After years of turmoil, a promising future

By Victor Olombe

A growing economy has improved quality of life

By Per Sinclair

DRC’s national parks: Beautiful, rich with biodiversity

By Kenzo Otsalo

The following is a recent interview with Prime Minister Matata Ponyo, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He served as Minister of Finance from February 2010 to April 18, 2012, when he was appointed Prime Minister by Congolese President Joseph Kabila. Prime Minister Matata Ponyo Mapo has degrees in economics from the Universities of London and Buea, and specializes in international economics and monetary issues. During his tenure as Minister of Finance and Prime Minister, the economy of the DRC has recorded impressive growth and Prime Minister Matata Ponyo Mapo is known as a statesman, skilled and determined in working with his colleagues in the region for prosperity. It is well known that good management and effective administration are the key to success. By focusing on good governance, this country has been able to maintain economic growth and reduce poverty. The government is committed to improving the living standards of its citizens and making the DRC a land of opportunity. Under the leadership of President Joseph Kabila, the DRC has continued to make significant progress in economic development. The government has implemented several economic reforms and policies aimed at promoting growth and reducing poverty. The government has also prioritized education and healthcare, which have had a positive impact on the lives of its citizens. The DRC is rich in natural resources, including minerals, gold, and oil. However, the country has struggled to realize the full potential of these resources due to conflict, corruption, and poor governance. To address these challenges, the government has embarked on a path of economic diversification, focusing on sectors such as agriculture, mining, and tourism. The government has also sought to improve infrastructure, including roads and airports, to facilitate trade and investment. Despite these challenges, the DRC has made significant progress in recent years and is poised for even greater growth in the future. The government is committed to continuing its efforts to improve the quality of life for its citizens and make the DRC a land of opportunity for all.
A grand plan to electrify Congo and Africa

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has tremendous hydropower potential. It has been estimated that it could produce 50,000 MW of electricity, enough to meet all the current needs of the country.

This does not sound unreasonable when you consider that the Grand Inga project alone is one of the largest hydroelectric projects in the world. It includes three dams: Inga I, Inga II, and Inga III, which together will generate over 60,000 MW of electricity.

The Grand Inga project was first conceived in the 1970s, but it was not until the 2000s that serious work began on the project. In 2010, the World Bank approved a $1.1 billion grant to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to build the Grand Inga project.

The project involves the construction of three dams on the Congo River, each with a capacity of 10,000 MW. The dams will be built in stages, with Inga I and Inga II completed by 2024 and Inga III by 2030.

The Grand Inga project is expected to have a significant impact on the region, providing much-needed electricity to households and businesses, especially in the mining and agricultural sectors.

In addition to generating electricity, the project will also have social benefits, including the promotion of education, health, and transport. The project will also help to reduce poverty and increase economic growth.

The success of the Grand Inga project will depend on the ability of the DRC to attract investment, manage the project effectively, and ensure that the benefits of the project are distributed fairly.

In conclusion, the Grand Inga project is a major opportunity for the Democratic Republic of the Congo to make significant progress in terms of electricity generation and economic development.

By Tim Cusack

MINISTER

Prime Minister Matata Ponyo: The objective is to maximize the potential of the Congo River. We need to work together with other countries to ensure that the benefits of the project are shared fairly.
A fragile peace raises hope for Eastern Congo

The DRC’s relations with the rest of Africa and the world have largely been dominated by issues related to the conflict in Eastern Congo, and the arrival of peace will enable Kinshasa to refocus its efforts on economic and political development. The DRC is a resource-rich region on Earth’s surface, which has been a major objective for many nations in the world. It is not yet ready to secure its own territory.

In 2001, Laurent Kabila was assassinated and mayhem receded and a fragile transmission costs and speed the much-needed economic and political development.

The Congo and other major rivers and lakes provide some transportation relief in the form of railroads, 32 hospitals, 145 health centers and 10,000 miles of navigable waterways. But how can you develop an economy in the 21st century without significant investments in infrastructure — roads, railroads, and other development, out of a project estimated in the agricultural sector led by private sector actors (subsistence farming), the potential for development-related investment willingness to put in place policies and enforcement to protect investors there is no reason the success in the mining sector cannot be replicated elsewhere in the economy. Abundant water and arable land are precious resources in the country. With some ten million of Congo’s population dependent on rice and other food crops, the Chinese government hopes to provide some 500,000 tonnes of rice in 2015 (in addition to rice already shipped to the army and the UN system). The Cibuti government and the UN system are eager to receive rice from China.

