

Diamonds in Lesotho

Diamonds are one of Lesotho's primary natural resources. Diamonds are produced at mines in Lets'eng, Mothae, Liqhobong and Kao.

The main diamond resource is the Lets'eng mine in the Maluti mountain range. The mine has an elevation of 3,100m above sea level, making it the world's highest diamond mine. Lets'eng Diamond Mine is owned by Gem Diamonds, Ltd., a British-based diamond mining business. The mine has a reputation for producing huge diamonds.

Lesotho has produced many significant diamonds: the Lesotho Brown was discovered in 1960, the 493 carat Lets'eng Legacy in 2007, and the 478 carat Leseli la Lets'eng (Light of Lesotho) in 2008. The Lesotho Star, a 550 carat white diamond was unearthed in August of 2011. Lets'eng mine has produced five of the twenty largest documented rough white gem diamonds.



The Lets'eng Mine

Despite the abundance of diamonds in Lesotho, the Basotho people do not reap much of the benefits as the mines are owned by foreign companies.

The Lesotho Promise

The Lesotho Promise is a 603 carat diamond found in the Lets'eng mine in 2006. It is the biggest diamond ever found at the Lets'eng mine and is the world's 12th largest white diamond. The diamond has since been polished into 26 smaller diamonds, which were fashioned together in order to form a single necklace.



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