

# Railroader 1/2018

## Minister Gumbo commissions Nandi-Mkwesine line

The Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development Dr Jorum Gumbo commissioned the upgraded Nandi Mkwesine railway line at a ceremony attended by high level dignitaries and members of the local community.

The commissioning on December 6, 2017, cemented the status of National Railways of Zimbabwe as a key enabler of economic development.

The new line will allow farmers to ferry more sugar cane using rail instead of the more costly road haulage trucks.

The line is a private siding built in 1978 and covers a length of 34.5km from Nandi Siding to Mkwesine. Upgrading of the line started in 2013 with funding from the European Union through Canelands Trust, an organisation that helps small scale sugar cane out growers, under the National Sugar Adaptation Strategy. The upgrading of the line followed successful collaboration between the Government, the European Union, Canelands Trust, Tongaat Hullet and NRZ.

The EU provided a grant of \$7.495 million to buy necessary materials required for the refurbishment and upgrading exercise while the NRZ provided technical expertise and carried out the upgrading work. Work involved removal of the old rail manufactured between 1930 and 1956 which had deteriorated due to wear and tear as well as damage from derailments.

The line was upgraded from 30kg/metre track to a heavier 40kg/metre track while more than 34 000 concrete sleepers were laid to replace steel sleepers.

The new line is expected to carry more volumes of sugar cane as farmers shift from road transport, thus ensuring more disposable



income for farmers through reduced transport costs. Tongaat Hullet Chief Executive, Mr Sydney Mutsambiwa said In 1980s and early 1990s, all the sugar cane produced in Mkwesine, which amounted to 900 000 tonnes at its peak, was hauled by rail. He said the commissioning of the upgraded rail should see volumes produced and moved by rail going back to 900 000 tonnes a year.

National Railways of Zimbabwe General Manager Engineer Lewis Mukwada said the Nandi Mkwesine upgrading was a hallmark of collaborative strategies which the organisation has been adopting in the past few years.

He said upgrading of the line followed efforts by the EU to find a cost effective solution to the movement of cane.

Eng. Mukwada said the total cost of the project was \$10million.

“The NRZ contributed \$2.5 million mainly in the form of the rail, engineers that worked on the project and some other material,” he said.

The project created more than 100

jobs for members of the local community who were employed by the NRZ as casual labour. Principal Engineer (Tracks) Delphano Makamache said the scope of work meant removing the entire track which was in a dilapidated condition.

He said using the local labour, the NRZ removed the rail, steel sleepers and damaged ballast before laying new material.

He said the design speed for the new line was 60km per hour.

The upgrading of the line will benefit new farmers resettled by the Government in Mkwesine under the fast track resettlement programme as they will be able to move increased cane volumes to sugar mills in Triangle and Chiredzi.

The upgrading of the line is a successful example of Public-Private- Partnerships (PPPs) which the NRZ has entered with other organisations to improve in infrastructure. The NRZ has been using PPPs as a strategy to complete projects where it did not have sufficient resources with both parties benefiting from the initiative.

# Midlands Area ready for 2018

**By Bongwiwe Dube**

Midlands Area has come up with a strategic delivery plan to improve business during 2018.

At a quarterly meeting of Station Masters from the area, a strategic delivery plan for the area was crafted which will see ring-fencing of wagons for critical customers.

Acting Manager Midlands Area Mr Gefferson Chimunye said although the meeting on 9 November was a routine quarterly meeting for Station Masters in the area, they had used it to come up with the strategic delivery plan for 2018.

He said under the delivery plan some critical customers will have wagons set aside for them while efforts would be made to deliver goods within the time promised to customers.

Mr Chimunye said the plan also envisaged supplying customers with all their wagon requests within 24 hours, clear all transit and import traffic within 12 hours of handover and within 12 hours in marshalling yards.

“We are also going to be customer focused, responding to queries and complaints within one hour of request and try to eliminate all human error related accidents,” he said.

Mr Chimunye said they had faced challenges during 2017 as an area which affected operations and



made them fail to meet some targets.

“The state of equipment and infrastructure is not so good, the state of locomotives is poor and the hired locomotives are not reliable hence train services are affected.

“We do not have the capacity to provide all the necessary wagons thus affecting the resolve to supply the wagons on time and also derailments affect service delivery because when they happen the mainline is blocked leading to failure to deliver.”

He said some of the challenges were beyond their control as they were due to the country's economic situation which he termed a 'VUCA' economy, meaning Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous.

“Our economic situation is bad hence making it a challenge to reach our goals.

This affects the attitudes of employees, hence there is need to address the culture of workers, they need to think positive, commit themselves and look beyond the current situation”.

He said, in the meeting they emphasised the vision of the organisation as well as the key values which are customer focus and team work.

“Our team is not a team of stars but it is a star team”.

Midlands Area lies in a strategic geographical location in terms of NRZ operations covering areas between Shangani, Beitbridge, Kadoma, Masvingo, Chiqualaquala and the Lowveld. The area headquarters is in Gweru.

