

Railroader Digital Newsletter

SARA monitors Zambia ring-fencing law

Countries in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) are closely monitoring the recently introduced legislation in Zambia to ring fence movement of some bulk products by rail, incoming Southern African Railways Association (SARA) president Engineer Lewis Mukwada said.

Speaking after he took over the rotating presidency of the regional railways organisation in Harare, he said success of the legislation in Zambia could see other countries introducing similar legislation to boost business for railway companies.

However, he warned if the initiative failed, it would mean no other country would want to introduce that piece of legislation.

“The Zambia Statutory Instrument is not just for Zambia. Other governments are looking and if it succeeds, (they) will follow suit. If it fails, we will not talk about ring fencing for the next 50 years,” Eng. Mukwada said.

The Government of Zambia this year introduced legislation to ring fence movement of specified bulk commodities by rail.

Under the Railways (Transportation of Heavy Goods) Regulations 2018, 30 percent of the prescribed bulk goods are supposed to be ferried by rail. The goods include cement, fertiliser, coal, sugar, copper, cobalt, fuel and sulphur.

Failure to comply with the regulations can lead to a fine or imprisonment.

Outgoing SARA president Mr



Incoming SARA president Engineer Lewis Mukwada addresses board members after ascending to the presidency.

Christopher Musonda, the chief executive of Zambia Railways Limited said the association was in support of the Zambian statutory instrument to ring fence movement of certain goods by rail. He said business had picked for the company which for the first time in a long time moved 70 000 tonnes in a month.

“We have seen the introduction of the quota system in Zambia. There is a legal entitlement that bulk goods move by rail. This is not only for Zambia but for the whole region,” he said.

Zimbabwe has also mooted the idea of ring fencing movement of certain goods by rail to boost NRZ’s capacity. However, the Government has said that it will only consider this when the NRZ is capacitated and removes bottlenecks that delay the movement of traffic.

Meanwhile, Eng. Mukwada said railway companies in the region continued to face challenges which included volatile commodity prices, competition from road transport and pressure from customers to reduce rates. At the same time, government expected improved performance by rail utilities while not availing to them the resources to achieve their mandate.

He paid tribute to his predecessor for advancing the SARA agenda and pledged to do the same during his one year term of office. Eng. Mukwada is deputised by Ms Thembi Moyo of the Bulawayo-Beitbridge-Railways (BBR).

Transport and Infrastructure Development Minister Dr Joram Gumbo was the guest of honour at the 2018 SARA Annual General Meeting.

More recognition for Nozipho's heroics



Mr Revelation Masotsha Sibanda hands over a tablet to Nozipho's grandmother while Nozipho and NRZ Safety and Environment Manager Mr Elimon Mukozho look on.

By Methembe Dube

Nozipho Sibanda, a 14-year-old Form One pupil at Entumbane High School who made headlines for averting a possible disaster by reporting a broken railway line has been rewarded with a donation of a tablet by a family touched by her sense of responsibility.

Sometime in September last year, Nozipho, while doing Grade Seven at Sawmills Primary School, stumbled on a broken railway track. Showing a high degree of responsibility that belied her age, she immediately reported the incident to the Station Master at Sawmills Mr

Evaresto Maungwa, who promptly stopped a passenger train that was supposed to pass through that section in a few minutes. By showing maturity beyond her years, Nozipho had averted potential disaster. Nozipho received a Samsung Tablet from the Sibanda family

at a brief ceremony at the NRZ New Headquarters recently. The story of Nozipho's responsible action made international headlines after the NRZ recognised her role by committing to funding her secondary school education.

A member of the Sibanda family (no relation to Nozipho) in the Diaspora picked up the story and decided to honour the young girl for her heroics. He bought the tablet which was presented to Nozipho in the presence of the NRZ.

NRZ Safety and Environment Manager Mr Elimon Mukozho applauded Nozipho for her timely intervention and bemoaned the recklessness of some community members who were vandalizing NRZ property such as railway tracks.

He took the opportunity to raise concern on the rising number of suicides and suicide attempts on railway tracks by the public and urged people to seek counsel whenever they face problems and not take their own lives. Mr Mukozho also called on the media to help the NRZ by reporting vandalism and theft of NRZ property.

A representative of the Sibanda family, Mr Revelation Masotsha Sibanda, said they originally came from Hwange and his father, who bought the tablet, preferred using the train when travelling there.

He said his father or any of their relatives could have been aboard the train which was stopped from proceeding because of Nozipho's actions. In June NRZ surprised the teenager by fulfilling a long standing pledge to pay her school fees and buy uniforms until she completes her O-Levels. More than 1000 pupils at Entumbane witnessed the handover of a dummy cheque for her educational reward.

Railway Museum to go digital

The National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) Museum plans to digitally archive its material to preserve historical documents for future generations, the museum curator, Mr Gordon Murray, has said. At present, documents are kept in their original form and with time, the quality of paper deteriorates thus it is so important to digitalise.

Some of the documents kept at the museum date back to the time the first train arrived in the country and there is a real danger that with repeated handling, the documents might tear or fade due to the dynamic weather patterns.

When documents are digitally archived, they are scanned and stored in computers.

Unlike paper which deteriorates over time, a digital archive can keep information for a long period of time.

"A Digital Archive does not tear like paper. We can safely upload all our information for a long period. It is also easy to access information digitally, unlike manually", said Mr Murray.

He said while the project to digitally archive information has been on the drawing board for sometime, it had not taken off because of lack of funds.

About 70 000 pounds is needed for the project.

"For the NRZ Museum to digitalize, a computer, scanner and backup systems which cost 70 000 pounds are needed so that when one is working on something, the diskette duplicates the information and that information can be sent to other Railway

Museums in other countries such as German, Interpol and United States of America".

