

RSZ to spend K1bn on upgrading facilities

By Kabanda Chulu

RAILWAY Systems of Zambia (RSZ) Limited has embarked on upgrading its facilities at a cost of over K1 billion following concerns raised regarding operations of the railway line.

The company yesterday stated that it has rehabilitated the coaches, locomotives and baggage van operating on the express train with the emphasis on the passenger train station facilities to improve the quality of service.

“With effect from September 30, 2008 (yesterday), the RSZ will restructure its passenger train operations from three ordinary trains running between Kitwe and Livingstone on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays to two ordinary one running between Livingstone and Kitwe on Mondays and Fridays,” it stated. “And to respond to some of the major concerns that have been raised, RSZ has so far spent K1 billion on the on going restructuring programme which has seen the upgrading of entire facilities.”

RSZ explained that the restructuring of the passenger service took into consideration results of the passenger service market demand and passenger density studies along the RSZ route.

“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 hence the reduction in transit time besides offering an increased service on the Southern route as dictated by market demands,” stated RSZ. “In fact, the restructuring programme is on going and we will continue to respond to customer requirements in terms of quality and safety needs.”