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RSZ overhauls 3 locomotives
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THE Railway Systems of Zambia Limited (RSZ) has overhauled three General Motor (GM) locomotives at a cost of about US\$1.5 million.

The GM locomotives have already been rehabilitated and released into service which had improved the reliability of fleet and also reduced consumption of engine oil and fuel.

Both RSZ chief executive officer Avishay Dvir and general manager, Babe Botana confirmed during a tour of the RSZ workshop in Kabwe.

Mr Dvir said that the total average cost of fully rehabilitating a locomotive was about US\$500,000.

“Three GM locomotives GT36 have been fully overhauled and are running after being fitted with diesel engines rehabilitated in the United States of America (USA)”, said Mr Botana during a presentation.

On wagons, Mr Dvir said they had recalled all the wagons to see whether they could make use of them adding that 50-80 wagons are rebuilt per month.

“Under the production line, we strip the wagons, rebuild them and put them on line which has in turn increased transport capacity”, he said.

He said the durability of the rehabilitated wagon was up to 40 years.

And Mr Botana said they had embarked on modernizing the entire network to meet international standards.

“We are implementing a high-tech GPS/Satellite based solutions for tracking, communication, information systems and computerizing the interface with corridor members”, he noted.

He said their goal was to reduce derailments and improve safety of operations among others.