



ZIDA
ZIMBABWE
INVESTMENT &
DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY

Unearthing Potential !

QUARTER TWO **REPORT** 2026

Unearthing Zimbabwe's
Potential.

Table of Contents

Editor's Note

Chief Executive Officer's Statement

1.0 Investment Activity, Trends and Insights

- 1.1 Sources and Trends
 - 1.2 Sector Interest and Country Patterns
-

2.0 Investment Growth And Performance

- 2.1 Investment Licencing Appraisals and Approvals
 - 2.2 Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Proposals Reviewed
 - 2.3 Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Approvals & Operationalisation
-

3.0 Investment Project Pipeline Development And Performance

- 3.1 Project Pipeline Development & Growth
 - 3.2 Investment Leads and Commitments
 - 3.4 Key Insights
-

4.0 Investment Realisation and Implementation Outcomes

- 4.1 Investment Realisation Performance
-

5.0 Investor Facilitation, Retention & Resolution Outcomes

- 5.1 Investment Licence Renewal Performance
 - 5.2 Investor Aftercare & Retention Initiatives
 - 5.3 Investor Grievance Management & Resolution Of Regulatory Challenges
 - 5.4 Project Implementation Support
 - 5.5 Key Barriers to Investment Facilitation, Support and Retention
-

6.0 Investments Performance, Markets and Insights

- 6.1 Geographic Distribution of Investments
 - 6.2 Sectoral Performance
 - 6.3 Emerging Investor Markets
-

7.0 Investor Advocacy, Policy Reform & Institutional Capability

- 7.1 Legislation and Policy Changes Impacting Investments
 - 7.1.1 Statutory Instrument 64 of 2026 – Banking (Victoria Falls International Financial Services) (Companies) Regulations, 2026
 - 7.1.2 Statutory Instrument 65 of 2026 – Banking (Victoria Falls International Financial Services Centre) (Financial Technology) Regulations, 2026
 - 7.1.3 Statutory Instrument 66 of 2026 – Banking (Victoria Falls International Financial Services Centre) (Arbitration) Regulations, 2026
 - 7.1.4 Statutory Instrument 68 of 2026 – Banking (Victoria Falls International Financial Services (General) Regulations, 2026
 - 7.1.5 S.I. 76 Companies and Other Business Entities (Re-Registration) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026 (No. 1)
 - 7.1.6 Statutory Instrument 82 of 2026 – Environmental Management (Prohibition of Lead in Paint and Coating Materials) Regulations, 2026
 - 7.1.7 Statutory Instrument 83 of 2026 – Customs and Excise (COMESA Simplified Trade Regime) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026 (No. 1)
 - 7.1.8 Statutory Instrument 89 of 2026 – Model Fees (Amendment) By-laws, 2026 (No. 1)
 - 7.2 Special Economic Zone Regulations Review
 - 7.3 Institutional Capacity and Knowledge Development
 - 7.4 Strengthening Project Preparation Capacity
-

8.0 Outlook and Strategic Priorities for Q3

Editor's Note

This Quarterly Performance Report introduces a revised reporting framework that reflects the evolving role of the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency (ZIDA) as Zimbabwe's national investment promotion and facilitation agency. Historically, the Agency's quarterly reports were organised around operational departmental functions, providing visibility into activities undertaken by individual operational units. While this approach effectively captured departmental performance, it did not always fully illustrate how these collective efforts contribute to investment outcomes and the Agency's broader mandate.

To address this, the report adopts a thematic investment lifecycle approach that presents performance according to key stages of the investment journey, from investor engagement and pipeline development through approvals, implementation, investor support and institutional enablers. Importantly, this revised framework does not alter the content, data, achievements, or performance results being reported. Rather, it restructures and presents the same information in a more integrated and strategic manner, enabling stakeholders to better understand the linkages between the Agency's interventions and investment outcomes.

The revised format also aligns the Agency's reporting with emerging international good practice, placing greater emphasis on investment outcomes, performance insights and impact. By improving the organisation and flow of information, the new structure provides a clearer, more coherent narrative of the Agency's contribution to investment promotion, facilitation and national development, while preserving the integrity of all underlying data and reported achievements.

As the Agency continues to enhance its reporting and performance measurement approaches, it remains committed to working closely with Government, investors, development partners, industry associations and other stakeholders in advancing Zimbabwe's investment agenda. The insights presented in this report provide a basis for continued dialogue, collaboration and shared action in supporting investment attraction, facilitation and project implementation. The Agency looks forward to strengthening existing partnerships and fostering new relationships that contribute to a more competitive and investor-friendly environment.



CEO's Statement



Mr. Tafadzwa Chinamo
Chief Executive Officer

As we reach the midpoint of 2026, the second quarter provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made during the first six months of the year in advancing the Agency's mandate and strengthening Zimbabwe's investment environment. The period under review was characterised by continued policy reforms, sustained investor interest and progress across the Agency's key workstreams in support of national development priorities.

Zimbabwe's investment environment continued to benefit from several policy and regulatory developments, including new frameworks supporting the Victoria Falls International Financial Services Centre, trade facilitation measures and reforms aimed at reducing selected regulatory costs. Together, these developments contribute to a more competitive and investor-friendly business environment.

