

RSZ partners with TAZARA to increase capacity

By Times Reporter
THE Railway Systems of Zambia says it will this year increase the capacity of copper exports by 20 per cent following the commencement of joint operations with Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA).

RSZ deputy general manager for corporate affairs Charles Phiri said in a statement yesterday the joint operations with TAZARA were working well and efficiency in moving cargo was being recorded.

Mr Phiri said last year, RSZ moved more than 400,000 tonnes of copper products out of which 70,000 tonnes was through

TAZARA which accounted for imports of 50,000 tonnes.

He said since January last year, RSZ had been operating eight of its locomotives jointly with TAZARA to improve capacity and service to the port of Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania.

With better coordination between RSZ and TAZARA, the haulage of copper exports would increase to 500,000 tonnes in 2010.

This will also be made possible by increased market demand and wagons rehabilitation.

Mr Phiri was happy to note that RSZ had embarked on an ambitious

wagons rehabilitation project which would see the procurement of hundreds of wagon wheels for the smooth operation of the railway company.

He said RSZ was determined to resolve delays at border points and was having discussions with sister railway firms and authorities in neighbouring countries.

Mr Phiri assured that RSZ had the capacity to transport all Zambia's copper exports, at competitive rates but noted that some of the challenges such as vandalism and high maintenance costs were affecting the smooth operations of the company.

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