"We have asked various people outside NRZ we know and trust to help and do something towards the museum.

"At the moment there is no one who is willing to contribute money for the digitalization of the archive.

"We also once asked one company for \$350 000.00 to repaint all of our exhibits and they said that we must try again next year (2018)."

The digital archive will incorporate a tracking system to track stolen exhibits.

"Anything stolen can be easily traced if we are using a digital archive.

"At one time, engine number plates were stolen and sent overseas to be sold.

"We contacted Interpol to investigate.

"The process was long because we did not have a digital archive to easily identify the plates."

The NRZ Museum was set up in 1972 to coincide with the 75th anniversary of arrival of the first train in Bulawayo and has exhibits chronicling the history of the railways.

My View

Of Paul Matavire, NRZ lodges this winter

The late Paul Matavire in his song, Chando Chinouraya, grimaced and numbed cold at Gweru Train Station. The song gives a chilling tale of the cold in Gweru.

It was a hit many years ago. I'm sure NRZ workers in other ranks who, during this past winter, had to go on duty outside their home stations sang lyrics to the song while booked in booking off quarters/ guest houses.

With broken windows panes, threadbare blankets, cold water and uncarpeted floors, some booking off quarters and guest houses were freezing, keeping one awake during the night. I have experienced it in Victoria Falls, cold wind whistling through broken windows in our lodges used by non-officer staff at night.

In Rutenga, all geysers at Taj Rutenga are broken down while heaters no longer work. In Harare water cuts mean guests are forced to collect wa-

ter from a Jojo tank into a bucket and bath in the freezing water.

And to top it all there is no entertainment for the guests. Most non-officer-staff who were away on duty between 14 June and 14 July missed the 2018 FIFA World Cup unless they opted to go and



watch in nearby sports bars. But not everyone is comfortable going into a bar or being seen in a bar no matter how fanatic they are about football especially if they are teetotalers.

Going on an assignment from your home station should not be seen as a punishment.

Workers should not always be complaining about conditions at their work assigned accommodation as it demotivates them.

One way to improve conditions at booking off quarters

is to make officers and managers sleep there so they experience what the ordinary worker goes through and initiate a strategy to improve conditions. As long as one sleeps comfortably at The Chase with its flat screen TV's in every room, carpeted bedrooms, DSTV, Wi

-Fi they will never appreciate a worker complaining about conditions at Mawokopamwe or Taj Rutenga.

What makes the whole situation particularly sad is most workers would have left better amenities at their homes.

Non-officer workers never expect to be

treated as lavishly as managers but an aura of respect, concern and integrity should always be accorded every NRZ worker regardless of rank and status, especially when on duty.

NRZ's preferable image and reputation is first harnessed at the shop floor level and never at the apex. In fact the apex rides on the reputation created on the shop floor.

It is high time we go back to the drawing board to nurture a culture that carries our image and reputation for the best.

Don't mess with Branco

By Daisy Nyoni

Branco Manyathela, a Plate Layer at the Mechanical Engineer's Workshops in Bulawayo, is a talented martial arts star who recently won a silver medal at a regional martial arts championship in South Africa.

Manyathela did the country proud at the 2018 Kimura Shukokai International Championships in Limpopo Province on June 16, 2018.

The young star put up a spirited performance at the tournament where Zimbabwe grabbed a total of 13 medals.

The young and talented NRZ employee was representing the country at the championships. Manyathela is a holder of a first Dan black belt.

He attributed his success in martial arts to hard work and is working on honing his skills to be a world class martial artist.

"I am happy to have won the silver medal though I feel I could have done better, as for the same tournament last year I got a gold medal, but I am just happy with my performance as it's not every day that I get this exposure, and I hope my game will improve for the best."

The young Sensei lamented

the low turnout at this year's tournament as both the South African and Zimbabwean teams did not field all their players for fear that the players might get injured as they are also preparing for the Sweden World Karate championships.

The Zimbabwean team from

exposed to a society and family that loved karate and my brothers were my heroes when it came to karate and I just took it from there and fell in love with the sport from a tender age."

Branco is a member of the Old Miltonians Dojo karate club in Bulawayo. He hopes he will



Branco Manyathela show off his karate skills

continue playing in sport he loves and hopes that the NRZ will continue to support him in his endeavour to be one of the country's best karatekas. "I hope my bosses continue supporting me in this sport."

The NRZ has pro-

duced sporting icons over the years who went on to become household names at the peak of their careers.

The most popular sportsmen to emerge from NRZ were football players from Rail Stars Football Club who included Master Masiku, Kelvin Masiku, Njabulo Ncube, Norman Komani and Collen Nyambiya, among others.

Bulawayo travelled to Sweden for the event on 12 July, 2018 and Branco was the coach for the young Falcon College team representing Zimbabwe at the event. Manyathela started competing in the sport in 2006 and has won several medals.

The young karateka said he was inspired by his elder brother whom he says he grew up seeing him play karate in Nkulumane and decided to take up the sport.

"As I was growing I grew up

NRZ in pictures



Transport and Infrastructure Development Minister Dr Joram Gumbo opens the SARA board meeting



SARA board members pose for a group photo at their first board meeting in Harare in June



Regional Marketing Manager Mr Joseph Temayi presents a dummy cheque to Nozipho Sibanda at Entumbane Secondary School



Catering staff serve guests at a recent NRZ function



Public Relations Manager Mr Nyasha Maravanyika poses for a picture with the then acting Station Master Victoria Falls Mr Nkosana Mpfu (second from Left) and other members of staff at Victoria Falls



Staff from Safety and Environment and safety committee members pose for a picture during commemorations to mark World Day for Safety and Health at Work

Visit the revamped NRZ website on www.nrz.co.zw