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RSZ to expand railway network

By Florence Bupe

THE Railway Systems of Zambia Limited (RSZ) has embarked on a programme to expand the provision of railway transport in the country.

Company general manager Babe Botana disclosed the development during a dinner hosted for RSA customers at Hotel Intercontinental yesterday

Botana said his organisation was prompted to undertake the programme in order to meet the growing demand for railway transport services.

"RSZ is fully aware of the development in the mining, agriculture and manufacturing sectors in Zambia, which might have a significant impact on the overall available traffic," he said.

Botana said as part of the service enhancement programme, the company has acquired fully overhauled locomotives that were rehabilitated in the United States of America (USA).

"In terms of motive power, three GM locomotives have been fully overhauled and running after being fitted with diesel engines rehabilitated in the USA," Botana said. "The fourth fully rehabilitated engine has also since arrived."

He also said two more rehabilitated locomotives are scheduled to be released before the end of October 2006.

Botana further disclosed that the full upgrade work for railway routes was underway and is aimed at improving railway transport safety.

"The full upgrade work has already started in the southern area and addresses an improvement in the material standards of railway transport, from a very poor standard to a safe standard," said Botana.