

Rail firm lines up 14 tankers to haul diesel

By NANCY MWAPE

RAILWAY Systems of Zambia Limited (RSZ) has provided 14 of their fuel tankers to assist government ferry fuel from Dar-es-Salaam port in Tanzania into the country.

RSZ General Manager, Babe Botana said his firm is having further discussions with government authorities for additional provision of more fuel tankers along the Dar-es-Salaam route.

Mr Botana said RSZ has more than 30 fuel tankers that service the route from Indeni Oil Refinery to Lusaka and Indeni to Luano in the Copperbelt on a normal situation of fuel in the country.

He said as regards RSZ operations, BP oil company, their supplier, is making sure they do not run out of fuel at their depot which they are able to use for their day to day consumption.

He added that discussions with the relevant authorities will be concluded soon.

He noted that presently the railway company is surviving on a hand to mouth situation.

"This means that the situation is not healthy in terms of running the operations. Normally, we have reserves covering a period of one week at each of our depots", he said.

Mr Botana said, on a monthly basis, the company consumes at least 300,000 litres of fuel.

The fuel shortage has been triggered by the unplanned shutdown at Indeni Oil Refinery that is undergoing some maintenance and is expe