

THE POST

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RSZ considers voluntary separation for 170 employees

By Masuzyo Chakwe

RAILWAY Systems of Zambia (RSZ) has said the retrenchment of 170 employees this month will be done under the Voluntary Separation Scheme, which represents only 10 per cent of the company's direct and indirect workforce.

In a statement yesterday, RSZ chief executive officer Benjamin Even stated that despite the global economic crunch that had not spared RSZ, the company had managed to keep its employees, adding that retrenchments were the last option.

Even, however, stated that some events had forced the company to embark on separating with some of its employees.

"Taking into account the difficulties in finding employment, as a company, we engaged the Railway Workers Union of Zambia (RWUZ) with whom we agreed that employees would first be given the option of voluntary separation under generous conditions," he stated.

He stated that RSZ management and RWUZ officials agreed during the collective bargaining process, which had been in effect for the past two weeks that RSZ should first consider the voluntary separation scheme.

"We also agreed that all employees who will be separated will receive their full payments on the day of departure. RSZ sees this exercise as an important measure to face the recent unfortunate developments while doing its utmost to minimize the effect," he stated.

Even however re-emphasized RSZ's commitment to continue investing in infrastructure and improving the company's performance within and beyond the contractual obligations.

"We will use this exercise as a strategy to save costs and prepare for the future," stated Even.