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Minister Kenewendo Reaffirms Exploration as The Foundation of Botswana's Mining Future

Gaborone, Botswana – The Minister of Minerals and Energy, Hon. Bogolo Joy Kenewendo, has reaffirmed Botswana's commitment to positioning mineral exploration at the centre of the country's mining future, highlighting the strategic role of the Exploration Investment Company Botswana (EICB) in unlocking new mineral discoveries and attracting investment into the sector.

Speaking at the opening of the Future of Mining Summit 2026, the Minister said Botswana's next phase of mining growth will be driven by exploration, diversification and value addition, guided by the Mineral Resources Development, Exploration, Exploitation and Value Chain Strategy (MRDEEVC).

While diamonds have underpinned Botswana's economic development over the past six decades, she noted that the country's future depends on discovering and developing new mineral opportunities.

"We are working to increase investment in exploration. This is not just an ambition; it is something we are actively pursuing. A strong mining sector depends on a robust pipeline of discoveries and bankable projects." Said Kenewendo.

The Minister said Government is committed to significantly increasing investment in non-diamond mineral exploration and positioning Botswana as a world-class exploration destination. She acknowledged that exploration remains the most capital-intensive and highest-risk stage of the mining value chain, requiring targeted interventions to attract investment and accelerate mineral discoveries.

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Hon. Kenewendo highlighted the establishment of the Exploration & Investment Company Botswana (EICB) as a strategic national initiative to stimulate exploration investment. She noted that EICB has identified prospective exploration areas that will be promoted to both local and international investors while helping to de-risk early-stage exploration projects.

She further explained that Government is strengthening access to geological data, enhancing resource mapping and developing investment mechanisms that encourage exploration across Botswana's underexplored regions.

"By doing so, we aim to unlock underexplored mineral potential and build a sustainable pipeline of future mining developments." She noted.

The Minister added that strengthening Botswana's Mining Cadastre and exploration management systems, together with EICB's work, will improve investment confidence, enhance geological intelligence and ensure that exploration activities translate into productive mining operations.

Hon. Kenewendo's remarks reinforce Government's commitment to creating an enabling environment for exploration through policy reforms, strategic partnerships and targeted investment initiatives. Together, these efforts are expected to position Botswana as one of Africa's leading destinations for responsible mineral exploration and investment.

EICB remains committed to advancing this national vision by connecting investment with exploration opportunities, fostering strategic partnerships and unlocking Botswana's mineral potential for sustainable economic growth.

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