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RSZ spends over K1bn on restructuring

By NANCY MWAPE

RAILWAY Systems of Zambia (RSZ) has spent over K1 billion on the on-going restructuring programme.

RSZ spokesperson Charles Phiri said in a statement issued yesterday that the restructuring programme, which had been a response to some of the major concerns raised, had seen upgrading of entire facilities.

Mr Phiri said RSZ had rehabilitated the coaches, locomotives and baggage van operating on the express train with emphasis on the passenger train station to improve the quality of service.

He said with effect from yesterday, RSZ would restructure its passenger train operations from three ordinary trains servicing the Kitwe and Livingstone route on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to two ordinary ones that would be servicing Livingstone and Kitwe on Mondays and Fridays.

He said the restructuring would include an express train service to operate between Lusaka and Livingstone on Tuesday, Thursdays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

“One of the significant changes to be noted is that while the old arrangement had ordinary trains stopping at every station between Livingstone and Kitwe, with a long transit time, the new set-up will only stop at major stations.”

He said by “only stopping at stations such as Kafue, Mazabuka, Monze, Choma and Kalomo, this will drastically reduce on transit time besides offering an increased service on the southern route as dictated by market demands,” he said.

Mr Phiri said the restructuring of the passenger service took into consideration results of the passenger service market demand and passenger density studies along the RSZ route which studies included seasonal fluctuations.

He said the restructuring programme was an on-going programme and would continue to respond to customer requirements in terms of quality and safety needs.