

RSZ propels Kuomboka preps

By ABEL MBOOZI

PREPARATIONS for this year's Kuomboka ceremony of the Lozi people of Western Province yesterday received a boost when Railway Systems of Zambia (RSZ) donated K10 million towards the successful holding of the event.

RSZ general manager for corporation affairs David Phiri handed over the K10 million cheque to the Kabwe Kuomboka Kufuluhela committee representative Stanley Masuku, at a ceremony held yesterday.

Mr Phiri said his organisation attached great importance to its corporate social responsibility policy hence the decision to donate towards the preparations of the Kuomboka ceremony.

"We as a company want to compliment government efforts aimed developing various traditional ceremonies in the country like the Kuomboka, we have also donated towards the Nc'wala ceremony too," Phiri said.

He said RSZ was ready to partner with traditional associations that would seek support in future. "Traditional ceremonies pay a vital role in promoting culture as well as tourism as tourists flock in huge numbers earning the country foreign exchange.

RSZ will therefore continue to support traditional ceremonies in various forms," Phiri said. And receiving the cheque on behalf of the Royal Barotse Establishment (BRE), Masuku said his committee was pleased with the gesture shown by RSZ.

Let me assure you that we shall use the money wisely and no doubt it will go a long way in ensuring that we hold a successful Kuomboka ceremony this year." Masuku said.

He said the Kuomboka ceremony was a way of life for the Lozi people who were duty to ensure that the Litunga is successfully evacuated to his winter place.

Kuomboka, which literally means "getting out of water", is an annual even that takes place at the end of the rainy season in Mongu marking the transfer of the Lozi King Litunga Lubosi Imwiko II, from his palace In the lush green Barotse plains to this winter capital Limulunga, which is about 13 kilometres west of Mongu as the water rises and inundates the plains.

Early in the morning people travel to Lealui to see off the king and quickly rush back to Limulunga to await his grand arrival in the royal badge called Nalikwanda.