

RAILROADER

Newsletter

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Govt Assures on Improving NRZ
Operational Capacity

New locos, wagons coming



Hon. F. Mhona, his wife and Deputy at a cocktail reception hosted by the ministry in Bulawayo

The government is pursuing a number of initiatives to recapitalise the National Railways of Zimbabwe, Transport and Infrastructure Development Minister Honourable Felix Mhona has said. He said the NRZ will before the end of this year take delivery of new locomotives and wagons as part of efforts to improve its operational capacity. In addition, the NRZ will also refurbish 1000 wagons at its

workshop to enable it increase the cargo it is currently moving. Minister Mhona said the government will buy six new locomotives and 150 wagons which will be delivered before the end of the year. "There are initiatives and strategic alliances that we are pursuing (for the recapitalisation of NRZ)" he said at a reception in Bulawayo recently for

parastatals under his ministry. He said government intervention in Air Zimbabwe, another parastatal which faced capacity challenges, had seen the rebirth of the national airline. The same was being planned for NRZ. "We have revived Air Zimbabwe and can tell you they are sticking to flight schedules and no longer cancelling flights," he said. The Minister said parastatal under his ministry should work to ensure that they provided the service expected of them by the people of Zimbabwe. The Government is pursuing a number of initiatives to recapitalise the NRZ. Government officials recently toured an Indonesian railway company, PT len, which has expressed interest in investing in the country's rail sector.



Adv. Martin T. Dinha with board chairpersons from parastatals under the ministry

NRZ management at peer review workshop



Minister Mhona speaks at the ministry's peer review seminar

Senior National Railways of Zimbabwe management recently joined officials from other State-owned Enterprises (SOE) under the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure Development at a peer review workshop in Victoria Falls. The workshop, chaired by the Minister, Honourable Felix Mhona, discussed the performance of SOEs last year and their strategic plans going forward. The peer review is the first to be held after SOEs board chairpersons and chief executives signed performance appraisals in February which will be used to benchmark their work.

NRZ General Manager Ms Respina Zinyanduko presented an overview of the parastatal's performance and achievements. She unpacked the organisation's strategic plan which is divided into three intertwined phases and is aimed at making the NRZ a profitable organisation by 2030. The first phase (Turnaround) from 2020 to 2023 is to bring the organization to profitability by stabilising operational capacity while managing costs. The objective is to achieve an operating surplus. The business

model is based on a single entity with profit centres, while the Railway industry will comprise NRZ and BBR as the operators.

The second phase of growth will run from 2022 to 2025 to fully meet industry's demand for bulk transport, through continued improvements in operating capacity and efficiency. NRZ's profit centres will be converted to subsidiaries, but the industry will still comprise NRZ and BBR as the operators. The Expansion phase from 2023 to 2030 will see the NRZ transforming to a regional surface logistics player, participating in freight transport, rolling stock leasing,

dry-ports and passenger transport. It is anticipated that by then other new routes such as Lion's Den Kafue link would have been developed, most probably under BOT arrangements. It is expected that a Railway Regulator will be in place and that Railway infrastructure will be separated from operations to allow other operators to come on-board. Ms Zinyanduko said implementation of the first phase had already started with implementation of issues such as staff rationalisation. She said repair and maintenance of critical equipment and rehabilitation of infrastructure was being done.

The General Manager said the overall success of the strategic plan was underpinned by the country achieving a US12billion mining industry, command agriculture efforts by industry to recapitalise and Government honouring its obligations to the NRZ under the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP).

Heads of parastatals joined Cabinet Minister to sign performance contracts before His Excellency, President of Zimbabwe, Cde Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa in February. The contracts are meant to foster a culture of high performance and enhance accountability and good governance in public entities.



Pictures on Right from top to bottom: Officials from the Ministry and parastatals follow proceedings at the seminar

NRZ donates chairs to ZRP



Mr Ndlovu hands over office furniture to Supt Gonouya

The National Railways of Zimbabwe has donated office furniture to the Zimbabwe Republic Police's Police Protection Unit (PPU) as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme.

The furniture comprised 15 chairs and two benches worth RTGS 120 000.

The furniture was manufactured at the Mechanical Engineer's Workshops in Bulawayo. The donation followed an appeal by the PPU represented by Assistant Inspector Matiza of Westgate Police station to Loss Control and Security Manager Mr Lithini Ndlovu for assistance with office furniture.

"I indicated to him that we may be able to assist but I needed to inquire from my superiors. The NRZ has an obligation to assist communities including the police because there are a number of things that the police does for the community," said Mr Ndlovu. He said the NRZ enjoyed good

relations with the ZRP.

