

CONCRETE PYLONS

The President asked the Chinese investor to also venture into making concrete electrical poles since they were long lasting

By Vision Reporter

A Chinese entrepreneur, Pengfei Zhang, has expressed interest in investing in a multi-manufacturing factory for the production of an assortment of electrical equipment in Uganda.

Zhang made the revelation while meeting President Yoweri Museveni at State House, Entebbe earlier this week. The meeting was also attended by the Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga.

Concrete poles

Museveni told Zhang who is also the chairperson of China-based Taichang Group Company Limited, that besides manufacturing electrical equipment such as transformers, meters and domestic appliances like kettles and flat irons, the investor should also venture into making concrete electrical poles.

The President said Uganda has for a long time been using seasoned wooden electric poles, which do not last long when compared to concrete electric poles.

Museveni told Zhang that the Government would avail land for his investment, adding that the enterprise would access high quality locally produced cement to enable the venture undertake the production of concrete electric pylons. The President also told Zhang that his products would get ready market in the region.

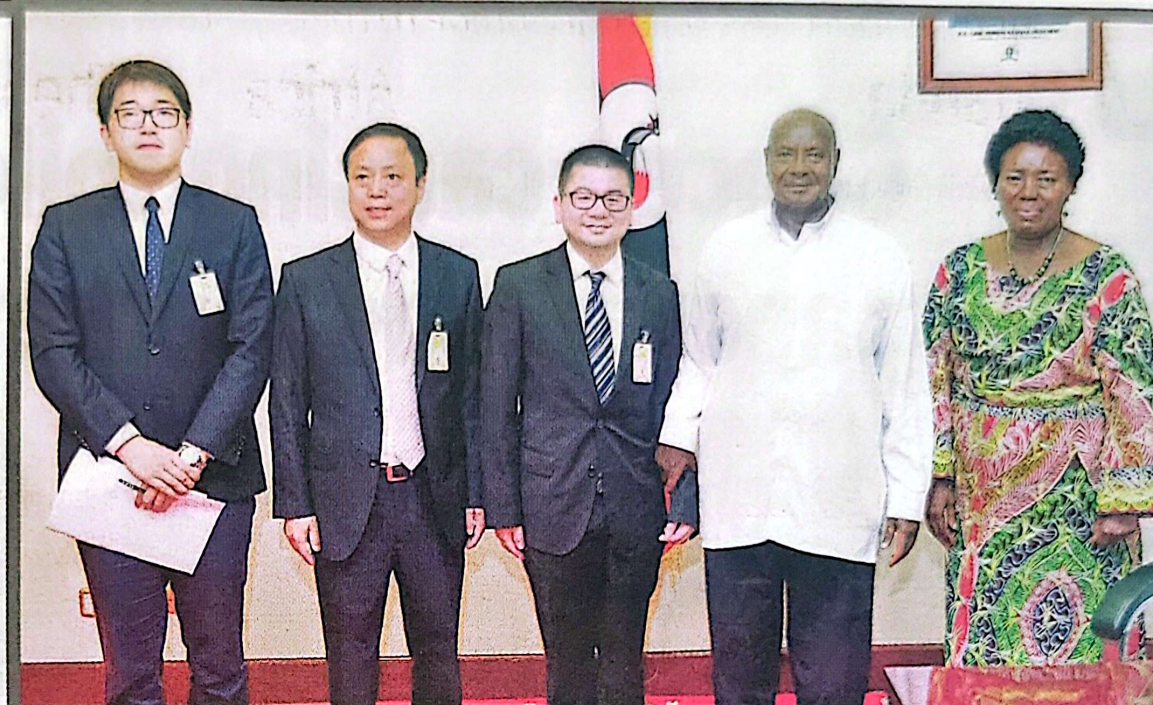
Zhang said he would in the future enter into footwear manufacturing and power distribution, among other undertakings.

China investments in Uganda

China is currently Uganda's largest source of foreign investment.

In an interview with *New Vision*, Zhang Zhuqiang, the Chinese ambassador to Uganda, said that over \$300m (about sh1.12 trillion) has been invested in Uganda by the Chinese.

He said this investment has created about



Museveni and Chinese entrepreneur Pengfei Zhang (on his right) together with his delegation and the Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, shortly after their meeting in Entebbe on Monday. PPU photo

Investor to manufacture transformers, flat irons

20,000 local jobs.

There are about 200 Chinese firms in Uganda dealing in fields such as construction, communication, hospitality and trade.

Zhuqiang said relations between Uganda

and China are broad and strong.

He also revealed that China is the largest foreign investor in Uganda, a main trade partner and the largest project contractor in the country.

"So many major infrastructure projects built by Chinese are under construction in Uganda. The Kampala-Entebbe expressway and the Isimba hydropower station are expected to be commissioned this year," he said.