



ZIMBABWE

**CLOSING REMARKS BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS ON THE INDUCTION
TRAINING OF THE SECOND COHORT OF THE SADC
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT)**

3 SEPTEMBER 2025

MONTCLAIR HOTEL: NYANGA

The Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution for
Manicaland Province, **Hon Advocate Misheck Mugadza**

The United Nations Resident Coordinator for Zimbabwe, **H.E. Dr
Edward Kallon**

Members of the SADC Secretariat,

Members of the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations
Centre (SHOC),

United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC),

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian
Affairs (UNOCHA),

United Nations World Food Programme (WFP),

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
(IFRC),

Other Development Partners here represented,

Senior Government officials here present,

Members of the Second Cohort of the SADC Emergency Response
Team,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honoured to grace this very important occasion where we are witnessing the graduation of the Second Cohort of the SADC Emergency Response Team. I am told that the team underwent a very thorough and exhaustive training which involved Plenary sessions, Desktop exercises as well as an actual simulation exercise.

Having gone through this training which I heard was very intense and comprehensive, you are now important assets for the Region and should be ready to be deployed to major sudden on-set disasters that may befall any of our Member States.

It is indeed critical to acknowledge that this training aimed to equip the participants to develop the ability required of SADC Emergency Response Team members in emergency response missions, which inter-alia includes, the application of the relevant methodology to achieve the mission objectives, exercising key roles in response coordination, coordinated assessments, information management, and ensuring linkages between the National and International response.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as we come to the close of this Emergency Response Team training, I would like to take a moment to commend each of you for your commitment, energy, and active participation throughout this program. The skills, knowledge, and teamwork you have demonstrated over these sessions reflect the

dedication that is essential in safeguarding lives and minimizing risks and loss of lives when disaster strikes.

To the graduants, I am cognisant that this training has not only equipped you with technical know-how, but has also strengthened your ability to work together under pressure, communicate effectively, and act decisively. Remember, the real test of what you have learned will be in how you apply it in real situations where every second counts, and teamwork makes all the difference.

I encourage you to continue practicing, sharing your experiences, and supporting each other as one cohesive unit. Preparedness is never a one-time event, but an ongoing process of learning and improving.

On behalf of the Government of Zimbabwe and indeed on my own behalf, I want to thank you for your dedication and wish you success as you carry forward this regional responsibility of being responders in times of need. ***Together, the Region is stronger, safer, and better prepared with such a great team like you.***

As you will carry out your missions when you get deployed, be mindful and always remember that your work is distinctly guided by the humanitarian principles. By strict adherence to these principles, you will surely gain the trust and confidence of the affected populations, partners and all the other various players in the response architecture through demonstration of professionalism, dedication, transparency and integrity.

Before I conclude, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the SADC Secretariat, UN organisations, other development partners and all stakeholders who made this training possible. Your support whether through resources, expertise, or encouragement has been invaluable in strengthening the capacity of our Regional Emergency Response Team.

It is through such partnerships that we are able to build resilience, share knowledge, and ensure that our communities are better prepared for emergencies. We deeply appreciate your continued commitment, and we look forward to working together in future initiatives to enhance safety, preparedness, and prompt response in times of emergencies.

I would also like to commend my Ministry for coordinating this successful program particularly the Department of Civil Protection for the splendid job well done.

Once again let me say well done to all the participants and organizers! This training is a testament to our commitment to growth and excellence as a Region.

Kudos to the entire team for delivering an outstanding training program. Your efforts will have a lasting impact.

I Thank You