Tools for the Commons

SUPERSYMMETRY INSTITUTE

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Botswana DEZ

Digital Zones & Capital Formation
A New Framework for Economic Development

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The Botswana DEZ

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→ **Definition**
A digital jurisdiction designed to attract, operate, and scale the digital economy, as part of the National Wealth Architecture.

→ **Mechanisms**
Digital identity, company formation, registries, governance, payments, tokenization, and regulatory innovation delivered through a unified digital platform.

→ **Value Delivered**
Accelerates investment, entrepreneurship, capital formation, innovation, and economic diversification.

→ **Economic Structure**
A self-sustaining digital economy platform requiring minimal public investment, expanding the tax base through economic activity while generating revenues from subscriptions and transactions.

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National Capital Formation Framework

→ **Savings & Cash Deposits**
Mobilize liquidity and increase capital availability.

→ **Sovereign Wealth Fund & Specialized Funds**
Convert national revenues into long-term assets.

→ **Capital Markets**
Expand investment, financing, and trading mechanisms.

→ **Institutional Capital**
Attract sovereign, pension, and private capital.

→ **Digital Assets & Tokenization**
Unlock new forms of ownership, liquidity, and investment.

CONTEXT

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Municipal Capital Formation Framework

→ **Municipal Investment Corporations**
Create and manage local investment portfolios.

→ **Municipal Bonds**
Mobilize capital for infrastructure and development.

→ **Anchor Enterprises**
Scale strategic local businesses and industries.

→ **Cooperatives & Conglomerates**
Strengthen productive clusters and local ownership.

→ **Startups & Youth Enterprises**
Support innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation.

National Wealth Architecture

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→ **Sovereign Wealth Fund**
Transforms national revenues and strategic assets into long-term sovereign wealth through structured investment and capital allocation.

→ **Resource Banks**
Organize, develop, and monetize strategic national assets through sector-specific holding and development vehicles.

→ **Capital Markets**
Mobilize savings and investment through equities, bonds, commodities, structured products, and other financing and trading mechanisms.

→ **Institutional Capital**
Connect national and municipal investment opportunities with sovereign funds, pension funds, family offices, DFIs, and international investors.

→ **Digital Assets & Tokenization**
Expand capital formation through tokenized assets, digital securities, blockchain-based ownership, and next-generation investment markets.

CONTEXT

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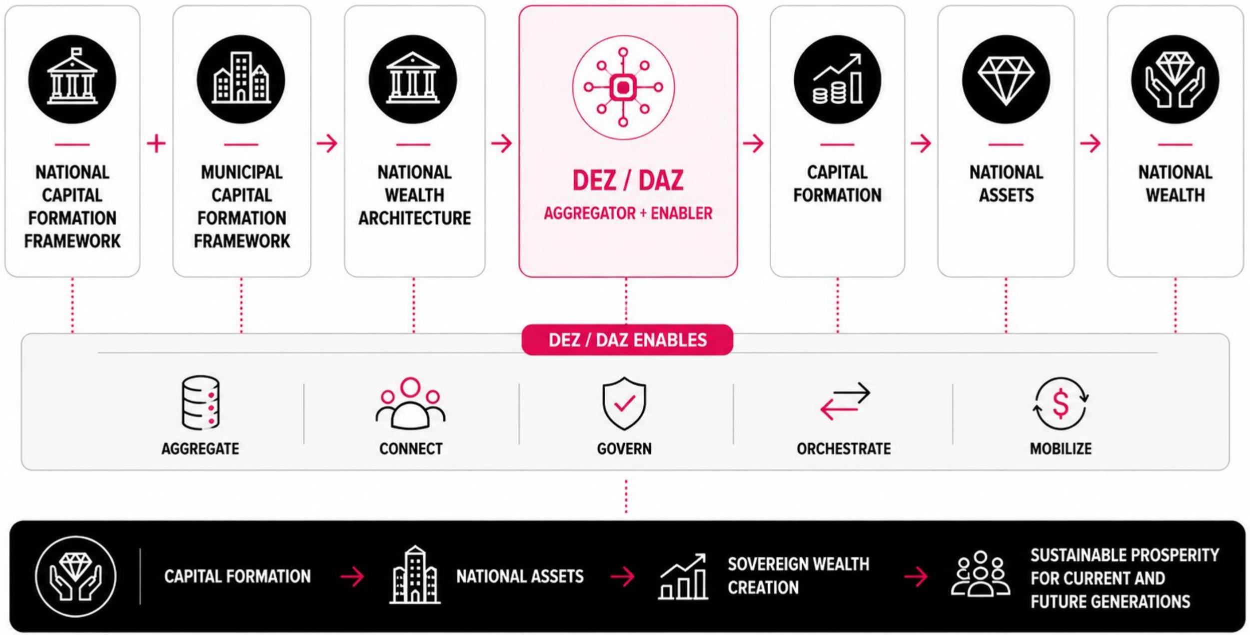
Botswana DEZ as an Enabler of National Wealth



