Chief Bunda Bunda of the Soli speaking people of Rufunsa District has welcomed the move by the Road Development Agency (RDA) to sensitize people on road reserve encroachment and vandalism of road furniture. The traditional leader has also called for constant sensitization on the ills of road encroachments as well as vandalism of road furniture. Chief Bunda Bunda further called upon all traditional leaders to embrace the campaign and stop people from settling on road reserves. “We hope each and every traditional leader will get this message as the encroachment impact on our social and economic prosperity. What we need is constant explanation to the people,” he said. The traditional leader was speaking when a delegation from RDA paid a courtesy on him at his palace.

Chief Bunda Bunda said his chiefdom was well ahead in the sensitization drive and it was working with the ministry of Lands on the land auditing and social mapping. He urged his subjects to stay away from road reserves and not burden the Government with compensations in an event of road expansion. Chief Bunda Bunda invited the RDA to be part of the traditional meetings held quarterly so that the Agency could have an opportunity to speak to the people on road reserves and vandalism of road furniture. “It carries more weight when the message is delivered from the horse’s mouth,” he said. Meanwhile, Chieftainess Mumpansha of the Futwe Royal Establishment in Rufunsa District was also equally concerned with increasing number of structures that had been built near the road which she said was posing a safety hazard to owner and customers. She urged the RDA to sensitization the Indunas (headmens) who were responsible for the allocation of land and the people building on road reserves.
And Rufunsa Council Secretary Mr. Mwape Katemwe gave a directive to his planners to be cautious of the road reserves when giving out land. Mr. Katemwe assured RDA that the road reserve areas would not be allocated for any use other than what they were reserved for.

Rufunsa District Council Environmental Planner Ms. Thokozile Kapembwa appealed to RDA to ensure that the road signs in Rufunsa were visible. RDA Acting Principal Environmentalist Mr. Gershom Chilukusha said it was regrettable that the people had continued to encroach on road reserves. Mr. Chilukusha warned that the law would take its course if people who were squatting on road reserves did not vacate voluntarily. The RDA team which comprised of acting Principal Environmentalist Mr. Gershom Chilukusha, Principal Communications Officer, Mr. Anthony Mulowa, Sociologist Ms. Oivy Hamududu and Assistant Customer Care Officer Ms. Peggy Mwanza were on a sensitization campaign in Rufunsa district on road reserve encroachments and vandalism of road signs. Mr. Mulowa warned against vandalism of road signage and other road furniture as it was not only a cost burden to the Government but also safety concern.