

## Lithium-ion batteries botswana

Lithium PL0008/24, PL0009/24, and PL0010/24 are all situated within the water bodies of the Makgadikgadi Pans; between Tutume and Boteti Districts. These are high value assets and our preliminary studies indicate the presence of hypersaline brines with TDS values up to a maximum of 150,000 mg/l and conductivities up to 163,000 mS/cm. Samples recorded lithium values in excess of 1.0 mg/L with the highest being 4.1 mg/L. The Prospecting Licenses are believed to be underlain by a lacustrine calcareous sandstone-siltstone unit of tertiary age and capped by a hard-siliceous sinter layer at surface, based on observations of the rock chip samples from the previous drilling program.

ETL is actively exploring Lithium-Ion battery manufacturing in Botswana. The Nano-carbons produced from the refineries will be made use of in this process as opposed to them being exported to external markets. It is our priority to improve our value chain in that regard and further diversify our portfolio.

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Lithium, a silvery-white metal with high energy density, is now at the heart of the global energy transition. It powers lithium-ion batteries in electric vehicles (EVs) and renewable energy storage solutions, making it a cornerstone of modern technology.

As the demand for EVs and renewable energy solutions soars, lithium has become one of the most coveted minerals worldwide. Africa, with its vast untapped reserves, is emerging as a significant player in this global race, promising new opportunities for exploration and investment.

The International Energy Agency projects that the number of electric vehicles on the road could reach 145 million by 2030, driving a surge in lithium demand. Countries like Zimbabwe, Namibia, and the DRC are at the forefront of this boom. Zimbabwe, in particular, is making headlines with significant lithium projects like the Bikita Mine and the Arcadia Lithium Project. These ventures highlight the continent's geological abundance and attract international mining companies and investors.

Africa's lithium potential offers a unique opportunity to diversify economies, create jobs, and attract foreign investment. However, this potential comes with challenges such as infrastructure deficits, regulatory uncertainties, and the need for sustainable mining practices. Efficient transportation networks, reliable energy supplies, and modern port facilities are essential for developing large-scale mining projects. Public-private partnerships and substantial capital investments are crucial for addressing these infrastructure needs.

Regulatory frameworks must be streamlined to create an investor-friendly environment while ensuring equitable benefit distribution among local communities. Sustainability and social responsibility are also critical. Adopting sustainable mining practices and engaging local communities are essential for obtaining the

social licence to operate and aligning with global Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria.

The strategic importance of lithium has led to increased geopolitical competition, with major economies like the United States, China, and the European Union all vying for stable lithium supply chains. Africa, with its untapped reserves, is poised to become a critical player in this landscape. For economists and investors, Africa's lithium sector presents a compelling opportunity. The rising global demand, significant geological potential, and strategic supply chain diversification make African lithium an attractive investment.

Lithium's critical role in the global energy transition has made it one of the world's most sought-after minerals. Africa's rich reserves position the continent as a key player in the global lithium market. However, realising this potential requires strategic investments, robust regulatory frameworks, and a commitment to sustainable development.

As the global race for lithium intensifies, Africa's role in this critical mineral narrative will undoubtedly grow, shaping the future of the global economy.

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