The quarter delivered one of the first tangible outcomes of the Agency's efforts to position Business and Knowledge Process Outsourcing (BKPO) as a new investment frontier for Zimbabwe. Building on the introduction of the BKPO Special Economic Zone framework in the first quarter, the designation of the Joina City BKPO Special Economic Zone marks an important transition from policy development to implementation. Encouragingly, the sector is already generating investor interest and presents opportunities for export earnings, skills development and high-value employment. Another notable development during the quarter was the designation of the Sunny Yi Feng Industrial Park Special Economic Zone, an integrated industrial hub expected to strengthen manufacturing capacity, promote value addition and support import substitution. The Agency also initiated a review of the SEZ framework to enhance its competitiveness and support future industrial development.

Investment promotion activities undertaken during the quarter continued to strengthen Zimbabwe's investment pipeline. Through targeted investor outreach, project promotion initiatives and strategic stakeholder engagements, the Agency facilitated engagements across priority sectors of the economy, including agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, infrastructure, ICT and renewable energy. While interest was recorded across multiple sectors, renewable energy emerged as a particularly active area, reflecting growing investor confidence in opportunities within the energy value chain. These efforts support the country's broader industrialisation and economic transformation objectives.

These efforts translated into encouraging investment facilitation outcomes. The Agency approved 184 new investment licences with a projected investment value of approximately US\$1.59 billion. Mining and manufacturing remained the dominant sectors, accounting for the largest share of approved investment value and reaffirming their strategic role in driving industrialisation, value addition, exports and employment creation. These results demonstrate continued investor confidence in Zimbabwe's productive sectors and their long-term growth potential.

Monitoring and evaluation activities undertaken during the quarter provided valuable insights into investment implementation trends. The results show that a number of projects are progressing into implementation, with capital equipment imports accounting for the largest share of realised investment inflows. At the same time, the pace of equity capital deployment highlights the need for continued focus on project execution and investment realisation. These findings are helping shape the Agency's aftercare, monitoring and investor support interventions as we work to ensure that approved investments translate into productive economic activity, employment creation and sustainable growth.

As we move into the second half of the year, our focus remains on attracting quality investment, supporting project implementation and strengthening collaboration with Government, investors and development partners. Attention will be directed towards improving investment realisation, expanding investor aftercare programmes and facilitating investments that contribute meaningfully to industrialisation, job creation, export growth and sustainable economic development.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our principal, stakeholders, investors, development partners and the entire ZIDA team for their continued support and commitment. Through our collective efforts, we remain focused on positioning Zimbabwe as a destination of choice for investment and ensuring that investment translates into lasting economic value for the nation.



Investment Activity, Trends and Insights

1.1 Sources and Trends

Investor interest in Zimbabwe continued to strengthen during the quarter, driven by a combination of targeted investor outreach, digital marketing initiatives, strategic partnerships, and high-profile stakeholder engagements. This integrated approach enhanced Zimbabwe's visibility as an investment destination and contributed to the development of a robust investment pipeline.

Digital platforms continued to play a critical role in investment promotion and investor engagement across international source markets. Website traffic remained stable throughout the quarter, with Zimbabwe, South Africa, the United States, China and the United Kingdom accounting for the largest share of visitors. LinkedIn remained the Agency's strongest-performing digital platform, contributing approximately two-thirds of total social media engagement and reinforcing its position as the preferred channel for investor communication and outreach.

Countries of Interest – Number Of Page Viewers

Country	April	May	June
Zimbabwe	1840	1908	1876
United States of America	332	318	266
South Africa	244	268	273
China	104	160	144
United Kingdom	119	78	97

