

The Post Newspaper
Thursday 31st January, 2008

HELP FIGHT VANDALISM, URGES RSZ

Railway Systems of Zambia (RSZ) general Manager Babe Botana has said that vandalism of passenger coaches has proved to be a very big challenge.

During the launch of the Railway Systems of Zambia rehabilitated coaches, Botana said RSZ could not manage to fight vandalism alone.

He urged members of the public and other stakeholders to help fight vandalism of railway infrastructure and coaches.

“These coaches you are seeing came from Kabwe yesterday and unknown people were stoning them in Chipata compound. Because of such actions, the windows are broken which is not good for development,” he said.

Botana said RSZ had changed generators on coaches to ensure reliable power supply on the trains.

He also said RSZ and the government have formed a joint inter-ministerial committee to discuss the performance of the railway systems.

Speaking at the same function, RSZ shareholder representative, Zion Elani, thanked the Zambian government for creating an enabling environment in which the company could operate.

Elani assured Zambians that RSZ was committed to improving its passenger services.

He said the company would continue with rehabilitation programmes on both passenger coaches and station facilities valued at K1 billion of which K650 million had so far been spent.

Elani said the company was going to donate 1000 tonnes of free haulage estimated at US\$100,000 to transport relief products for the victims on the line of rail.

Zambia Daily Mail
Thursday, January 31, 2008

Railway Firm Operations under Review

Operations of the Railway System of Zambia (RSZ) are being reviewed in an exercise that may lead to a review of the concession agreement.

Ministry of Communications and Transport Director for Planning and information, Nelson Nyangu revealed this in Lusaka yesterday at a workshop on financing of large infrastructure projects organised by the World Bank.

Mr Nyangu said Government was in the process of reviewing the Railway Act to make it responsive to demands of the industry.

He said Government was concerned about the state of the railway sector in the country.

Mr Nyangu said the railway sector had continued to play a dominant role in Zambia's economic development and was conveniently the major carrier of bulk cargo.

He said the railway sector was an important mode of transport for Zambia's international trade.

Mr Nyangu said Zambia and Tanzania were exploring possibilities of inviting private sector participation in TAZARA.

He called on the private sector to invest in the railway sector.

Mr Nyangu said the railway projects identified included a line between Solwezi and Chingola. TAZARA, one to Mpulungu port, the extension of the Mulobezi Railway to connect the Namibian railway system and the Walvis Bay – Livingstone–Lusaka–Ndola to Lubumbashi corridor.

Commenting on air transport, Mr Nyangu said Government intended to transform the department of Civil Aviation into an autonomous authority.

Zambia Daily Mail
Wednesday 30th January, 2008

And Parliament yesterday heard that a team has been constituted to re-negotiate the concession agreement with the Railway System of Zambia (RSZ).

Minister of Transport and Communication, **Sara Sayifwanda** said about US\$14.45 million was spent on railway projects.

She said the committee had been tasked to ensure that maintenance of railway tracks and security were taken care of. This was in response to Luanshya MP, **Jean Phiri (PF)**, who asked whether the Luanshya railway line would be rehabilitated.

This was a supplementary question by Roan MP, **Chishimba Kabwili (PF)**, who wanted to know what capital projects RSZ had undertaken to re-capitalise the company since inception.

Sunday Times of Zambia
Sunday 3rd February, 2008

RSZ invests K50bn on Operations, efficiency

The Railway System of Zambia (RSZ) between December 2003 and December 2007 in line with the concession agreement invested over K50 billion on improvements of rail operations and efficiency, general manager, Babe Botana has said.

Speaking recently, Mr Botana said the company had since 2005 produced over 1,420 wagons at its Kabwe workshop leading to an increase in RSZ's capacity necessary for an enhanced rail transport market share.

This would inevitably mean diverting heavy and bulk cargo from road to rail, thereby saving the Government huge road maintenance costs.

With RSZ's re-investment in equipment and passenger coaches, infrastructure and technology, well and truly underway. Zambia is seeing a revival of the railway transport sector.

RSZ is also exploring opportunities to support the tourism sector through its service along the line of rail that remains a critical link for the major towns and cities of Zambia. And Mr Botana has said while vandalism has reduced on the Copperbelt, it has become rife in the southern part of Zambia. He said RSZ has however, partnered with the anti-vandalism squad of the Zambia Police Service in an effort to curb vandalism of the rehabilitated passenger coaches.

“Vandalism is a major setback for progress in this sector and we are hoping that the problem can be curtailed with the help of the anti-vandalism squad.” Mr Botana said.

The firm would also embark on a sensitization programme for the people living along the line of rail.