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Botswana DEZ as an Enabler of National Wealth

→ **Aggregate: Consolidates economic data, assets, enterprises, projects, investors, and opportunities into a unified digital environment.**
Examples: startups, cooperatives, strategic enterprises, sovereign assets, resource banks.

→ **Connect: Links government bodies, municipalities, investors, enterprises, financial institutions, and development partners.**
Examples: municipal bonds with investors, startups with capital markets.

→ **Govern: Provides identity, compliance, approvals, registries, reporting, and oversight.**
Examples: company registration, investment vehicles, digital asset issuances, regulatory approvals.

→ **Orchestrate: Coordinates the operation of economic actors and capital structures across the ecosystem.**
Examples: cooperatives, startups, anchor enterprises, SPVs, and capital market participants operating through common digital infrastructure.

→ **Mobilize: Transforms assets and opportunities into investable capital.**
Examples: facilitate the movement of municipal bonds, sovereign wealth funds, tokenized assets, institutional investments, and capital market transactions.

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The DEZ as a Catalyst for the Digital Economy

→ **Digital Business Destination**
Position Botswana as Africa's preferred jurisdiction for digital entrepreneurs, startups, technology companies, remote businesses, and innovation-driven enterprises.

→ **Digital-First Regulatory Environment**
Provide a modern framework for digital commerce, digital assets, fintech, AI, software, and emerging technologies through clear and predictable regulations.

→ **Digital Infrastructure & Operations**
Enable businesses to incorporate, operate, transact, govern, and scale through integrated digital infrastructure and streamlined digital processes.

→ **Access to Capital & Markets**
Connect digital enterprises with investors, capital markets, institutional capital, venture funding, and tokenized financing opportunities.

→ **Regional Leadership in the Digital Economy**
Establish Botswana as the African gateway for global digital business, analogous to the role Delaware and Nasdaq play within the United States.

DEZ as the Digital Operating System

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→ **Digital Identity**
Residents, investors, enterprises, projects, and assets.

→ **Registries & Asset Mapping**
Companies, land, infrastructure, natural resources, investment opportunities, and economic assets.

→ **Intelligence & Coordination**
Economic intelligence, capital intelligence, analytics, and decision-support systems.

→ **Governance & Financial Infrastructure**
Approvals, compliance, payments, investments, settlements, and reporting.

→ **Digital Assets & Tokenization**
Asset digitization, ownership structures, liquidity, and capital formation.

Platform monetization occurs across all layers, through subscriptions and transaction fees.

Tools for the Commons Track Record

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Zanzibar Digital Free Zone (Tanzania)

The Zanzibar Digital Free Zone was established through a public-private partnership between ZICTIA (Zanzibar Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure Agency) and Ourworld Holding, with Tools for the Commons contracted as the digital infrastructure and operating partner. The initiative combines regulatory design with a digital-first operating model to position Zanzibar as East Africa's leading hub for the digital economy, targeting blockchain companies, AI developers, digital entrepreneurs, and digital nomads. The platform is currently onboarding its first entities, providing digital incorporation, governance, compliance, payments, and programmable financial infrastructure. **Status:** Live – onboarding entities. **Outcome:** A Digital Economic Zone purpose-built to attract global digital businesses, talent, and investment into East Africa.