1.2 Sector Interest and Country Patterns

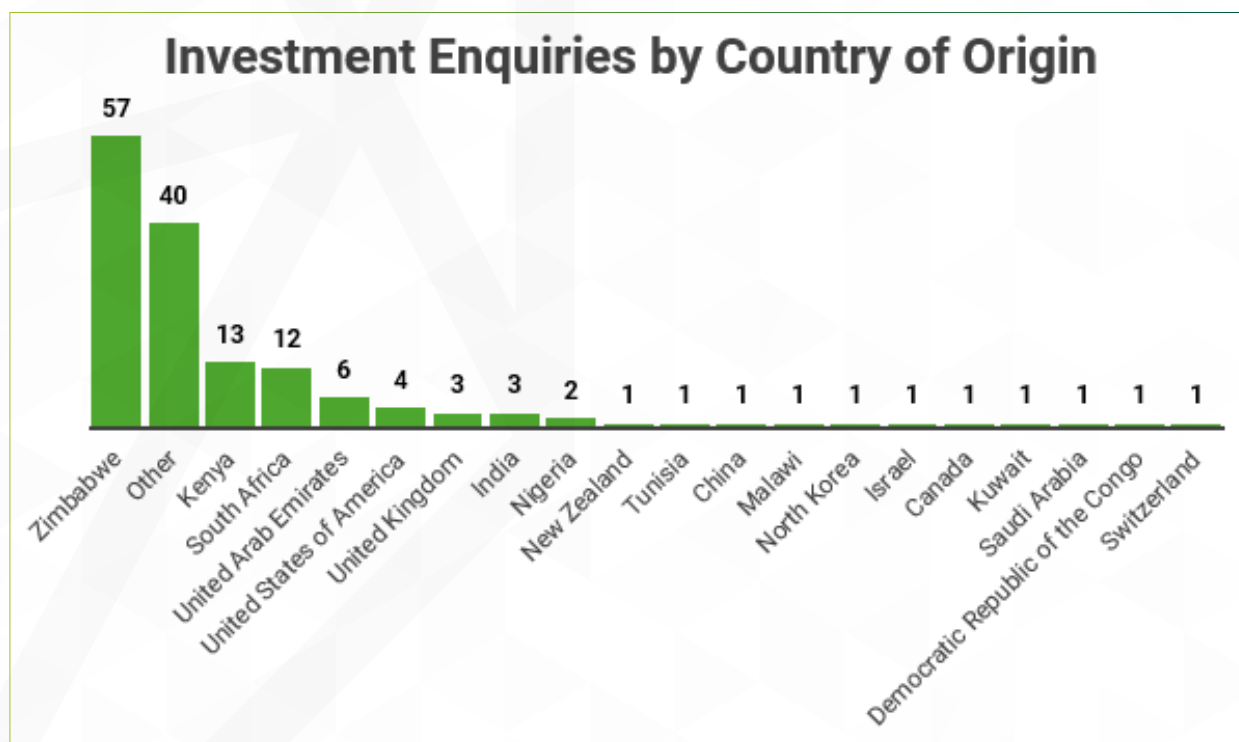
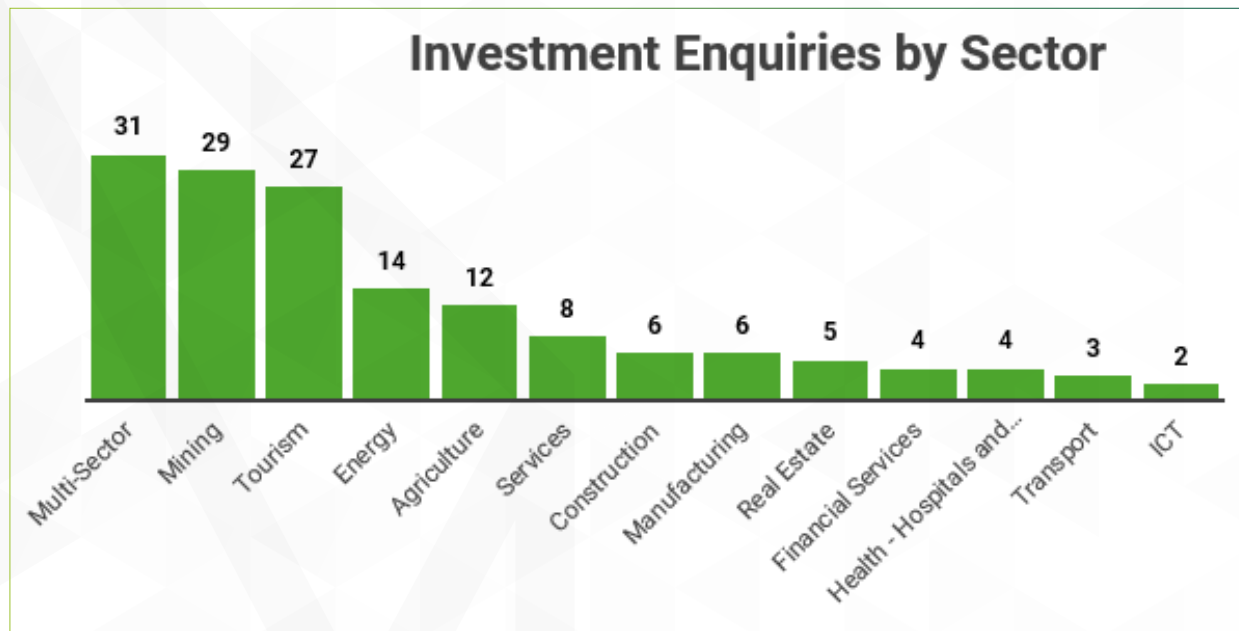
Investor interest remained diversified across sectors while increasingly concentrating within industries aligned with Zimbabwe's industrialisation and economic transformation agenda. Mining attracted the highest number of sector-specific enquiries, followed by Tourism, Energy and Agriculture. Renewable Energy emerged as the strongest-performing sector within the Agency's investor targeting programme, accounting for the majority of investment commitments secured during the quarter. Manufacturing also continued to attract significant investor interest through project promotion and pipeline development efforts.

From a geographical perspective, Zimbabwe remained the Agency's largest online audience, reflecting sustained domestic demand for investment information and licensing services. Internationally, South Africa recorded consistent growth in website engagement, while interest from China remained strong. Investor enquiries were also received from a broad range of international markets, including Kenya, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, the United Kingdom, India and Nigeria, demonstrating the expanding reach and diversification of Zimbabwe's investment promotion efforts.

On the Agency's main frame customer interface platform, a total of **491** investor enquiries were received and processed, with most relating to request for information on how to enter the Zimbabwean market.

Enquiries by Channel – Q2 2026

Channel	Q2 2026
Email	147
Walk-in	133
Website	118
Contact Centre	59
Other	34
Total	491



Investment Growth And Performance

2.1 Investment Licencing Appraisals and Approvals

Investment approvals recorded strong performance during the quarter, reflecting continued investor confidence in Zimbabwe's economic prospects. A total of **184 new investment licences** were issued, representing a projected investment value of **US\$1.59 billion**, largely driven by capital-intensive projects in the mining and manufacturing sectors.

