

Energy storage investment harare

Zimbabwe is endowed with immense energy resources that are currently underutilized. The country's diverse renewable and coal resources present investment opportunities in the electricity and petroleum sub-sectors. These untapped resources underpin Zimbabwe's status as the gateway to the vast southern African Market with a huge potential for growth.

Zimbabwe is located at the heart of Southern Africa which makes it strategic and able to supply energy needs within the region. Investors should capitalize on the increased energy demand in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) region by investing in Zimbabwe. The country has the best climate for the growth of renewable energy projects and vast deposits of coal which can be harnessed through clean technologies.

Demand for modern energy in the SADC region is growing. The regional average electrification rate is 45% while Zimbabwe stands at 40%. Zimbabwe and the region therefore present opportunities for greater uptake of modern energy.

Zimbabwe is rich in large deposits of coal resources which are largely underdeveloped or yet to be utilized. The country's economic potential is underpinned by the best solar radiation, vast biofuels, significant wind potential, perennial rivers for small hydro projects and coal bed methane deposits

Zimbabwe's electricity supply is outstripped by demand, thus creating plenty of opportunities for either direct investment (as independent power producers) in the sector or joint venture participation with the power utility. It is estimated that 5 000MW can be harnessed along the Zambesi River which is shared with Zambia.

This is a joint project that will include two 1200MW power plants, with the power shared equally between Zambia and Zimbabwe. The project received funding from the World Bank for feasibility studies and environmental impact assessments which are already complete.

Solar PV technology has a potential of over 300MW, whilst only 1% of the technical potential for solar water heaters is being exploited. Opportunities exists for small and large -scale deployment of grid-connected systems and off-grid systems in remote locations.

Solar PV systems can be deployed in both rural and urban areas for, amongst many things, pumping water for rural communities, solar driers, lighting and appliance at rural institutions (schools and clinics), and water heating in urban areas (solar thermal).

Coal is one of the biggest energy resource the country possess. Proven coal resources of over 12 billion metric tonnes are situated mainly in the northern and north-western parts of the country. Zimbabwe's coal is



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generally good quality, with calorific values ranging from 20 to 32 MJ/Kg (mega joules/kilogram)

Zimbabwe has approximately 40 terra cubic feet (1.132 terra cubic meters) of coal bed methane (CBM) located in the western and southern parts of the country. This resource could be commercially exploited for power production and used as feedstock for the petrochemical industry. Investment in exploration has so far been lacking, and this potential energy resource remains unexploited.

Zimbabwe has a target to substitute at least 10% of the nation's fuel requirements with bio-fuels by 2020. This will be done through expanding sugar cane growing to produce ethanol which is one of the requirements in the import substitution strategy.

The country's biomass and waste which includes wood waste, municipal waste and large agricultural waste presents opportunities for the generation of electricity which can be utilized on the site with electricity being fed onto the national grid.

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