the Region

Industry analysts note that the rise in exploration licenses reflects a broader shift in global capital toward African mineral jurisdictions, driven by supply chain diversification and geopolitical concerns over critical mineral sourcing.

Countries with stable regulatory frameworks and transparent licensing systems are attracting the highest interest from multinational mining companies and junior exploration firms.

Outlook

The exploration surge is expected to continue through 2026 and beyond, supported by:

- Ongoing global energy transition demand
- Rising commodity prices for strategic minerals
- Increased geological surveys and data-driven exploration
- Government efforts to formalize and regulate the sector

However, challenges remain, including infrastructure gaps in remote exploration areas and the need for stronger geological data to de-risk investment decisions.

Despite these constraints, Africa's exploration pipeline is expanding rapidly, positioning the continent as a key frontier for the next generation of mineral discoveries.



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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.

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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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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.

Experience the Progress.



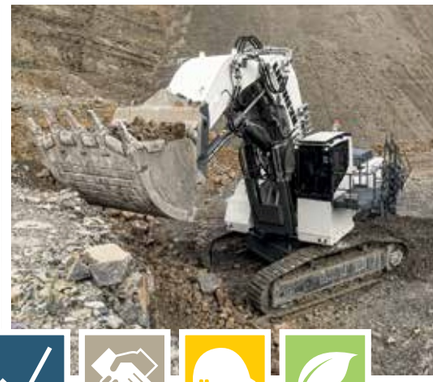












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