

NRZ engages recapitalisation Partner

The National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) is under taking due diligence with the Diaspora Infrastructure Development Group/ Transnet consortium after the consortium won the bid to recapitalise the organisation.

DIDG/ Transnet beat five other companies which had been shortlisted for adjudication for the National Railways of Zimbabwe recapitalisation project following a huge interest in the exercise by local and international organisations.

The tendering process for the \$400million recapitalisation project closed on July 4 by which date the six companies successfully submitted their bids to the State Procurement Board (SPB).

The six are Sino Hydro, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, SMH Rail, TFR-Diaspora Infrastructure Development Group (DGIG) which is a consortium between Transnet and Zimbabweans in South Africa,



Permanent Secretary for Finance and Economic Development Mr Willard Manungo, addresses delegates to the Pre-Bid Conference

Crowe Horwath and Croyeaux Limited.

The acceptance of bids follows a successful pre-bid conference attended by more than 80 companies.

An international tender floated by Zimbabwe's railway utility has attracted intense interest from potential financiers and investors.

More than 80 companies participated at a pre-bid conference in response to the tender which was floated in national, regional and international newspapers, with 50 from Zimbabwe, 18 from South Africa and eight from China. There

were also companies from the United Kingdom, Malaysia, India, Belgium and Dubai.

The companies ranged from financial service providers to equipment manufacturers. The recapitalisation project has been awarded national project status by the government, meaning selected investors would benefit from tax exemption.

Permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development Mr Willard Manungo, who was the guest of honour at the pre-bid conference, said an international tender was the only way the NRZ could raise funds for recapitalisation.

He said government had in the past made interventions to assist the NRZ but was constrained by limited resources. Mr Manungo said Government will give full support to NRZ's efforts to raise capital from the market. "As government we are available to give full support to ensure smooth implementation of the recapitalisation". He said NRZ was a key economic enabler which had an impact not only in Zimbabwe... ..to page 6



Three month term extension for six Board members

The Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development Dr Joram Gumbo has extended the term of office for six NRZ board members by three months to September.

The board members whose terms have been extended are Deputy Chairman Brigadier General (Rtd) David Chiweza, Mrs Chrysostoma Kanjoma, Mrs Angeline Karonga, Engineer Erick Makarimayi, Mr Joseph Mashika and Mrs Nomathemba Ndlovu. Board Chairman Mr Larry Mavima is not affected as he was appointed in March 2016. Addressing the NRZ third Annual General Meeting at the parastatal's board room, Dr Gumbo said he had received notice that in terms of the NRZ Act, the term of office of some board members had expired but was temporarily extending it because of outstanding issues that the board needs to deal with.

These included making recommendations to the Government on the recently undertaken forensic audit of the organisation. The six board members were appointed in June 2014 for a three-year term which ended on 10 June, 2017.

Lessons from How Mine



General Manager hands over a present to one of the presenters.

A senior manager from How Mine near Bulawayo recently shared experiences with senior National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) management on how the mining company had succeeded in reducing its high workplace accident rate.

The one-day workshop was attended by members of Management Executive including the General Manager, Engineer Lewis Mukwada. It was coordinated by the NRZ Safety and Environment section in conjunction with the National Social Security Authority through its Occupational Health Safety Department which brought in the SHEQ Manager at How Mine, Mr Methembe Mhambi, to talk about how the mine had effectively reduced occupational accidents after roping in management to take an active part in accident prevention.

Prior to 2006, How Mine recorded an average of 300 workplace accidents a year before directors felt the figures were too high and decided to act.

Eng Mukwada said workplace accidents were a major cause of concern in the railways and continued to take place, showing that no lessons were being learnt from previous incidents despite reports and recommendations being made.

He said workplace accidents were costly and resulted in loss of lives and damage to equipment which the organisation could ill afford.

“We have a safety department but have seen over the years no cause and effect. We carry out inquiries after major accidents and come up with recommendations but next year there will be an accident. We don't seem to be learning from (past) accidents. We are operating in an environment where our equipment is poor but that's no excuse.

“We have decided that there is something we can learn from other people, hence we came up with this workshop to learn one or two things from others,” he said.