The capital structure of approved investments remained predominantly externally financed. Foreign currency cash injections accounted for **US\$667.54 million (42.0%)** of the total projected investment value, while imported capital equipment contributed **US\$650.29 million (40.9%)**. Foreign currency loans and debt financing amounted to **US\$216.89 million (13.7%)**, while raw materials and components accounted for **US\$51.85 million (3.3%)**. Local contributions totalled **US\$1.85 million**, representing approximately **0.1%** of the total projected investment value. This financing profile underscores the critical role of foreign capital and imported equipment in supporting the implementation of newly approved investment projects.

New Investment Licence Applications Performance

Quarter & Year	No of New Licenses Issued	Capital Equipment from Abroad (US\$M)	Foreign Currency Loan/Debt (US\$M)	Foreign Currency Cash Injection (US\$M)	Other - Raw Materials and Components (US\$M)	Local Contribution (US\$M)	Total Projected Investment Value (US\$M)
Q2 2026	184	650.29	216.89	667.54	51.85	1.85	1,588.41

Of the 184 investment licences issued during the quarter, two (2) were approvals for establishment in Special Economic Zones (SEZs), with the Joina City Business and Knowledge Process Outsourcing (BKPO) SEZ being fully designated and the attendant permits and licences required to support its operationalisation issued, while the Sunny Yi Feng Industrial Park was approved and its draft designation cleared for gazetting.

2.2 Public Private Partnerships (PPP) Proposals Reviewed

The Agency received twelve (12) new Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Project Proposals for review during the months April to June 2026. The new proposals add to the thirteen (13) projects received and reviewed during Q2 bringing the year-to-date total to twenty-five (25). Figure 1 uses a funnel diagram to show the various stages of the PPP projects currently under development.

Figure 1: Number of Projects through each Stage



In addition the Agency continued to provide Legal expertise and advise on PPP Projects whose contracts are being negotiated between Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and the respective private parties;

- i. ZENT Enterprises (Private) Limited and Shanghai Jingdao Electric Co. Ltd for the development of US\$6.8 m.
- ii. Mosi Oa Tunya Development Company and JRG Consortium for the development of US\$92.5m bulk infrastructure at Masuwe SEZ
- iii. Mining Promotion Corporation (MPC) and Xinjiang TBEA Group Co. Limited for the US\$3.175m Exploration and Mine Development over Reserved Area Mid 004 in the Midlands Province with Special Grant Number 7361.
- iv. State Lotteries (Private) Limited and Satewave Technologies for the resuscitation of the national lottery of Zimbabwe . Project cost US\$5.3 m

The Agency also provided technical input into the Cabinet approval for the termination of a Joint Venture Agreement between ZESA Enterprises and QLV Management Services for the manufacturing of electricity distribution cables.

2.3 Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Approvals & Operationalisation



The Agency continued advancing Zimbabwe's Special Economic Zone programme from policy development towards implementation.

A significant milestone was the operationalisation of the Joina City Business and Knowledge Process Outsourcing Special Economic Zone, marking Zimbabwe's entry into knowledge-intensive service industries. The designation of the Sunny Yi Feng Industrial Park Special Economic Zone further strengthens the country's industrial development agenda by promoting manufacturing, value addition and export-oriented production

Operationally during the reporting period, **five (5)** SEZ applications were processed, **two (2)** new SEZs were designated, three Expressions of Interest were received and approximately 25 investor enquiries were handled across sectors including Business Knowledge Process Outsourcing (BKPO), manufacturing, mineral beneficiation, healthcare, renewable energy, agro-processing and industrial park development.

Investment Project Pipeline

Development and Performance

3.1 Project Pipeline Development & Growth

The Agency continued to work with project promoters (both public and private) and the IFC, under the IPA Network Programme, to identify and develop investment opportunities in the priority sectors of Agriculture, Energy, Mining, Manufacturing, Tourism and Business Services. A total of **six (6) projects** with a combined estimated value of approximately **US\$87.3 million** were developed into Project Summaries and added to the Investment Promotion Pipeline. The table below provides details of the projects added to the pipeline during the quarter.

Project Pipeline

Project Proposal	Promoter	Investment Type	Sector	Projected Value (USD)
1. Numera Cloud – ERP Platform for African SMEs	Numera Technologies (Pvt) Ltd	General Investment	ICT	500,000
2. 30MW Solar Panel Assembly Plant	Verify Engineering (Pvt) Ltd	General Investment	Manufacturing	4,560,000
3. Gold Securities Mine Project	Gold Securities Zimbabwe (Private) Limited	General Investment	Mining	12,000,000
4. Camelzone Solar Power Project	Camelzone Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd t/a Camel Energy	General Investment	Energy	30,000,000
5. 2GWh Lithium Battery & Energy Storage Manufacturing Facility	Orangerose Investments (Pvt) Ltd (Zimbabwe)	General Investment	Energy	33,000,000
	Australia National Power Storage Holding Pty Ltd (NPS).			
6. Loozane 5 Agro-Industrial Export Hub	Loozani Farm	General Investment	Agriculture	7,209,107
TOTAL				US\$87,269,107

3.2 Investment Leads and Commitments



The Agency's investment funnel highlights the progression of investors from initial enquiry or engagement to formal commitment, providing a clear indication of the effectiveness of investment promotion, facilitation and investor management interventions.