Próspera (Honduras)

Próspera operates under the ZEDE framework established through the 2013 constitutional amendments and the Organic Law of the ZEDEs, creating one of the world's most advanced regulatory environments for innovation, investment, and entrepreneurship. Within this framework, Tools for the Commons provides the digital operating and financial infrastructure under the zone's governance model, enabling digital identity, compliance, payments, and programmable accounting. The platform is designed to support the more than 500 entities already operating within the Próspera jurisdiction, while facilitating the onboarding and operation of future businesses. **Status:** Live. **Outcome:** Operational digital infrastructure supporting regulatory innovation, biotechnology, financial services, and globally scalable digital enterprises.

Tools for the Commons Track Record

Itana (Nigeria)

Itana is Africa's leading digital city, integrated with Nigeria's technology and venture capital ecosystem and designed to support high-growth startups through modern legal, operational, and business infrastructure. Tools for the Commons partners with Itana as the digital operating and financial layer, enabling digital incorporation, governance, compliance, payments, and cross-border interoperability. The collaboration complements Itana's existing ecosystem by providing the digital infrastructure required to scale companies internationally and connect them with global financial networks. **Status**: Implementation. **Outcome**: A digital-first ecosystem supporting startup growth, venture investment, and technology entrepreneurship across Africa.

VITIB (Côte d’Ivoire)

VITIB is Côte d'Ivoire's government-backed technology park, operating under a dedicated Special Economic Zone framework and serving as a strategic platform for technology, innovation, and digital industries. Tools for the Commons is working with VITIB to design and deploy a Digital Economic Zone layer that complements the existing legal and institutional framework, without altering the underlying regulatory regime. **Status:** Implementation. **Outcome:** Expand VITIB into a digitally enabled innovation jurisdiction capable of attracting international technology companies, digital services, and cross-border investment while strengthening Côte d'Ivoire's digital economy.

From Digital Zones to Botswana's National Model

The Botswana DEZ builds upon Tools for the Commons' experience designing and deploying Digital Economic Zones across multiple governance models, including advanced regulatory jurisdictions, public-private partnerships, Special Economic Zones, and technology ecosystems. These initiatives have demonstrated how digital infrastructure can simplify incorporation, governance, compliance, payments, and cross-border operations while attracting entrepreneurs and investors, in innovation-driven industries.

Botswana represents the next evolution of this model. The Botswana DEZ integrates digital infrastructure with the National Wealth Architecture, transforming the Digital Economic Zone into the operating system for capital formation, national assets, and long-term sovereign wealth creation. This positions Botswana not only as Africa's preferred digital economy hub, but also as a global benchmark for digitally enabled economic development.

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Stakeholders

→ **Presidency & PSP**
Strategic sponsorship and designation. Among other initiatives, the DEZ will support the reactivation of BETP and accelerate the achievement of its economic development objectives.

→ **Ministries & Public Agencies, particularly the Ministry of Trade and Entrepreneurship and the Ministry of Communications and Innovation**
Policy alignment and implementation support.

→ **SEZA & Zone Authorities**
Zone governance, regulatory oversight, and investor facilitation.

→ **SPEDU (Selebi-Phikwe Economic Diversification Unit) (potentially)**
Regional economic development, project origination, strategic asset identification, and capital formation initiatives within the SPEDU Region.

→ **Municipal Authorities & Development Partners**
Local capital formation, and economic activation.

→ **Innovation Hub, Business Botswana, National Planning Commission, Abaricom**
Innovation, private sector engagement, economic planning, and strategic implementation support.