# NRZ celebrates with Jairos Jiri Association



## By Thandiwe Madebgwe

The National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) joined the Jairos Jiri Association (JJA) community and other well-wishers to mark Jairos Jiri Day 14 November 2017.

The commemoration was held at the JJA centre in Nguboyenja. NRZ Public Relations Manager Mr Nyasha Maravanyika said the organisation was proud to be associated with JJA.

The NRZ has a long term relationship with JJA under which it provides transport to ferry a wagon-load of coal from Hwange to Bulawayo Station free of charge as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility. The coal is used for cooking and heating purposes.

Mr Maravanyika said the NRZ was sensitive to the way it interacted with people living with disabilities.

“As an organisation, we do not view Jairos Jiri children as 'disabled', but as part of our family.

“NRZ freely transports coal donated by Hwange Colliery

Company Limited (HCCL) for Jairos Jiri.

“The donated wagon of coal lasts for four years.

“This coal helps JJA because they can save their electricity, cook and also heat water for bathing

“As NRZ, we truly move the nation”.

He encouraged other companies to assist JJA and make the place comfortable for the children.

The public relations team spent the whole day at the centre where they, together with other guests, were entertained by students at the centre.

The JJA Bulawayo Branch Committee Chairperson, Mrs Sanele Mlauzi, said 14

November was a day to commemorate the legacy left behind by the late Jairos Jiri.

“The late Jairos Jiri was born in 1921 and died in 1982 at the age of 61.

“He was born in Bikita and at the age of 21 he came to Bulawayo where he developed his compassion for disabled people.

“He taught them how to make and repair shoes, empowering them to use their disabled bodies for the better”.

Jairos Jiri Day is commemorated every year throughout the country by JJA at its centres on the birthday of the association's founder to celebrate his legacy as pioneering activist on disability issues.

# Enrolment soars at NRZ Technical College

By Washington Chikwariro

Enrolment at the three-year-old National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) Technical College is increasing with each passing year as more students apply to study technical courses at the institution. The college opened its doors in 2016 with 37 students. Last year, 47 students enrolled.

This year, there are 65 first year students.

Manpower Clerk at the Technical College Mrs. Nomagugu Greens said they were happy with this year's enrolment.

“Out of the 92 that had registered, 65 enrolled and we are very happy with this development,” she said.

Mrs Greens said they were also happy that the number of female students at the college was increasing with 16 this year. However, Mrs Greens said more needed to be done in terms of gender balance and educating women.

The NRZ Technical College started its term on 8 January 2018.

Before being granted permission by the Government to set up a technical college, it operated as a training centre for NRZ employees and the public as they came in for apprenticeship courses.



However, the college is now allowed to have direct in-takes.

The college has an advantage over other technical colleges in that students get first preference for attachment within the NRZ while convenient accommodation is available within a walking distance.

NRZ Training Manager Mr Lumas Moyo said the college was taking various initiatives to increase enrolment.

“To market the college we partake in career guidance, school visits as well as exhibitions at events which

include the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (Z.I.T.F)” he said.

The college offers three national certificate courses and six month skilled workers' courses.

# Southern Area in clean-up campaign

Washington Chikwariro  
National Railways of Zimbabwe  
(NRZ) Southern Area management  
has launched a clean-up campaign  
under the motto “Zero Tolerance to  
Litter”.

Participants in the campaign,  
including managers, picked up litter  
around the Bulawayo Station while  
posters were pasted at strategic  
places encouraging people to place  
litter in bins to ensure a clean  
environment.

Manager Southern Area Mrs Ainah  
Dube Kaguru commended the  
initiative saying it should be a  
challenge to all

workers to  
ensure they  
worked in a  
clean  
environment.  
She applauded  
managers for  
leaving their  
offices to take  
part in the  
campaign.  
“It’s a good  
thing that all  
managers are  
here today to  
lead by  
example. Your  
presence here is  
going to serve  
as a tool of

motivation for our co-workers to  
follow suit and keep their  
environment clean at all times”

She said the campaign can also  
foster a spirit of team work.

“Let not this be seen as an  
environmental awareness activity  
only but as a way of enhancing team  
work,” she said.

Mrs Dube Kaguru praised the Health  
and Safety section, singling out the  
acting manager Mr. Elimon  
Mukozho and Mr Lameck Ndebele  
for making the campaign possible.  
Mr Ndebele said the campaign was

motivated by the need to create a  
safety culture where people did  
not throw litter everywhere.

“We have been having these  
campaigns in areas like Victoria  
Falls and Hwange every year  
during the month of September  
which is also the National Clean-  
up campaign”.

“In Hwange they have even  
created health clubs which are  
community based organizations to  
help fight littering. Going forward  
we have also noted that instead of  
waiting for September there is a

Clean-Up Month for the country by  
the Environmental Management  
Agency in 2009 and the NRZ has  
been commemorating the event  
annually to keep its premises clean.



need to carry out these campaigns  
on monthly basis. That way,  
people are always reminded on  
safety.

“At the same time we have started  
Health Educational Programmes  
as a way of reaching out to our  
staff and tenants. Here we are  
simply conscientising them on the  
need for a safe environment.