During the quarter through structured investor targeting initiatives, the Agency directly engaged **241 investors** across priority sectors including renewable energy, mining, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, ICT and infrastructure. These efforts generated **24** investor interest responses, **34** qualified leads, **15** tripartite meetings, which resulted in **8** investment commitments valued at **US\$413.8 million**, demonstrating the effectiveness of proactive investment promotion in progressing investors through the investment lifecycle. Mining, Tourism, Energy and Agriculture remained the leading sectors of investor interest, while Renewable Energy attracted the highest-value of commitments.

Indicator	April	May	June	Q2 Total
Investors Engaged	81	80	80	241
Qualified Investor Leads Generated	5	5	24	34
Committed Investors (NDAs / Commitments)	1	2	5	8
Value of Commitments Under NDA	US\$81.6m	US\$28.7m	US\$304.5m	US\$413.8m

The Agency further enhanced market awareness and investor contact, through participation in strategic platforms and events, including the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF), the University of Zimbabwe Public Lecture Series. These engagements strengthened stakeholder awareness, promoted investment opportunities and reinforced Zimbabwe's positioning as a destination for investment and innovation.

The funnel's performance reflects the Agency's growing ability to review source markets, identify, engage and nurture prospective investors towards investment commitments.

*Definitions:

- **Investors Engaged:** Investors reached through targeted promotion and investment promotion activities.
- **Qualified Leads:** Verified investor prospects with active investment interest and potential.
- **Committed Investors:** Investors progressing to formal engagement through NDAs with project promoters.
- **Value Under NDA:** Total estimated capital investment linked to confidential investment discussions and agreements.

3.4 Key Insights

The quarter demonstrated sustained investor interest in Zimbabwe, with the strongest engagement originating from Zimbabwe, South Africa, the United States, China and the United Kingdom, while investor enquiries were also received from key target markets including Kenya, the United Arab Emirates, India and Nigeria.

Mining continued to be the most sought-after sector, followed by tourism, energy and agriculture, while renewable energy attracted the highest-value investment commitments, highlighting growing investor confidence in the sector. The Agency's investor targeting efforts engaged 241 investors, generating 34 qualified leads and resulting in 8 investment commitments valued at US\$413.8 million, representing conversion rates of approximately 14% from engagement to qualified lead and 24% from qualified lead to commitment. While investment licencing approvals remained strong, with 184 licences approved valued at US\$1.59 billion, monitoring results indicate that project implementation and equity capital deployment, are areas requiring continued attention to accelerate investment realisation. There is still high level of interest to establish SEZs in the country, however the level of establishment by investors in the designated zones remains low.

Investor Facilitation, Retention & Resolution Outcomes

5.1 Investment Licence Renewal Performance

Quarterly Performance in Investment Licence Renewals

Period Renewed	Number of licences issued due for renewal	Number of licences renewed by due date	Number of licences due for renewal during quarter not renewed	Number of licence renewals from other periods	Total No of Licences Renewed during the quarter
Q1 2026	209	45	164	72	117
Q2 2026	288	82	206	76	158

Q2 2026 vs. Q2 2025: Comparison of Investment Licence Renewals Performance

Period Renewed	Number of licences issued due for renewal	Number of licences renewed by due date	Number of licences due for renewal during quarter not renewed	Number of licence renewals from other periods	Total No of Licences Renewed during the quarter
Q2 2026	288	82	206	76	158
Q2 2025	205	50	155	57	107

Licence renewal performance improved by **35%** in Q2 2026, with total renewals increasing from 117 to 158 licences. On-time renewals also rose from 45 in the previous quarter to 82 during the reporting period.

Whilst licence renewal performance has improved, stronger follow up systems and stakeholder engagement remain key in improving timely renewals as 206 licences due for renewal during the quarter were not renewed

Compared to the same period in 2025, licence renewal performance improved during the reporting period, with total renewals increasing from 107 to 158 licences, representing 48% growth. Similarly, timely renewals rose from 50 to 82 licences, representing a 64% improvement. This growth reflects enhanced renewal compliance, effective compliance monitoring and follow up efforts.

5.2 Investor Aftercare & Retention Initiatives

Recognising that investment promotion does not end with licence issuance, the Agency continued strengthening its investor aftercare function during the quarter through the development of the Investor Aftercare Methodology.

The methodology establishes a structured and evidence-based framework for supporting investors beyond project approval, with the objective of improving investor retention, facilitating business expansion and increasing reinvestment. During the quarter, the process of identification of the first cohort of 30 investors for inclusion in the programme commenced, with tailored engagement and response frameworks scheduled for implementation in the third quarter.

5.3 Investor Grievance Management & Resolution Of Regulatory Challenges

The Agency's digital grievance resolution platform remained functional and available for investors to submit their statutory and regulatory issues – as well as any other issues affecting their operations and related to government department operations. No investor grievances were recorded on the Investor Grievance Platform during the 2nd quarter of 2026

5.4 Project Implementation Support

The Agency provided capacity development and support to Kadoma City Council through a short training programme focusing on project preparation and Public–Private Partnerships. The programme was attended by twenty-two (22) participants from various municipal authorities.

5.5 Key Barriers to Investment Facilitation, Support and Retention

Monitoring and facilitation activities undertaken during the quarter identified several factors affecting the timely implementation of approved investment projects.

The most significant challenge remains the relatively low conversion of projected investment into realised capital expenditure. This is compounded by limited monitoring coverage across the licensed project portfolio, delayed equity capital deployment and slower implementation in several non-traditional investment sectors.

