

By Justine Katilungu in  
Kabwe

RAILWAY Systems of Zambia (RSZ) chief executive officer Benjamin Even says the company has spent US\$70 million investing in infrastructure development as well paying of taxes to the government.

Even told journalists in Kabwe on Monday that RSZ was committed to investing heavily in its operations, asking journalists who were seeing such positive efforts to help the company by explaining them to the Zambian people.

"The RSZ concession is of value to Zambia; six and half years down the concession, we have to date invested US\$35 million in our operations and paid another US\$35 million to the government through taxes, levies

# RSZ spends US\$70m on infrastructure, taxes

and duties on importation of spares as well as through income tax. Therefore, help us in telling whichever critics doubt what we are doing as RSZ," he said.

He complained that acts of vandalism were costly to the railway company, and appealed to the Zambian people to remain alert and report any such acts.

"You can imagine that we lose about US\$10,000 per one derailment caused through vandalism. Let me appeal to Zambians to know that RSZ

assets are theirs and, therefore, they should help us in stemming vandalism acts for the good of the railway company," he said.

He stressed that at the end of the concession, all the assets RSZ was using would be handed back to the Zambian government and as such there was no need for any citizen to destroy them.

And during the commissioning of the level crossing flash lights in Kabwe, Even assured that RSZ would carry out similar rehabilitation works in Lusaka and on the Copperbelt.

During the rehabilitation phase, RSZ experienced three incidents of vandalism by unknown people who cut electrical circuits, leading to the continuous flashing of the lights, which was a risk to motorists as well as pedestrians.

"Despite these acts of rampant vandalism, RSZ shareholders and its management are still very committed to continue investing in its operations because of recognising the critical role rail transport plays in the social and economic development of any coun-

try including Zambia," said Even.

The traffic light rehabilitation project cost RSZ K30 million, and Even assured that the company would continue to work with Kabwe Municipal Council in advancing the 'Keep Kabwe clean' initiative.