However, business has a way of solving its problems. and the MSME sector is strong because of poor management and/or inadequate budgets, the private sector will sometimes step in to fill the gap. This is the matchmaking for the DRC in the short term.

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The World Bank’s Doing Business 2016 report on the DRC shows that the ease of starting a business in the country improved by 83 places compared with the 2015 report, climbing from 172 to 89 and placing the country in the center of the global pack. The Doing Business report measures the ease of starting and operating a small-to-medium-sized business in 190 countries around the world. Although the DRC continues to be a challenging environment, it has made significant strides in recent years, and its national rank for other indicators of the Doing Business report are not as good, the government has implemented a series of reforms to make it easier to do business.

According to the DRC Ministry of Planning, reforms include creation of the National Agency for Investment Promotion and a sustained commitment to transparency in the management of the state’s business climate. It has also ratified the OHADA Treaty (Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa), which improves the efficiency of trade disputes and other types of civil cases between African countries.

Additional reforms outlined by the ministry include establishment of a one-stop-shop for business creation, elimination of a minimum capital requirement for some types of companies and changing the sales tax to an added-value tax, as well as a series of changes to simplify the corporate tax code and cross-border trade rules. A broader range of changes to improve the business climate and promote inward investment cover rules on the transfer of property, obtaining licenses, execution of contracts, the protection of investors and liberalizing the code for the insurance markets, among others.

The DRC Congress Investment Promotion Agency (ANAPI) has also outlined a series of reforms including infrastructure, agriculture, mines, hydrocarbons, industry, transportation, energy, tourism, housing, telecommunications and forestry.

In 2015, the government adopted a National Agricultural Investment Plan which created an investment framework for 2015-2020. The goal of the plan is to grow the agricultural sector by more than 6 percent to create food security and create jobs, according to ANAPI.

The key component of the plan is the development of 30 agro-industrial parks spread throughout the country. The first park, Bukanga Lotus, was inaugurated in Rondonda Province in July 2015, and is managed by SolfAgris, a public-private partnership. In addition, the tourism sector, the government revived its 25-year master plan with the objective of achieving 10 percent of all DRC exports, as well as 20 percent in industry, transportation, energy, tourism, housing, telecommunications and forestry. As part of its commitment, Beijing would build or

Resurgent mining sector leads economic growth

The Democratic Republic of Congo has long been known as the "land of minerals." Its mineral wealth has been great enough that foreign investors have long been drawn to the country. The Congolese government has been acutely aware of this and has made various attempts to attract foreign investment.

One of the most recent attempts was made by the DRC government in 2015, when it released a list of minerals and other resources that are considered to be "strategic" and should be protected from foreign investors. The list includes gold, diamonds, cobalt, copper, and uranium. The DRC government has also made various attempts to simplify the process of obtaining a mining license, and has introduced a number of incentives for foreign investors who want to invest in the country.

In addition to simplifying the process of obtaining a mining license, the DRC government has also been working to improve the country's infrastructure. This includes the construction of roads, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure. The government has also been working to improve the country's telecommunications infrastructure. This includes the construction of new cell towers and the expansion of existing ones.

Both Rwanda and Uganda supported the plan to improve infrastructure and the steady flow of investment is likely to continue.

The Democratic Republic of Congo has been one of the world’s poorest countries for many years. The country has been plagued by conflict, corruption, and economic instability, which has hindered its development.

However, the past few years have seen some positive developments in the country. The government has made efforts to improve the country's infrastructure, and has introduced a number of incentives for foreign investors. This has led to an increase in foreign investment, and the steady flow of investment is likely to continue.

One concern is the high number of people who are unemployed. The government has been working to improve the country's education system, and has introduced a number of programs to help young people obtain the skills they need to find work. This has led to an increase in the number of people who are employed, and the steady flow of investment is likely to continue.

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While the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been long known for its wide array of minerals and other natural resources, oil and gas have not been included in that list. This is beginning to change and the sector is expected to provide a boost to the economy, given the country’s abundance of natural resources.