Eng Mukwada said he expected the workshop to come up with an accident prevention policy which, in the short term, will prevent and manage accidents while over time it would eliminate them. “We would want to have zero tolerance to accidents,” he said. Mr Mhambi said How Mine directors engaged a behaviour safety specialist who looked how behaviour at the workplace could be contributing to workplace accidents. After implementation of the specialist's recommendations, accidents dropped significantly with 26 recorded last year compared to 299 in 2006. As a result of improved....

Workplace Safety Day commemorated

“Occupational Safety Health Data Enhances Safety Strategies”

National Railways of Zimbabwe(NRZ) workers should use data on workplace accidents to prevent their recurrence, Area Safety Officer Mr Lameck Ndebele has said. Addressing members of the workplace safety committees just before a march to mark World Safety and Health at Work Day, he said this year's organisational theme was **Occupational Safety Health Data Enhances Safety Strategies** and was chosen to make use of workplace accident statistics to prevent future incidents.

NRZ joined the country and the world in commemorating World Safety and Health at Work Day which was

coordinated by the National Social Security Authority (NSSA) and whose national theme was **Reinforcing OSH Preventive Culture through Optimum Gathering and Utilisation of Data.**

The day honours victims of occupational accidents. Mr Ndebele said analysing occupational accident data was crucial in preventing a recurrence of these accidents.

“We must analyse accident data and find the root cause of accidents. If we know the root cause of accidents, we can prevent them,” he said. Mr Ndebele said workers in workshops must take it upon themselves to analyse causes of accidents.

He said efforts to eliminate workplace accidents through analyzing data must be everyday

events and not just limited to this year's commemorations. “Let's not confine the theme to this day only but apply it to our daily work,” he said. NRZ employees marched with workers from other organisations from the corner of Joshua Mqabuko Nkomo Street and 15th Avenue to the Large City Hall where they were addressed by employer

and employee representatives before a speech was given by the Resident Minister for Bulawayo Metropolitan Province, Cde Eunice Nomthandazo Moyo. World Safety and Health at Work Day is commemorated every year on 28 April and this year's commemorations were marked on 5 May 2017.



NRZ team that was part of the safety day commemorations.



NRZ managers follow proceedings at a safety workshop which was held at the Training Centre in Bulawayo.

NATIONAL RAILWAYS OF ZIMBABWE
NRZ Your Link to Industrial Development

NRZ pavilion a hit at ZITF'17

Scores queue to ride the motor trolley at ZITF 2017

The National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) pavilion was a major attraction at this year's Zimbabwe International Trade Fair with hundreds of people visiting the stand.

More than 2 000 people passed through the stand, arguably one of the highest number of visitors to a single stand or pavilion during the four-day event. Among the people who visited the stand were the Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development Dr Joram Gumbo and his deputy, Engineer Michael Madanha.

Other prominent people who passed through the stand were Hwange Colliery Company Limited (HCCL) managing director Mr Thomas Makore and non-executive director Mr W Kutekwatekwa who spent quite some time. HCCL is a major customer of the NRZ.

The major drawcard at the NRZ pavilion, as in previous years, was the motor trolley. More than 1 650 people paid for a ride on the trolley.

The trolley driver had a busy schedule as children sought an opportunity to ride on the trolley. On the first public day, 610 people paid to ride the train. The last day of the ZITF was even busier with 1046

people paying to ride the trolley. The above figures only relate to trolley rides.

The number of visitors to the stand were even higher as the majority of adults did not ride the trolley but were interested in what the NRZ was offering.

Popular inside the pavilion were the systems map, the premier coach while the training centre attracted scores who wanted to know more about the training college and courses on



The NRZ clinched two third prizes for its exhibition at ZITF 2017. One was in the tourism and travel category with respect to the premier class coach while the other was in the engineering sector.

Makorokoto, Amhlope, Congratulations. NRZ has been a long term exhibitor at the ZITF which it uses as a marketing platform and give the general public to interface with the bulk transporter. with the bulk transporter .

Visitors are taken through the exhibition.

NRZ resumes goods insurance cover

Representatives from 11 major insurance companies responded to an invitation to attend a pre-bid conference for a tender to provide insurance services to the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ).

Because of the unique nature of the NRZ, which is the sole rail operator in Zimbabwe, the pre-bid conference was meant to give players in the insurance industry an understanding of the organisation's operations to assist them in coming with appropriate premiums.

After years of self-insuring, the NRZ now wants insurance companies to provide cover for its assets and liabilities. An official from one of the insurance companies conceded that insurance companies in Zimbabwe did not have experience providing cover to the rail sector because there was only one railway company in the country.

