

“As a matter of fact, Mrs appears to be unfair and He said Government has not to replace him.”

RSZ receives road levy refund

By MARTIN NKOLOMBA

GOVERNMENT has handed over the first road levy refund amounting to K2 billion to the Railway Systems of Zambia (RSZ).

The funds will go towards procurement of over 7,200 concrete railway sleepers for the upgrade of the company's main line.

Minister of Communications and Transport Geoffrey Lungwangwa said the refund will be paid directly to Infraset-Zambia for the supply of P-2 railway sleepers.

Prof Lungwangwa said the refund is part of Government's efforts to create alternative funding for other forms of transport to ensure that there is a balance in the transport sector.

He said this yesterday at



LUNGWANGWA.

the handover ceremony of a K2 billion cheque to RSZ.

Infraset-Zambia is a supplier of concrete sleepers based in Kafue.

Prof Lungwangwa said Government will support local companies which utilise local material and employ Zambians.

He said upgrading of the main line will be jointly undertaken by Government and RSZ, adding that the project is an example of public

private partnership. He said RSZ will provide fasteners and labour in addition to the railway sleepers.

Prof Lungwangwa said it is Government's aim to make railway operations in the country efficient so that it contributes to lowering the cost of doing business and make the country's exports on the world market competitive.

He said through the refund, Government intends to preserve the current road network by encouraging the movement of bulk freight by rail.

Prof Lungwangwa said the shift in transportation can only be attained if the railway system is efficient.

He said Government will establish a railway rehabilitation, construction and maintenance fund to ensure that the rail system

in the country takes centre stage.

“In the future, Government will create the railway rehabilitation, construction and maintenance fund that will ensure that the railway system in the country takes its centre stage in the provision of cheap and affordable transport for passengers and freight,” Prof Lungwangwa said.

He said the fund will mobilise resources from fuel levy, sale of railway scrap metal, national treasury and co-operating partners among others.

Prof Lungwangwa said Government will work closely with RSZ to ensure that operations of the railway sector are improved and that benefits are enjoyed by end users.

He said Government will continue to source for

additional investment capital to improve the existing railway network and construct new ones in the country.

And RSZ deputy general manager Charles Phiri thanked Government for the refund, saying the best way to use the money is by investing in railway infrastructure.

Mr Phiri said improved railway infrastructure will result in competition in the transport sector.

“The best way to use this refund is to put it back into railway infrastructure as railway infrastructure is the property of the Zambian people. Investment in railway infrastructure will bring about fair competition with the road sector,” he said.

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