

ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL

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## RSZ launches express train service

By NANCY MWAPE in Livingstone

RAILWAY Systems of Zambia (RSZ) has launched an express train from Lusaka to Livingstone on a lower turn out.

The train that left Lusaka at exactly 18.00 hours on Tuesday as advertised arrived in Livingstone 20 minutes late at 09.30 hours on Wednesday due to derailments on the way.

In an interview, RSZ passenger manager for central region, Belden Mundia who was among the passengers on the train said the express train would receive overwhelming response once people knew about it.

Mr Mundia said the express train would help decongest the ordinary train operating between Livingstone and Kitwe.

“From my assessment, the express train, once people are aware about it, will help us in striking a balance in terms of distribution of people from the ordinary train that is very congested,”

He said the objective of the express train was simply to provide a service for people travelling from Livingstone to Lusaka by cutting on their transport costs and accommodation expenses.

“The expenses train will be a round trip to Lusaka. We expect to attract a lot of business people that travel to Lusaka in the night with buses considering that our fares are very attractive at K30,000 only,” he said.

And a group of five Zimbabwean women entrepreneurs who were on the train said they were happy with the fares despite the train arriving slightly late and it being too bumpy.

Sibonile Hlabangana said despite high charges slapped on luggage, they were able to carry their entire products safely.

And Frank Matoka, an entrepreneur, based in Livingstone said the train was helping a lot of small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs).

“Fares are okay, same as the original train. What we would like to see is the introduction of sleeper and standard class as opposed to just having an economy class.”

“It would be nice to also introduce catering services in the train for people to buy meals. Otherwise the services are okay, the train, the train is very clean, good lighting systems and water in the toilets.” he said.