

RSZ workers win pay rise

By Times Reporter

THE Railway Systems of Zambia (RSZ) has awarded its unionised workers a nine per cent salary increment across the board.

Railway Workers Union of Zambia (RWUZ) general secretary, James Kapyanga who confirmed the development in an interview in Kabwe yesterday said the increment was arrived at after the conclusion of negotiations between management and the union.

He commended RSZ management for giving workers the salary increment despite difficult times the company was going through as a result of the global economic crunch.

RSZ chief executive officer, Benjamin Even said the company was always keen to award workers for their performance and to improve their salaries because of the prevailing economic conditions.

He said RSZ management was happy with the mutual relationship that existed with the union and the conclusion of the collective bargaining unit was testimony that they reached consensus on the new salaries.

Mr Even explained that, although the company had embarked on a retrenchment exercise, the existing employees would always enjoy the benefits for as long as they were working for the railway company.

Mr Kapyanga, however, urged the employers not to use the global economic crisis as a scapegoat to retrench workers.

So far, the company has retrenched about 150 workers with 70 accounting for unionised employees. Of the 70 unionised workers, 30 opted to voluntarily separate with the railway firm.

He said the company was merely implementing what was agreed with the union to down-scale the labour-force because of the prevailing harsh economic realities.

Mr Kapyanga said that management was calculating the packages for the retrenched workers to ensure that there were no anomalies

He said that management indicated that by the end of this month, the workers would have been paid off their benefits.