

RSZ to invest K180m in pollution control and environment
mitigation
By NANCY MWALE

Railway Systems of Zambia Limited (RSZ) plans to invest K180 million for pollution control and environment mitigation.

Speaking in Lusaka, RSZ general manager, Babe Botana said the investment was part of the requirement by the Environmental Council of Zambia to mitigate pollution.

Mr Botana said before the organisation took over the running of the railway company, the World Bank released some funds for the environment mitigation which was not used as intended.

"Issues of safety are important by ensuring that waste generated is managed in line with the established environmental standards, he said.

He stated that the concessional agreement with the government requires that the RSA invests US\$20 million for the first phase rehabilitation.

He added that K29 billion will this year be invested in the company, pointing out that during the first phase of the rehabilitation 266 kilometres of the rail line was covered while phase two will cover 450 kilometres track of the rail line which will be completed in January 2006.

He pointed out that the Zambian concessional model was one of the best in the region, in that it provided the required environment for a successful rail concession.

He added that if the RSZ business grows, Government revenue also grows.

Mr Botana said that so far the company has managed to upgrade eight locomotives, 28 passenger wagons are expected to arrive in the country soon.

He added that apart from the rehabilitation of wagons and rail track, they have also renovated the Ndola rail station.

He said that as part of the company's contribution to the community service, more than K500 million has been provided this year to the residents of Kabwe.

He however stated that the major challenge facing the company is increased incidents of sabotage and theft cases which is affecting their investments.

Mr Botana said currently RSZ was working with Zambia Sugar Company Plc in ferrying their sugar and coal mining companies like Collum and Maamba in transporting coal.