While doing this we are also on  
course to make sure that our  
vehicles have refuse bags where  
people can throw their litter”.  
September was designated the

# “NRZ to flourish like fruit tree”

**By Washington Chikwariro**

The 2017 National Railways of Zimbabwe tree planting ceremony was symbolic of what is going to happen to the NRZ, acting Safety and Environment manager Mr Elimon Mukozho has said.

Speaking at a tree planting ceremony for sections housed at Griffin Hall, he predicted that the organisation would flourish just like the tree they planted.

He urged NRZ employees to take part in tree planting activities as trees were important to life.

Mr Mukozho said trees provided oxygen which was essential to life while they could also be harvested for timber and food.

“As we all know that this tree bears fruits, let it be known to all of us that this year it's our year as NRZ, we are going to bear a lot of fruits,” Mr Mukozho said in reference to the \$400 million recapitalization project which is expected to boost operational capacity.

The national tree was the Redmilkhood (*umpumbulu* in isiNdebele/ *muchechete* in Shona) which bears small sweet red fruits when ripe.

“Trees bring life, they give us oxygen and shade not forgetting the timber with which we build and carve beautiful artefacts and furniture,” he said.



Representatives from Medical, Manpower and Health and Safety sections planted three trees at the Griffin Hall.

The Training Centre also held its own tree planting ceremony where the national tree was planted with Mr Mukozho,

Moyo, members of staff and students present.

The tree planting ceremony was in honour of the National Tree Planting Day which falls on 1 December of every year and NRZ has been commemorating the event since it was launched in 1980.

# NRZ workers against gender-based violence

**By Thandiwe Madebgwe**

THE National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) marked the International Women's Day by cleaning offices at the Mechanical Workshops.

The International Women's Day was marked on 7 December 2017 and preceded by 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence from 25 November to 10 December 2017. The theme was "From peace at home to peace in the world: Making Education safe for all."

To celebrate the day, the workers were put in groups to clean the workshop offices. They cleaned up the offices leaving them sparkling clean and male workers were satisfied and happy.

After the clean-up operation, the women congregated at Raylton Sports Club where they were joined in the commemorations by officials from the Zimbabwe Amalgamated Railway Workers Union (ZARWU), Railway Artisan Union (RAU), Railway Association of Engineman (RAE), Railway Association of Yard Operations Staff (RAYOS) and Officers Staff Association (OSA).

Guest of honour, Manager Southern Area Mrs Ainah Dube-Kaguri, who is also the NRZ Gender Focal Person said commemorating International Women's Day was an annual event in the NRZ.

"Every year we take time to join the whole world in commemorating the 16 days of activism against gender based violence with emphasis being given to the women folk. It should be noted that the men have also been victims of the scourge but not to the extent the



women have been exposed and affected.

"You will agree with me that where peace prevails there is progress in whatever people have set to do. The home is the starting point- once there is violence at home; you can be rest assured that there will be chaos in the world. Our concentration this time around is on the education aspect, which happens to be my passion.

"Education is paramount in all aspects of our lives and it is very critical for women to take the steps towards accomplishing some level of education. The aim in this year's commemoration is to 'make education safe for all.' Everyone should have equal opportunities in a safe environment and have the freedom to contribute as equals in the development of our country.

"Let's not give up on the

fighting against the scourge of gender based violence, eventually we tame it!!"

ZARWU representative Miss Mildred Ngwenya spoke on sexual harassment which mainly affected women.

"One may want to ask what sexual harassment is. It is constituted by unwanted, unwelcome and unasked behaviour of a sexual nature.

"Most of us may want to know why we recognise the day as a Trade Union issue. Because it is the result of power relations in the workplace, so the most vulnerable and least protected workers are most likely to be under threat." More than a hundred people attended the celebrations.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign was set aside in 1991 by the United Nations as a time to galvanise action to end violence against women and girls around the world.

# NRZ In Pictures



***The General Manager, Engineer Lewis Mukwada hands over a present to Dr Gumbo after the commissioning of Nandi-Mkwazine Line***



***Minister of Transport and Infrastructural Development Dr Jorum Gumbo unveils the plaque during the Nandi-Mkwazine Line commissioning***



***Business Manager Passenger Services Mr Munyaradzi Masaga (with hailer) briefs guests to the commissioning of Nandi-Mkwazine line***



***Workers from Civil Tracks rehabilitate a line between Mpopoma and Grain Marketing Board depot in Bulawayo***

**Railroader is your magazine. To make it interesting and varied in content, we are inviting articles and columns from NRZ employees which can add value to the organization. People with articles or columns please contact the Editor at [amutemi@nrz.co.zw](mailto:amutemi@nrz.co.zw)**

# 2017 Branch Christmas Parties

2017 has been a good year for the NRZ following the strategic alliances formed to ensure the organizations fortunes are set on a positive trajectory. Some branches took time within their busy schedules to set the tone for the festive season in style.



Supplies party image



Supplies party image

Captured moments from the Supplies, Human Resources and Finance Branch parties.



Human Resources party image



Human Resources party image



Finance party image



Finance party image