

It will also provide jobs for the people of Zambia.

We need business people; we need

country is to develop.

This is not just a Lusaka-based approach, it's for everyone across the country...we need to equip these young men and women with busi-

RSZ spends US\$30m on rehabilitation

The Monitor & Digest TUESDAY MARCH 30TH, 2010.

By Gift Chanda

RAILWAY Systems of Zambia Limited says about US \$30 million has been spent on rehabilitating the run down infrastructure since the company was given a concession to run the railway transport in 2003.

Meanwhile, the RSZ has disclosed that it has completed a record 45,000 metric tonnes sugar export consignment to the European Union (EU) from Mazabuka via the port of Durban.

RSZ Chief Executive Officer, Benjamin Evans told journalist during a tour of the rail system's infrastructure in Kabwe on Friday, that RSZ has since inception faced several challenges.

RSZ started its freight and passenger operations in December 2003 through a competitive World Bank tender that concessioned Zambia Railways Limited. The privately owned company is a subsidiary of the NLP Group of Companies, with shareholders that include South African giants Nedbank, Old Mutual and Sanlam.

But Evans pointed out that in spite of the many challenges faced; RSZ has continued to provide a satisfactory service to its clients.

According to Evans, RSZ has injected about US \$30 million double the amount that was agreed in the concession signed in 2003.

"Over the last five years the rail systems

of Zambia has invested substantially in the rehabilitation and maintenance of locomotives, wagons, coaches, passengers station facilities, purchase of new motor vehicles many other operational areas, he said adding that, "We can safely say that millions of dollars have been spent on the rehabilitation of hundreds of wagons that were scrapped," he said.

And Evans called on government to address the unfair competition and other bottlenecks in the transport sector especially the railway sector.

He observed that the fuel levy, levied on the rail transport has in a way created unfairness between the road and rail.

"We have continued to pay our share of fuel levy to government, unfortunately these funds that principally are suppose to be channeled to the rail sector, is being used towards the maintenance of roads at the expense of reinvestment in the rail infrastructure.

This is in itself creates unfair competition between road and rail as it distorts cost structures and tariffs," he said.

Meanwhile, RSZ in cooperation with Zambia Sugar and Freightmax logistics last month completed a record consignment of 45,000 metric tonnes sugar exports to the EU. The consignment was the biggest ever to be transported by rail from Zambia since the inception of RSZ.

JCTR BASIC NEEDS BA

February 20

(A) COST OF BASIC FOOD ITEMS FOR A FAMILY OF SIX IN LUSAKA

Commodity	Kwacha	Quantity
Mealie meal (breakfast)	64,600	3 x 2
Beans	12,800	2 Kg
Kapenta (Siavonga)	81,700	2 Kg
Dry Fish	62,400	1 Kg
Meat (mixed cut)	19,300	4 Kgs
Eggs	7,600	2 Unit
Vegetables (greens)	4,700	7.5 Kg
Tomato	4,900	4 Kgs
Onion	5,100	4Kgs
Milk (fresh)	12,100	1 x 2 l
Cooking oil	28,600	2 x 2 l
Bread	3,800	1 loaf
Sugar	6,200	8 Kgs
Salt	3,300	1 Kg
Tea (leaves)	11,200	1 x 50
Sub-total		

(B) COST OF ESSENTIAL NON-FOOD ITEMS

Charcoal	61,300	2 x 90 Kg
Soap (lifebuoy)	2,300	10 tablets
Wash soap (Boon)	4,100	4 x 400
Jelly (e.g., Vaseline)	6,800	1 x 500
Electricity (medium density)	70,000	300 unit
Water & Sanitation (med - fixed)	114,530	
Housing (medium density)	1,500,000	
Sub-total		

Total for Basic Needs Basket

Totals from previous months	Feb 09	Mar 09	Apr 09	May 09	Jun 09	Jul 09	Aug 09
Amount	2,199,880	2,213,930	2,219,230	2,240,280	2,168,730	2,223,630	2,235,330

(C) SOME OTHER ADDITIONAL COSTS

Item	Kwacha	Unit
Education		
Grades 8-9 (User+PTA/year)	K300,000 - K420,000	Tr
Grades 10-12 (User+PTA/year)	K600,000 - K900,000	C
School Uniform (grades 8-12)	K90,000 - K180,000	M
Health (clinic)		
3 Month Scheme (per person)	K5,000	Fu
No Scheme Emergency Fee	K5,500	P
Mosquito Net (private)	K15,000 - K20,000	D

(D) SOME COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF WAGES - "TAKE HOME PAY"

Pay Slip	Teacher	Nurse	Guard with Security Firm	Secretary in Civil Service
	K1,145,300 to K1,831,600	K1,221,000 to K2,874,000	K250,000 to K850,000	K780,000 to K1,520,127

This survey was conducted on 27 & 28 February 2010 by the Social Conditions Programme. Average prices were calculated on the basis of prices gathered from retail outlets at Chawama, Chibwala, Matero and schools, clinics/hospitals around Lusaka. US\$574 based upon an average middle exchange rate of 4730 Kwacha per US\$ at the time.

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