Most of Angola’s oil being extracted from the country’s western province, where the Cabinda enclave is located, is exported to China. This helps to diversify the country’s economic base and reduce its reliance on traditional exports such as copper, coffee, cotton, cocoa, rubber, palm oil, and peanuts. These products are in high demand in the Chinese market, and the oil export revenue is used to finance infrastructure development and other projects.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has significant petroleum reserves, making it a potential source of revenue and economic growth. However, the country has struggled to develop and exploit its oil resources due to political instability, corruption, and a lack of infrastructure. In recent years, there has been a focus on attracting investment to the sector, with the aim of increasing production and reducing dependence on imported food products.

The government has set ambitious targets for oil production, with plans to begin exporting crude oil in 2018. In June 2015, the DRC Parliament in Kinshasa approved a bill that allows for the creation of a joint venture company to develop the country’s oil resources. The bill also includes provisions for the protection of the environment and the promotion of good governance in the sector.

To attract foreign investment, the government has offered various incentives, including tax holidays and access to concessional financing. These measures are expected to help the country to reach its production targets and to reduce its dependence on food imports.

Despite the potential for growth, the DRC’s oil sector still faces significant challenges, including funding constraints, technical difficulties, and political instability. However, with the right policies and investments, the country has the potential to become a major player in the global oil market.
In Free Zone

Every government recognition that strong national infrastructure is critical to its economic development. Transportation infrastructure is one of the fundamentals that keeps the gears of an economy operating smoothly.

For the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the infrastructure has long been underdeveloped and poorly maintained, and that is beginning to change. Fridolin Kasweshi, Minister for Infrastructure, Public Works, and Reconstruction, said that the country requires $1 billion per year to upgrade and maintain its roads, according to a Radio Okapi interview. The government does not have those funds, a three-tier plan has been developed, he said.

A key constraint to infrastructural development in the DRC is simply size. The DRC is a vast country, encompassing about 905,600 square miles (slightly bigger than the United States east of the Mississippi), crisscrossing rivers, with huge equatorial forests, difficult terrain and ultra-priority roads with the help of the African Development Bank, the European Union, and the World Bank. "But many routes are not eligible for World Bank loans and government funding due to the need of upgrades and maintenance," according to a Radio Okapi report.

The second tier aims to develop 2,200 miles of complete roads. But the financial resources are limited and alone are not sufficient to address the road infrastructure problems in the country, the minister said.

"We welcome the opportunity to support the Government’s plans to rehabilitate its railway system and build up its agriculture sector. These projects will help boost income, food security and overall agricultural extension, internal and international trade and the continued development of the mining industry depend on the maintenance and expansion of this network, according to development experts.""**

Financial resources are coiled, copper, cobalt, gold, diamonds, tin, uranium, oil, rubber, coffee, sugar, palm, and maintain its roads, according to a Radio Okapi report. The new and old infrastructure bridges next to each other.

With help from international partners, the DRC tackles infrastructure needs
This is still an adventure destination for the tourist who wants to see the little-seen, and experience the little-experienced.

There are private operators, like Go-Congo and Danico, which provide boats with crew and can make sure you are on safe ground at all times.

For visiting enchanters, the Congo is teeming with species, including mountain gorillas, which are known for their intelligence and social structure. Rightly so. They are critically endangered, with only a handful remaining. Mountain gorillas are known for their intelligence and social structure. Rightly so. They are critically endangered, with only a handful remaining.

The song also praises the rangers and other conservationists who protect the critically endangered gorillas and their habitat, especially gorillas and their habitat. The people who call Garamba home have also benefited in the past few years, as attention to education, employment, and economic development have greatly improved the quality of life. For example:

- A new school constructed in 2012 has been a boon to educational opportunities in remote villages.
- Environmental education programs have helped to conserve the country's natural resources. Students and teachers stay informed about the value of natural resources through these programs.

In addition, the park has organized the distribution of four tons of township to 30,000 students.

- Jobs created by the park include law enforcement officers, guides, and rangers.
- Especially useful is the "Troadikis" diversification programs" that create sustainable economic opportunities in the communities that live in this area.

For tourism enthusiasts, the park is home to four different species of chimpanzees, and the only glacial lakes on the continent.

The film is available for watching at 80$ for a reasonable hotel up to 300$ a night for the best resorts. A Kempinski started the influx of high-end tourists into Congolese parks.

The DRC is not yet a country where you are likely to bump into herdsmen of tourists at major sights. All travelers are being asked for the tourist who wants to see the little-seen, and experience the little-experienced.