The NRZ is seeking insurance cover for the following: Goods in Transit, Passenger liability, Parcels, Locomotives, Coaches, Wagons, Cabooses, Buildings, Breakdown Equipment and Infrastructure.

Branch and section heads at the meeting had to explain to the insurance industry the operations of the company at times



NRZ Senior Management and participants at the insurance briefing.

explaining what cabooses were and the difference between goods in transit and parcels.

Under the goods in transit portfolio, the organisation wants to provide insurance for 11 categories of goods including diesel, petrol, cement, barley, fertiliser, maize and raw sugar.

Director of Corporate Services Mr Misheck Matanhire said the pre-bid conference was meant to provide a common understanding between the organisation and players in the insurance industry.

“For some time, we have been self-insured which means we are not experts in the field of insurance,” he said.

At present, insurance for goods transported by NRZ is optional and most customers are not insuring their goods. In case of damage to uninsured goods, the NRZ pays compensation using the Limitation of Liability pegged at \$0,8 per kg on weight of damaged goods and the amount paid is usually minimal.

continued from page 2..... workplace safety, How Mine is a now regular winner of Occupational Safety awards given by NSSA.

How Mine also sets aside five percent of its budget every year towards Safety, Health and Environment issues. Mr Mhambi said entire management at How Mine had taken ownership of safety issues instead of leaving OHS matters to his department. NSSA regional manager Wellington Chinembiri said workplace safety and accidents prevention should start at the top. If managers took a casual approach to health and safety issues, workers were likely to follow suit, he said.

Mr Chinembiri said although NSSA had a fund which compensated workers who get injured or killed at work, it was important to impress on workers that no amount of money was worth getting injured for. Meanwhile, NSSA has increased benefits it gives to deceased workers. Mr Chinembiri said in addition to the \$300 funeral grant, the authority had engaged a funeral services company to provide a vehicle, coffin and washing of body for a member of its pension scheme who dies while in service. The workshop was held against the background of increasing workplace accidents within the organisation, especially derailments and the need to come up with a culture that promotes safety at work.

NRZ pays tribute to mothers with successful steam train fun day

By Tinaye Duri

The National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) ran a steam train from Bulawayo to Sawmills on 14 May 2017 to commemorate Mothers' Day.

The steam train attracted interest from international and local clients with some coming from Europe, America and Japan, while locally some were from Harare.

The company's Public Relations Manager, Mr Nyasha Maravanyika said he was pleased with the attendance for the steam train run.

"The Rail leisure Steam Train Run surprised us this year in terms of the numbers.

"We have really noted its growth potential for domestic tourism.

"Domestically, the steam train runs would attract mostly people in Bulawayo and surrounding areas, but it is pleasing to note that people are now coming from as far as Harare.

"This compels us as an organisation to seriously look at this potential market and diversify.

"This is great encouragement for NRZ".

Mr Maravanyika saw the interest of many tourists as an opportunity for NRZ to diversify.

"With such numbers for leisure and tourist programmes, it is a great encouragement to the NRZ objectives of diversifying and tapping into the leisure and tourism development of the country.

"Our steam locomotives are still an important historical and rail souvenir that holds a huge attraction to those who love leisure. It is an

important untapped area with huge potential for the NRZ and the country, at large.

"NRZ harbours such dreams to diversify into areas of such great potential like leisure and safari trains.

"We recently had the Geoff Cook Safaris which were successful, so our Passenger Services department should definitely look into the possibility of nurturing and assessing our capacity to plan and run future programmes".

Passenger Services Assistant Mr Wonder Mukuyu said they were satisfied with the attendance.

"The attendance for this Mother's Day steam train run was such an improvement from previous runs. One hundred and twenty-nine adults and 28 children came to celebrate Mothers' Day on the steam train.

"Local clients who were interested in this event to a great extent were

from outside Bulawayo and they came from Harare, Figtree and Marula. "One of our most zealous and loyal client from France also came to be part of the steam train run. "This shows that tourism is a future success for NRZ.

"However, we need to improve on time preparation for the steam train run. "We also need to advertise the steam train runs because people are so much interested in these activities, and this might be NRZ's breakthrough".

The success of this diversification venture will not only benefit the organisation, but also the destination communities.

Involved communities get the opportunity to experience the warmth and serene presence of NRZ and also the guest tourists.

