

**Sunday Times of Zambia**  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2008**

## **RSZ invests K50bn on Operations, efficiency**

The Railway System of Zambia (RSZ) between December 2003 and December 2007 in line with the concession agreement invested over K50 billion on improvements of rail operations and efficiency, general manager, Babe Botana has said.

Speaking recently, Mr Botana said the company had since 2005 produced over 1,420 wagons at its Kabwe workshop leading to an increase in RSZ's capacity necessary for an enhanced rail transport market share.

This would inevitably mean diverting heavy and bulk cargo from road to rail, thereby saving the Government huge road maintenance costs.

With RSZ's re-investment in equipment and passenger coaches, infrastructure and technology, well and truly underway. Zambia is seeing a revival of the railway transport sector.

RSZ is also exploring opportunities to support the tourism sector through its service along the line of rail that remains a critical link for the major towns and cities of Zambia. And Mr Botana has said while vandalism has reduced on the Copperbelt, it has become rife in the southern part of Zambia. He said RSZ has however, partnered with the anti-vandalism squad of the Zambia Police Service in an effort to curb vandalism of the rehabilitated passenger coaches.

“Vandalism is a major setback for progress in this sector and we are hoping that the problem can be curtailed with the help of the anti-vandalism squad.” Mr Botana said.

The firm would also embark on a sensitization programme for the people living along the line of rail.