

JEWELRY

De Beers works to preserve Botswana mine

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De Beers group is part of the Debswana venture. Image credit: Debswana

By STAFF REPORTS

Diamond group De Beers is working to extend the life of one of the world's most valuable diamond mines, as part of its joint venture with the Government of the Republic of Botswana.

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The Debswana Diamond Company, the name of the joint venture, is launching what it is calling the Cut-9 project to save the Jwaneng Mine. The project is said to prolong the life of the mine until the year 2035.

Saving the mine

Cut-9 is expected to yield 53 million carats of rough diamonds from what it says is an expected 44 million tons of treated material and will create more than 1,000 jobs, which are built for Botswana citizens.

The project will see \$2 million dollars invested from Debswana, and will include a new training center, a Component Rebuild Center and other local initiatives. The Component Rebuild Center is expected to be self-sustaining within three years from launch.

Debswana also awarded a \$1.2 billion contract been to Majwe Mining, a joint venture between Bothakga Burrow Botswana and Thies Botswana, to provide diamond-mining services.

"The extension of Jwaneng Mine secures Botswana's rightful place as a leading diamond producing nation for years to come," said Bruce Cleaver, chairman of Debswana, in a statement. "With global consumer demand for diamonds reaching record levels in 2018, the extension will enable us to continue to meet the needs of our consumers all over the world.

"We are deeply proud of the central role Jwaneng Mine has played in Botswana's remarkable development story and of the role this investment will play in its future," he said.



Haul trucks at one of Debswana's mines. Image credit: Debswana

De Beers Group is often working to preserve the locations important to the brand. The group is also working to support elephant conservation efforts through a relocation project.

Working with the nonprofit Peace Parks Foundation, De Beers is translocating 200 elephants from the overcrowded Venetia Limpopo Nature Reserve in South Africa to conservation areas in Mozambique, which have seen dwindling populations of the animals. Elephant conservation has been a shared priority for a number of luxury brands, as they use their resources to help protect the endangered species ([see story](#)).

"As we have throughout the history of Jwaneng Mine, we remain steadfast in ensuring that all projects are delivered safely and to the benefit of the people of Botswana," said Albert Milton, managing director at Debswana, in a statement. "We are also committed to delivering on the citizen economic empowerment (CEEP) goals and will focus on training our people, developing their skills and harnessing technology to create further safety and efficiency improvements."

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