"I am a former policeman myself, I know the number of challenges that the police are facing and I know what it means when they say 'please assist'," said Mr Ndlovu.

The Officer Commanding (Administration) Southern District Superintendent Sydney Gonouya thanked the NRZ for the donation. "We are very grateful for this gesture because it is going to assist us in a long way

and we were not expecting this. Many companies and organisations don't want to identify with our section because we don't directly deal with crime," he said.

The PPU is a specialised unit which provides protection to VVIPs including the Presidium, Cabinet Ministers and judges among others.

In Bulawayo the unit is located next to Westgate Security Camp.

Below: NRZ Loss Control and Security and ZRP details follow the furniture hand-over ceremony



Another ZITF, another award



President Mnangagwa presents the trophy for the best Mining and Engineering Exhibit to Adv. Dinha and Ms Zinyanduko

In what is becoming a regular occurrence, the National Railways of Zimbabwe scooped another award at the 2022 Zimbabwe International Trade Fair. The NRZ won the Zimpapers Trophy for the best Mining and Engineering Exhibit. The trophy and a gold medal were presented to the Board Chairman Advocate Martin Tafara Dinha and the General Manager Ms Respina Zinyanduko by President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa. Speaking at a reception hosted for the team involved at ZITF 2022, Regional Manager (Southern), Mrs Ainah Dube-Kaguru extended management's gratitude to

workers for the hard work they put in setting up a successful exhibit. She said the company was proud of the winning the award. "This is a big accolade and we are very grateful for what you did for all of us. I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the General Manager, the Board of NRZ and management, to appreciate the hard work you put in from the day you held your first meeting in preparation for this event," she said. The NRZ pavilion played host to a number of senior officials who visited the stand including the Minister

of Transport and Infrastructure Development, Hon Felix Mhona and his Deputy Hon. Mike Madiro. For the first time in a long time, this year's exhibit also incorporated Road Motor Service (RMS).

The Various Considerations of a Business Case

Project Management Concepts and Insights

with Eng. Clifford Moyo



Continued from last edition

The Return On Investment consideration: This explores the idea of expending resources on a project in anticipation of the more pay back to be gained from such investment

- The Strategic consideration: The project is chosen to cement the company's Strategy or Mission in the long run even though it may not necessarily bring profit on a dollar-for-dollar-invested basis.

- The Research consideration: The purpose of doing this project is for gathering information that will benefit the organisation in future, whether it is undertaken at a profit or loss.

- The Efficiency consideration: The reason for undertaking the project is for improving the company's operational processes. It is some form of return on investment

- The Values consideration: This is a variation on Strategy/Mission—where the organization's social values are agreed, as part of the corporate culture, to be one of the organization's common expectations and goals.

- The Regulatory or Statutory Compliance

consideration: The project is undertaken solely to meet certain external compliance requirements for the company.

What A Business Case Should Achieve

- The Business Case may be used like a mirror against which essential checks and comparisons are drawn prior to the project, in the course of the project and in the post project phase.

- All the project stakeholders come to initially familiarise with the key project purpose via the Business Case.

- The anticipated project deliverables should be transparent in the Business Case.

- The Business Case sets clearly the reason why the project has to be engaged in, after it has been established what needs to be accomplished.

- This Business Case presents an agreed upon written document that justifies the starting of the project, thereby explicitly spelling out the anticipated deliverables.

- Through the use of proper Business Cases, most grey areas may be resolved earlier in the projects before precious

and scarce resources are wasted.

- By employment of proper a Business Case, an economical prevention of resource waste may be achieved initially instead of trying to correct the mess afterwards.

- A proper Business Case should help the stakeholders of the project to track the project and its environment with aim to continually check current project relevance to the company.

- Finally, the Business Case should become the yardstick to measure and assess how well the company achieved in its project planning and execution.

- By looking at the Business Case at project end, a conclusion may be drawn as to whether the project delivered the expected results or not and crucial lessons may be learnt for relevant feedback.

ZITF in Pictures



Hon. Mhona on a tour of the NRZ pavilion with the NRZ General Manager and RMS Acting Managing Director



Hon. Mhona at the Medical section at ZITF pavilion



Politburo member Dr S. Mumbengegwi also visited the stand



Catching them young: Children being taught on anti-vandalism



RMS staff members who manned the company's stand at ZITF



Employees at the NRZ ZITF cocktail reception



The NRZ stand was a favourite for selfies



Employees compete to answer a quiz question at the ZITF cocktail party