Sectoral analysis further indicates that realised investment remains heavily concentrated in Mining, Manufacturing and Agriculture, suggesting that sectors such as ICT, Tourism, Financial Services, Construction and Health may require additional investment facilitation, targeted promotion and implementation support.

Licence renewal performance also highlights the need to strengthen investor compliance mechanisms to ensure that licensed investments remain active and continue progressing towards implementation.

Investments Performance, Markets and Insights

6.1 Geographic Distribution of Investments

Analysis of Q2 2026 New Investment Approvals by Province

Province	No of New Licenses Issued	Capital Equipment from Abroad (US\$M)	Foreign Currency Loan/ Debt (US\$M)	Foreign Currency Cash Injection (US\$M)	Other - Raw Materials and Components (US\$M)	Local Contribution (US\$M)	Total Projected Investment Value (US\$M)
Bulawayo	4	4.34	0.87	1.39	0.00	-	6.60
Harare	74	133.35	2.24	235.04	37.00	1.85	409.48
Manicaland	6	30.80	3.70	30.50	-	-	65.00
Mashonaland Central	17	108.55	1.90	77.77	5.00	-	193.22
Mashonaland East	11	49.65	7.31	16.75	-	-	73.71
Mashonaland West	25	104.90	10.00	74.65	-	-	189.55
Masvingo	4	7.00	190.87	113.93	-	-	311.80
Matabeleland North	3	2.94	-	3.04	-	-	5.98
Matabeleland South	6	29.45	-	29.15	-	-	58.60
Midlands	34	179.32	-	85.31	9.85	-	274.47
Total	184	650.29	216.89	667.54	51.85	1.85	1588.41

Investment licences issued in Q2 2026 remained concentrated in a few provinces, with Harare, Masvingo, and Midlands accounting for **62.8%** of the total projected investment value. Harare maintained its position as the leading investment destination, recording 74 new licences (40.2% of all approvals) and attracting the highest projected investment value of US\$409.48 million (25.8%).

Although only 4 projects were approved in Masvingo Province, it ranked second by investment value (US\$311.80 million) due to a small number of large, capital-intensive investments. Midlands followed with 34 licences valued at US\$274.47 million, while Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West also recorded strong investment values of US\$193.22 million and US\$189.55 million, respectively.

Overall, the analysis indicates that investment activity remained geographically concentrated, with Harare leading in the number of approved projects and Masvingo and Midlands attracting fewer but significantly larger investments.

6.2 Sectoral Performance

Investment approvals in Q2 2026 were heavily concentrated in the Mining and Manufacturing sectors, which together accounted for US\$1.27 billion, or 79.6% of the total projected investment value. Mining remained the leading sector, recording 86 approved projects worth US\$768.52 million (48.4%), while Manufacturing followed with 43 projects valued at US\$496.72 million (31.3%). The Services and Energy sectors also attracted notable investment, although on a much smaller scale, while sectors such as Agriculture, ICT, Health, Financial Services, and Real Estate recorded relatively modest investment values.

Analysis of Q2 2026 New Investment Licence Approvals by Sector

Sector	No of New Licenses Issued	Capital Equipment from Abroad (US\$M)	Foreign Currency Loan/ Debt (US\$M)	Foreign Currency Cash Injection (US\$M)	Other - Raw Materials and Components (US\$M)	Local Contribution (US\$M)	Total Projected Investment Value (US\$M)
Agriculture	5	5.25	-	10.25	-	-	15.50
Construction	6	21.03	-	7.42	-	-	28.45
Energy	4	12.70	7.31	74.44	-	-	94.45
Financial Services	5	-	0.34	13.97	-	1.20	15.51
Health	2	2.86	-	13.25	-	-	16.11
ICT	1	0.43	-	0.57	-	-	1.00
Manufacturing	43	100.52	190.80	168.76	36.00	0.65	496.72
Mining	86	460.25	15.97	286.45	5.85	-	768.52
Real Estate	5	3.02	1.27	9.89	-	-	14.18
Services	17	33.99	1.20	71.33	10.00	-	116.52
Tourism and Hospitality	10	10.25	-	11.20	-	-	21.45
Total	184	650.29	216.89	667.54	51.85	1.85	1588.41

The projected financing structure was predominantly externally funded. Mining accounted for the largest share of imported capital equipment, at US\$460.25 million, while manufacturing attracted the highest level of foreign loan and debt financing, amounting to US\$190.80 million. Foreign currency cash injections were the principal source of financing across most sectors, while local contributions remained minimal at US\$1.85 million overall.

The results indicate that Zimbabwe's investment pipeline remains driven by capital-intensive projects in the mining and manufacturing industries. While this supports industrial development and export growth, the relatively low investment in other sectors underscores the need for targeted investment promotion strategies to encourage greater sectoral diversification and foster more balanced, inclusive economic growth.

6.3 Emerging Investor Markets

The second quarter also demonstrated encouraging progress in developing new investment frontiers capable of supporting Zimbabwe's long-term economic transformation.

Renewable Energy continued to attract increasing investor interest, becoming the leading sector for new investment commitments secured through the Agency's direct investor targeting programme. Simultaneously, the operationalisation of the Joina City Business and Knowledge Process Outsourcing (BKPO) Special Economic Zone represents an important milestone in establishing Zimbabwe as a regional destination for knowledge-based industries, digital services and business process outsourcing.

