

BOTSWANA GEOSCIENCE INSTITUTE

PRESS RELEASE

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BGI - BULLISH ON GEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

- **Unveils a Multi-Million Pula Aeromagnetic Data Interpretation of Northern Botswana Project.**
 - **This is an NDP 11 Project.**
 - **BGI engages an international geoscience consulting firm in partnership with two (2) Botswana based firms.**
 - **Project is estimated to take Eighteen (18) Months and covers all districts.**
 - **The Project will result in a revised National Geological Map, among other products.**
 - **COVID-19 is a hurdle but will be managed.**
1. Botswana Geoscience Institute – BGI, is pleased to announce the commencement of the Aeromagnetic Data Interpretation of Northern Botswana Project.
 2. The project aims to identify and assess Mafic, Ultramafic and Granitic complexes in Botswana and highlight areas of high mineral potential such as Base metals, Rare Earth Metals, Precious metals and Platinum Group Metals (PGMs) in these geologic environments including groundwater potential. The project is scheduled to take 18 months after mobilisation.
 3. Speaking recently during a meeting held through internet meeting platforms, to mark the commencement of this project, BGI Chief Executive Officer, Mr T.H. Ngwisanyi expressed his gratitude and admiration to see this project finally taking off the ground. He indicated that the project was conceived by the Government of Botswana in the National Development Plan 10 (NDP 10) and was deferred due to economic meltdown and was resuscitated during NDP 11.
 4. Mr Ngwisanyi indicated that the project was scheduled to start in April 01, 2020 with a Contract Signing ceremony and this was prevented by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic which prohibited movement of persons and all other restrictions that included international travel.

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5. Also due to COVID-19 Government of Botswana had to be prudent with its development budget and deferred some projects. Mr Ngwisanyi lauded the Government of Botswana for realising the importance of this project as it was spared any funding cuts – highlighting its significance of the work BGI has been established to undertake that positively impacts the lives of Botswana and the nation at large.
6. The project is very much relevant to a number of the Vision 2036 ideals. In particular, the nation's aspiration of Sustainable Economic Development, Human and Social Development and Sustainable Environment.
7. In actual fact, the project will result in a revised National Geological Map of Botswana, understanding of mineral systems as well as providing value-added products. This will go a long way in satisfying the requirements of our customers in the exploration/ mining sector in particular, academic and applied research as well as in the area of Agriculture and land use management.
8. This project is undertaken by BGI in partnership with a consortium comprising Paterson, Grant and Watson Limited (PGW), a Toronto based Canadian company and Botswana companies; Water Resources Consultants (Pty) Limited (WRC) and Sky Tract (Pty) Limited at a cost of BWP 10,125,670.00.
9. The commencement meeting was attended by BGI officials, representatives from the Ministry of Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security and Consultants based in Gaborone and Lobatse while those based in Toronto, Canada connected through internet meeting services.
10. Mr. Mojaboswa H. Koketso, BGI's Manager Surveys, is designated the project Manager. He encouraged all involved in this project to ensure a flawless execution to safeguard scope creep, loss of time and cost overruns.
11. With regards to managing the challenges relating to COVID 19, Mr Koketso acknowledged that indeed COVID-19 is a hurdle and a threat. However the partnership with local geoscience survey firms is a strong vindication as they possess multidisciplinary consulting expertise and experience and are suited to advance all preliminary work in full liaison with other partners based abroad.
12. A project steering team that is multi-disciplinary has been constituted to provide support, guidance and oversight on all project activities and key milestones.

About Botswana Geoscience Institute

Botswana Geoscience Institute (BGI), is a Body Corporate operating from Lobatse and wholly owned by the Botswana Government. BGI was established to undertake research in the field of geosciences, providing specialised geoscientific services and promoting the search for, and exploration of any minerals in Botswana. The Institute is a custodian of all geoscience data/information and advice in all matters of geoscience and geohazards.

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