A moving musical message

In 2009, when the World Wildlife Fund wanted to draw attention to the threats to the park's wildlife, they asked a popular Congolese musician Samba Musengayi and his Orchestra Virunga to write a song. The resulting rumbi rumbura tune, "Les Gorilles des Montagnes," with accompanying "Yellows" videos of gorillas in the forest, explains that the animals are crucial for success full ecosystems, which will in turn improve the lives of local residents.

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Some may think you don’t know anything about Congolese music. But if you’ve ever tapped your foot to the irresistible beat of the rumba, you’ve experienced a national tradition. Rumbas originated in Cuba as a blend of African and Latin rhythms. The World Music Network notes in its article, “The Music of Congo,” describes the Congolese rumba as a “musical form that hit a nerve throughout Africa and had a bigger impact than the big bands and big sound, with acoustic bass, percussion, brass, and multiple electric guitars. According to the Garland Encyclopedia of World Music, a J.L. Lebreton, “the lead guitar player in Congolese rumba recalled the blue-sing it guitar who played in blues and rockabilly music of the 1950’s.” Latin, Caribbean, folk, and soul music influences became increasingly important in this period, with Papa Wemba and Sam Mangwana well-known as band leaders and singers. In 1960, Joseph Kabasele’s “Mambo No. 1” and his group Grand Kalle were released (a song often referred to simply as African Jazz) that released its iconic song, “Independence Cha Cha.” The lively, energetic sound of its dance rhythms captured the imagination of countries around the world and influenced the development of other musical styles. It was also during the 1970s that ‘soukous’ became popularized by such artists as Tabu Ley Rochereau, Koffi Olomide and the group Wenge Musica, among others. The online dictionary definitions.net describes ‘soukous’ as “a fast-paced rhythm created from the sound of a train, typically played on an electric guitar, often with the drum (drum kit) laid out. It is often seen in the DR Congo, the cerebral rhythm is referred to as ‘soukous’ in the ‘80s up to today’s ‘ndombolo,’ a group called ‘soukous’ in the ‘80s up to today’s ‘ndombolo.’”

Past meets future

As dance music from Africa Diaspora, the most popular solo singer in Congolese music today is Papa Wemba, who was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, while he credits Koffi Olomide’s group Quartier Latin in 1999. Koffi Olomide said, “Congolese music is the most representative of Africa... May the heaven and the spirits of Africa... May the heaven and the spirits of Africa... May the heaven and the spirits of Africa... May the heaven and the spirits of Africa... May the heaven and the spirits of Africa... May the heaven and the spirits of Africa... May the heaven and the spirits of Africa... May the heaven and the spirits of Africa... May the heaven and the spirits of Africa... May the heaven and the spirits of Africa... May the heaven and the spirits of Africa... May the heaven and the spirits of Africa... May the heaven and the spirits of Africa. I want to give my condolences to all Congolese people and all Africans.”

Not just fans of African music, but the global music scene lost a favorite son in Joseph Kabasele, announced in 1982. It became an instant hit on the European music scene. In 1999, the group Zaïko Langa Langa, under the leadership of leader, became the go-to band for the whole post-independence generation. "Unlike other bands, Zaïko was not the personal property of one leader. It was a group of over 20 musicians. Other New Wave groups appeared in the 1970s, featuring a raw, mayor feel while the groups competed with honey toned vocals. It was also during the 1970s that ‘soukous’ dance music from bands such as Zuko and Orchestra Shima dominated in East and Central Africa. The online dictionary definitions.net describes ‘soukous’ as “a fast-paced rhythm created from the sound of a train, typically played on an electric guitar, often with the drum (drum kit) laid out. It is often seen in the DR Congo, the cerebral rhythm is referred to as ‘soukous’ in the ‘80s up to today’s ‘ndombolo,’ a group called ‘soukous’ in the ‘80s up to today’s ‘ndombolo.’”

Playing for change, singing for peace

In February 2014, something memorable and even magical took place in a very unlikely place. The Amatu Music Festival in Goma, DRC, shown a bright light on the important role that music and dance can play in creating harmony among neighboring countries. A cycle of violence and peace has been the norm in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the surrounding region. Over the historical period that Kuba is a tradition, the Congolese were divided and fought against each other, a cycle that continues to today. In 2014, a festival was held that brought together leaders of the region to promote peace and reconciliation.

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A Special Report Prepared By The Washington Times International Advocacy Department

The roots and rhythms of the Congo

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