A coordinated, compound governance model in which each institution contributes within its mandate, progressively enabling policy alignment, implementation, and economic activation.

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The Regulatory Architecture

Maximum regulatory flexibility within Botswana's legal framework, drawing on precedents set by DIFC, Singapore MAS, and Próspera ZEDE.

01

Dedicated Digital Charter

New zone classification under SEZ Act 2015. and respective Authority existing powers, and formalized as a dedicated category via the Phase-2 Bill. Governs digital incorporation, digital assets, and compatible governance.

02

Regulatory Sandbox Authority

A financial/virtual-asset sandbox conducted with NBFIRA + Bank of Botswana (Virtual Assets Act 2022), and deployed in the DEZ framework under SEZA administration.

03

Self-Regulatory Compliance

DAZ performs technical procedures for KYC/AML/KYB with supervision under the Financial Intelligence Agency. Sovereignty preserved; friction eliminated.

04

Tax & Digital Asset Clarity

Tax treatment for digital companies and regulatory handling with automatic reconciliation through DAZ Platform.

05

Presidential Mandate Alignment

DEZ explicitly designated as a next-cycle development instrument, ensuring political backing to move quickly.

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The Three Phases of the Botswana DEZ

PHASE 1

Activates on Day 0

Digital Jurisdiction

A fully digital zone opens for global companies to incorporate and transact using the DAZ platform. Builds the community and generates revenue, no physical construction required.

- Political designation under SEZ Act 2015
- Digital Charter & zone-specific regulations
- JV formation
- First company incorporations begin

PHASE 2

Begins at Phase 1 activation

Legislative Expansion

The joint working group produces a Digital Economic Zones Bill, providing deeper legal certainty and the foundation for Phase 3 physical development.

- Dedicated digital company form & registry
- Regulatory sandbox authority vested in zone
- Digital asset & stablecoin legal clarity
- Investor visa & residency pathway framework

PHASE 3

Parallel to Phases 1 & 2

Physical space & community

Purpose-built physical territory: world-class infrastructure, green urban design, high-speed connectivity. The digital community becomes the first residents of the physical zone.

- City master planning begins
- Investor visa & long-stay residency
- Residential & commercial infrastructure
- Governance mechanisms for local and zone community

NEXT STEPS

The Ask

01

Political Designation

Presidential endorsement of the Botswana DEZ, establishing it under the existing SEZ framework. More broadly, the DEZ helps support the BETP and accelerate its economic objectives.

02

Immediate Legal Pathway

SEZA designates the already-gazetted Fairgrounds SEZ as the DEZ pilot, allowing a digital-first launch while the long-term physical zone is developed.

03

Public-Private Operating Partnership

Nominate the Government counterpart to establish the DEZ operating entity with Tools for the Commons. No capital contribution is requested from the Government.

NEXT STEPS

Proposed Public-Private Partnership Structure

SEZA

Role: Regulatory Authority and Zone Sponsor
Provides legal designation, regulatory oversight, policy implementation, and investor facilitation under the Special Economic Zones framework.

Botswana Development Corporation or a dedicated SEZ investment/development corporation

Role: Government Shareholder and Strategic Investment Partner
Participates in the operating entity on behalf of the Government, supporting governance, commercialization, long-term value creation, and alignment with Botswana's industrial development strategy.

