

Mwanawasa to launch joint rail link

August 22 2007 at 03:01PM

Lusaka - Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa will host his Malawian and Mozambican counterparts this week for the launch of a rail project that will link his landlocked country to the coast, state media said on Wednesday.

Lameck Mangani, the cabinet minister in charge of eastern affairs, told the Zambia Daily Mail that Mozambique's President Armando Guebuza and Malawi leader Bingu Wa Mutharika would join Mwanawasa in the town of Chipata on Friday for the official start of building work on the 26-kilometre link.

The project, whose cost is estimated at around \$12-million, will link Chipata to the Malawian town of Mchinji, where existing track leads the Indian Ocean port of Nacala in Mozambique.

The three presidents are also scheduled to attend a ceremony on Saturday for the Chewe people, who are spread across Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique, the newspaper report said. - Sapa-AFP