

State hails Railway Systems of Zambia

By CHAMBONG'UNI

GOVERNMENT has commended Railway Systems of Zambia (RSZ) shareholders and management for investing in the company so that it continues contributing to the social economic development of Zambia.

Central Province permanent secretary Denny Lumbama said since its inception in 2003, the railway company has not been discouraged by challenges it is experiencing, but has instead been investing money and resources to ensure that it operates efficiently.

"The continued investment by RSZ shareholders and management is commendable because this is the time we are reading in the media about a big railway concession in a neighbouring country which has been failing to pay salaries to its employees and is now declaring them redundant in large numbers," Mr Lumbama said.

The Tanzania Railway Limited has announced that it intends to lay off all staff estimated at 1,000 for the next six months.

Mr Lumbama said this yesterday in Kabwe when he officiated at the RSZ graduation ceremony of 25 artisan trainees.

He said Government and the people of Zambia appreciate foreign investors who apply themselves positively in developing Zambia.

Mr Lumbama said it is gratifying that RSZ management has a pro-active training policy which is aimed at moulding its workforce to be efficient in service delivery, thereby ensuring that the company delivers to its clients and contributes to the economic development of the country.

"The government and the people of Zambia always appreciate foreign investors who apply themselves positively to the development of this country," he said.

He urged RSZ to continue investing in training its workforce.

RSZ chief executive officer Benjamin Even said his company is proud to continue investing in improving operations of the railway sector.

Mr Even said in the past six years, RSZ has invested US\$30.5 million and is able to pay tax, salaries and suppliers of goods and services.

"We have not asked for international or government help but we are still able to fulfil all our obligations," Mr Even said.

He also said RSZ management has continued training and sending its employees for various training skills. He assured Government that RSZ will continue with its training policy because such programmes are not only beneficial to the company alone but Zambia as a whole.



RAILWAY Systems of Zambia (RSZ) chief executive officer Benjamin Even (left) sharing a light moment with Central Province permanent secretary Denny Lumbama yesterday. Right is RSZ deputy general manager for corporate affairs Charles Phiri. - Picture by CHAMBONG'UNI

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