

Times of Zambia

Friday 22nd August, 2003

By Times Reporter

RSZ wins NGO'S kudos

A NON-governmental organization in Ndola has commended Railway Systems of Zambia (RSZ) for their decision to inject investment beyond what is contained in the Concession Agreement into the railway.

In a Press statement yesterday, Concerned Constituency Citizens Forum (CCCCF) chairman, Wilbroad Mutoloka said the RSZ had made an important decision to help restore the image of the railway sector by revamping it.

Recently, RSZ Chief Executive Officer, Benjamin Even said his company would commit more funds to improve the railway sector in Zambia, in a bid to save the deterioration of the road network.

Mr Even said RSZ recognized the need for additional investment as an obvious business demand using its market intelligence, and had pumped in US\$2 million since January this year.

Mr Mutoloka said the haulage of heavy goods by road was indeed detrimental to the road network, and it was commendable that RSZ had embarked on an ambitious programme of rehabilitating the railway network and partnering with other companies in the sector.

Mr Mutoloka said it was important that Zambia's railway sector improved operations for it to contribute to Zambia's economic turnaround.

H urged Zambians to support the latest initiative announced by RSZ instead of just offering negative criticism, as doing so would merely undermine the Government's commitment to improving the railway sector.

"The Government has made it clear that they are working closely with the RSZ and we wonder why some people keep talking about it instead of assisting in ways that will help improve the sector.

"The best advice that we can give is that all stakeholders must rise to the occasion to help RSZ improve the operations by suggesting best options," Mr Mutoloka said.