NRZ has always run successful corporate social responsibility in the past which created a powerful bond between itself and the community.

continued from p1.. but the entire SADC region as Zimbabwe was located strategically. "To us as government, the National Railways of Zimbabwe is a pivotal player in terms of availing cost efficient transport not just for this economy but for the entire sub-region. It provides a vital link between landlocked countries such as Zambia and DRC linking sea ports of South Africa and Mozambique.

"We are at the centre of the SADC and therefore if there are any inefficiencies in our railway system it has a bearing on the competitiveness of not just the Zimbabwean economy but also the competitiveness of economies to the north of us. So it's a regional issue in terms of trying to ensure that let's get the NRZ being in a competitive position so that it increases efficiencies in production within Zimbabwe and the region." He said the pre-bid conference recognized the need to have an efficient NRZ because of the important role rail plays in terms of lowering the cost of doing business.

HIV testing services launch: the '90 90 90' strategy

By Tinaye Duri

The Minister of State for Bulawayo Provincial Affairs, Nomthandazo Eunice Moyo, launched the HIV Testing Services under the theme: “Closing the tap of new HIV infections”. The function was held at Nketa Clinic in Bulawayo on 5 May 2017. Peer educators and counsellors from a number of organisations, including the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ), and community health workers witnessed the launch of HIV Testing Services.

Minister Moyo said everyone should get tested and know their status to accomplish the 90/90/90 strategy by 2020. “Testing must be a family centred approach and the strategy has an advantage because it includes HIV self-testing, where people can test themselves in the comfort of their homes.

“Everyone should know their status in order to get treatment at an early stage of the infection. “Under the 90/90/90 strategy, 90% of the people living with HIV should know their status, 90% of the people living with HIV should be put on Anti-Retroviral (ARV) treatment and 90% of the people on ARV treatment should have their viral load suppressed”.

Minister Moyo emphasized that the nation as a whole must participate so as to ensure a healthy community. Peer educators and health practitioners from NRZ emphasized the importance of such initiatives to both corporates and individuals as health has become vital to every entity in the country.

Sister Vuyayi Hamandishe, a Peer Educators and acting Programme Officer (HIV and Aids) at NRZ, said it was important for NRZ to be part of this occasion since the health of workers in the organisation was important.

“This function is very important to NRZ and of course, the nation as a whole. An unhealthy worker cannot work efficiently to his or her capacity. Therefore, all workers are encouraged to know their status, and if positive, get treatment as early as possible.

“In NRZ, testing is done every day in any of the company's health centres. Every 3 months, a campaign is done by the NRZ Health department, encouraging workers to test and get treatment early.

“NRZ is also taking part in this Strategy and targeting that 90% of workers must know their status and get treatment, if positive, by 2020”.

Nketa clinic was chosen to host the launch as it is one of the first centres to provide testing facilities in the country. Currently, the clinic has the highest number of people collecting ARVs, who amount to 48 000.

Dog handlers finish course

Fourteen security guards from the Security Services Branch have passed out as dog handlers after undergoing an intensive six month-long dog handling course. The guards, who were recruited as learner security guards before going for further training, have now been posted to various stations throughout the system where they will play a key role in safeguarding NRZ property and customer goods using help from the canines.

Security Services Manager Mr Lithin Ndlovu commended the dog handlers for completing their training under strenuous conditions as the organisation faced challenges. He said that now they have qualified as dog handlers, they needed to make use of their dogs for effective security duties at their work stations. Mr Ndlovu said in the past, there had been instances where some dog handlers did not want to use dogs during patrols.

He said challenges in terms of resources faced by the organisation should not prevent dog handlers from effectively carrying out their duties and the new dog handlers were expected to contribute to a decline in crime within the NRZ. “Despite the problems we are facing, you should not despair but make your contribution in terms of protecting property with the hope that things will be okay. Let's not contribute to the demise of the company by not doing our work,” he said.

Mr Ndlovu said the dog handlers needed to be professional in their approach to work if the organisation was to achieve zero theft rates. He said the branch was procuring pure bred dogs to replace cross breed currently in use. “We have started the process of acquiring proper (guard) dogs. The ones you are using are cross breeds and are not suitable,” Mr Ndlovu said.

He said while the process of acquiring pure bred dogs was underway, dog handlers need to make full use of dog breeds they currently had.