Further momentum was generated through the designation of the Sunny Yi Feng Industrial Park Special Economic Zone, which is expected to strengthen industrial manufacturing, value addition and export-oriented production. Investment pipeline development also highlighted growing investor interest in battery manufacturing, cloud technologies, digital platforms, solar energy and energy storage infrastructure, reflecting Zimbabwe's gradual expansion into higher-value industrial and technology sectors.

These emerging sectors provide important opportunities to diversify Zimbabwe's investment portfolio while supporting industrialisation, innovation and employment creation.

Investor Advocacy, Policy Reform & Institutional Capability

7.1 Legislation and Policy Changes Impacting Investments

7.1.1 Statutory Instrument 64 of 2026 – Banking (Victoria Falls International Financial Services) (Companies) Regulations, 2026

These Regulations define how businesses are run within the International Financial Services Centre to ensure that they are safe, professional, and transparent. A company is treated as a separate entity, which protects investors by limiting their personal liability to only the amount they have invested. To meet international standards, companies must maintain a registered office in the Centre and disclose their true owners to prevent hidden interests. Larger entities (specifically those with more than 20 shareholders or a yearly turnover exceeding US\$100,000,000) are held to higher standards and must file annual financial statements. Additionally, the Arbitration Centre is integrated into this framework to provide expert oversight for complex corporate actions like mergers or capital changes, ensuring all major business moves are handled fairly.

7.1.2 Statutory Instrument 65 of 2026 – Banking (Victoria Falls International Financial Services Centre) (Financial Technology) Regulations, 2026

Statutory Instrument 65 of 2026 makes the Centre a leader in innovation by allowing fintech firms to test and develop new products and digital assets under live market conditions. The framework provides for two-year licences with potential extensions, supported by a risk-based approval process that offers twenty-one-day approvals for low-risk activities. Safeguards include professional indemnity insurance, anti-money laundering controls, and client fund segregation. Furthermore, the Regulations recognise security tokens as securities and enable the recognition of foreign sandbox licenses to allow international tech firms to enter the market faster and easier for global innovators to launch their products.

7.1.3 Statutory Instrument 66 of 2026 – Banking (Victoria Falls International Financial Services Centre) (Arbitration) Regulations, 2026

The Regulations establish the Victoria Falls International Arbitration Centre (VFIAC), providing investors with a neutral and enforceable dispute resolution mechanism. To safeguard investor interests, the Regulations mandate written arbitration agreements and empower tribunals to issue binding interim measures to preserve assets. All proceedings are conducted in English and governed by English law, offering significant legal certainty and familiarity for cross-border investors. Arbitral awards are final and binding with restricted grounds for challenge and are enforceable both locally and internationally through reciprocal Treaty arrangements, ensuring contract enforceability and minimising legal risk.

7.1.4 Statutory Instrument 68 of 2026 – Banking (Victoria Falls International Financial Services) (General) Regulations, 2026

The General Regulations mandate strengthened levels of market integrity by outlining licensing requirements for authorised firms, market institutions, and ancillary service providers. Investors benefit from enhanced protection measures, including safeguards against market abuse, comprehensive disclosure requirements for reporting entities, and a robust recovery and resolution framework designed to maintain financial stability. Furthermore, the S.I. fosters innovation by providing the Centre with the flexibility to waive or modify requirements for financial technology initiatives, ensuring that the ecosystem remains competitive.

7.1 Legislation and Policy Changes Impacting Investments

7.1.5 S.I. 76 Companies and Other Business Entities (Re-Registration) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026 (No. 1)

The Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs extended the deadline for re-registration of companies and other business entities from 20 April 2026 to 20 April 2028. The extension provides a significant administrative cushion for both domestic and foreign investors, ensuring that businesses can update corporate records carefully and are not rushed into compliance or penalised during the transition to the new VFIFSC standards.

7.1.6 Statutory Instrument 82 of 2026 – Environmental Management (Prohibition of Lead in Paint and Coating Materials) Regulations, 2026

These Regulations establish a strict safety standard by prohibiting the manufacture, import, or sale of paints and coating materials with a total lead concentration exceeding 90 parts per million (90 ppm). This aligns Zimbabwe with international health and environmental benchmarks, reducing long-term liability risks associated with lead exposure in residential, commercial, and industrial applications.

Manufacturers and importers must, therefore, ensure testing of product formulations through accredited laboratories using specified methods, and must issue a Declaration of Conformity. In addition, they should ensure that all containers are clearly labelled with the manufacturer's details and a statement of compliance.

Manufacturers were given a six-month compliance and regularisation period from the date of publication, after which non-compliant products will be withdrawn from the market.

7.1.7 Statutory Instrument 83 of 2026 – Customs and Excise (COMESA Simplified Trade Regime) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026 (No. 1)

The Ministry of Finance promulgated the Regulations to facilitate small-to-medium scale cross-border trade by increasing the value threshold for the COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) Simplified Trade Regime (STR) from US\$500.00 to US\$2,000.00. The COMESA Simplified Trade Regime (STR) is a customs clearance procedure designed specifically for small-scale cross-border traders. It eliminates complex paperwork and imports duties, allowing qualifying traders to import or export up to US\$2,000 worth of goods per consignment duty-free when traveling between participating COMESA Member States.