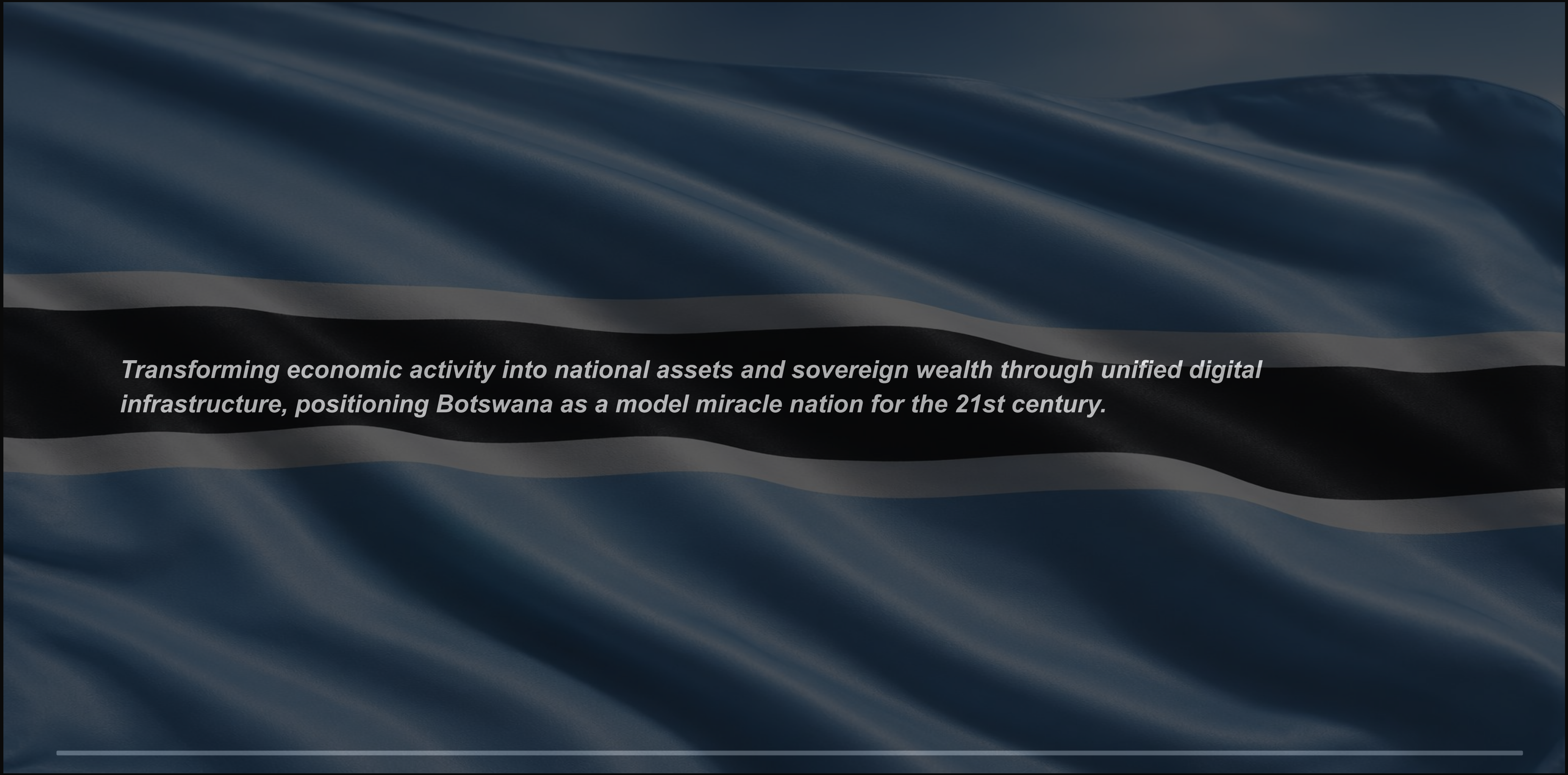
Tools for the Commons

Role: Technology and Operating Partner
Contributes the DAZ platform, digital infrastructure, implementation expertise, global distribution network, compliance framework, and day-to-day operation of the Digital Economic Zone.

Alternative Government Counterparties

Should the Government prefer a different institutional structure, the operating partner could instead be a government-owned operating company, a sovereign investment vehicle, or another public entity designated by the Government.

Outcome
A public-private operating model in which Government contributes regulatory authority and institutional leadership, while Tools for the Commons contributes technology, operations, and execution—requiring no upfront public capital investment.


Transforming economic activity into national assets and sovereign wealth through unified digital infrastructure, positioning Botswana as a model miracle nation for the 21st century.