

## **RSZ acts to save road network**

By Times Reporter

RAILWAY Systems of Zambia (RSZ) has commenced negotiations with Tanzania Zambia Railways (Tazara) to enhance operations for the two companies to increase the market share and save the Government from huge road maintenance costs.

In a Press release issued yesterday, RSZ chief executive officer, Benjamin Even said it was imperative that negotiations with other companies in the railway sector were opened in order to save the deterioration of the road network.

He said haulage of heavy goods by road was detrimental to the road network and it was for this reason that RSZ had embarked on an ambitious programme of rehabilitating the railway network and also partnering with other companies in the sector.

Mr Even said his firm had already started injecting funds into the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) railways to assist with improved rail operations to the mutual benefit of all stakeholders in Zambia and the region.

He said RSZ recognised the need for additional investments as an obvious business demand and had put in US\$2 million since January this year.

Mr Even said the RSZ shareholders at a meeting with Government recently, agreed to pump more funds into the railway operations, beyond what is stipulated in the concession agreement.

During the meeting with ministers of Communications and Transport, Dora Siliya and Commerce, Trade and Industry, Felix Mutati, the shareholders committed themselves to improving operations by injecting more funds into the operations of the railway.

Mr Even said RSZ was currently working on the investment plan, which would be tabled by the Government for appropriate action.

On the other hand, Mr Even said the RSZ also expected that the Government would demonstrate practical commitment in timely