The Regulations therefore increased the value threshold to further facilitate SME cross-border trade by reducing the administrative burden and clearing costs for small-scale traders and investors operating within the COMESA region.

7.1.8 Statutory Instrument 89 of 2026 – Model Fees (Amendment) By-laws, 2026 (No. 1)

These by-laws introduce reductions and caps on various administrative fees charged by local authorities, particularly concerning fuel storage and infrastructure way leaves. This is done to enhance the ease of doing business, by lowering recurring operational costs. Notable changes include a 50% reduction in annual fuel storage registration fees for commercial use, service stations, and depots, alongside the abolition of annual fees for dispensing nozzles. Further, way leave fees for projects are now capped at US\$5,000.00, providing cost certainty for large-scale projects.

The following Statutory Instruments were gazetted during Q2 of 2026 and are available in the compiled google drive accessible via the link: [Statutory Instruments - Google Drive](#).

7.2 Special Economic Zone Regulations Review

The Agency commenced a comprehensive review of the Special Economic Zone regulatory framework to improve competitiveness, incorporate international best practice and support the development of integrated provincial industrial zones. These initiatives position Special Economic Zones as an increasingly important platform for attracting investment, accelerating industrialisation and supporting long-term economic transformation.

7.3 Institutional Capacity and Knowledge Development

The Agency continued investing in institutional capability to improve the quality of project preparation, investment facilitation and stakeholder support.

A key milestone during the quarter was the continued implementation of the IFC Investment Promotion Agency Network Programme, through which the Agency strengthened project identification, screening and appraisal processes using internationally recognised methodologies. The adoption of IFC-approved project preparation templates and assessment tools has improved the quality and bankability of investment opportunities presented to prospective investors.

To complement these initiatives, the Agency delivered a two-day capacity-building workshop on Project Development and Public-Private Partnership Processing for public sector stakeholders. The programme equipped participants with practical skills in project identification, preparation, appraisal and structuring using the Agency's Project Development and PPP Guidelines. These efforts contribute to improving the quality of projects entering the national investment pipeline and increasing their prospects for successful implementation.

Research and market intelligence strengthened the Agency's investment promotion efforts during the quarter by informing sector targeting, investor engagement strategies, and policy development. These insights enhanced evidence-based decision-making and supported the identification of high-potential investment opportunities across priority sectors. A key research outputs delivered during the second quarter of 2026 was the **Manufacturing Sector (Policy & Regulatory Environment) Report**.

The Report focuses on the policy and regulatory environment issues affecting the sector. This followed the first phase of the work, which assessed the structure, performance and investment opportunities within manufacturing. The report will now undergo detailed review with a focus on identifying priority policy and regulatory reforms for engagement with relevant Government stakeholders. This process will support evidence-based advocacy initiatives designed to address industry constraints, strengthen the investment climate and unlock the manufacturing sector's potential as a driver of industrialisation, exports and employment creation.

7.4 Strengthening Project Preparation Capacity

The Agency continued strengthening the institutional framework supporting project preparation through the expansion of its network of registered Transaction Advisers.

During the quarter, three additional firms were registered as Transaction Advisers, increasing the pool of technical expertise available to Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies in preparing, structuring and implementing complex investment projects. The three (3) firms Febrite (PVT) LTD, Livin Capital and Investments (PVT) LTD and Soled Financial Services (PVT) LTD will play an important role in improving project quality, strengthening financial structuring and enhancing the bankability of future investment opportunities.

08. Outlook and Strategic Priorities for Q3

The Agency's investment promotion efforts continue to gain traction in both traditional and emerging source markets, evidenced by sustained investor interest from South Africa, China and the United Arab Emirates, alongside growing enquiries from India, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and other non-traditional markets. As the Agency looks ahead to developing its 2027 Strategy, the focus will be on deepening its market-specific engagement approaches, converting digital enquiries into structured investor engagements and implementing targeted country-focused promotion campaigns. The quarter results, data and research shows that greater emphasis should be placed on strengthening investor intelligence and positioning Zimbabwe's value proposition within high-growth investor markets to enhance lead generation and improve investment conversion outcomes.

The continued strong performance of renewable energy and mining-related opportunities highlights the importance of prioritising sectors with the greatest potential to attract transformative investment. The focus should therefore remain on accelerating investment promotion in renewable energy with emphasis on transmission infrastructure and energy storage projects, while simultaneously advancing mining beneficiation and value addition opportunities across the mineral value chain. In addition, based on the outcomes of the Manufacturing Sector Report and the monitoring and evaluation data, manufacturing should remain a key strategic pillar, leveraging sector intelligence to promote priority subsectors and advocate for reforms that enhance competitiveness. Special Economic Zones should be integrated into this agenda as catalytic investment platforms capable of driving industrialisation, exports, technology transfer and job creation.

While investor interest remained strong in the quarter under review, the Agency's future success will increasingly depend on its ability to convert investor enquiries and commitments into operational projects. Strengthening the entire investment lifecycle through enhanced investor targeting, lead qualification, investor nurturing and aftercare services will be key. A stronger pipeline of projects created through project implementation support, will accelerate the transition from approved investments to operational enterprises, and enhance coordination with key stakeholders to address implementation bottlenecks.



Join us for our upcoming 2026 Sector Roundtable Investment Forum

Energy Sector - 11 November 2026

Manufacturing Sector - 18 November 2026

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