

INVESTMENT OPPORUNITIES

Botswana is considered the fastest growing economy in Africa, and with the political stability that is envied by many, Botswana is the ideal place for investors to plough their resources. The Government of Botswana actively encourages joint venture arrangements between citizen entrepreneurs and foreign investors through schemes and organizations such as LEA, BEDIA, CEDA, and others to help in the government's drive for economic diversification and privatization. Some of the sectors that present key, strategic investment opportunities include the new, but rapidly growing IC T industry.

Popular among the young generation and admired by the old guard, this industry presents the investor with countless opportunities. They include, but not limited to, Information based services, web hosting, data centers, call centers, software research and development with Botswana being promoted as a regional ICT Hub. The country is connected via the earth satellite station through Intelsat and the ISDN network, which links instantly with Europe and the USA. The financial sector also offers flexible options for investors. For example, the Botswana Financial Services Centre (BFSC) in Gaborone offers a tax incentive of 15% corporate tax for investment banking, funds management, business processes outsourcing and insurance businesses willing to set up in Gaborone. These services are offered on foreign currency to non-residents who might directly or indirectly own a company that operates in Botswana. Furthermore, there are countless, ever-growing opportunities in the Tourism sector. As one of the government's top priorities in its efforts to diversify the economy, this industry offers more than can be imagined especially in the almost untouched area of eco-tourism. This encompasses cultural, historical and archaeological attractions as well as recreational tourism, in addition to Botswana's "ever-green" wildlife product. With the boom in the tourism industry will inevitably come the need for catering industries, and hence a scope for investment in the hotels and restaurants sector.

Other sectors that still have a lot of room for maneuver include the Textile and Apparel Manufacturing industries. This sector is still growing and we have been witnessing a steady growth of exports to the USA. There are fashion shows sprouting around the city of Gabs, with some local designers competing in international events. Botswana is pretty much fashion-conscious;

The Printing and Publishing industry is another possibility considering there are no high-end printing investors locally as evidenced by the fact that some of the countries' top companies do their high-end printing outside. This also relates to the Leather & Tannery industry, which has been identified as another area of diversification as the country has a lot of livestock and wildlife. A modern tannery has been established to promote the utilization of leather from the local market and formalize leather collection and trading.