

**WELCOME REMARKS FOR THE
MINISTER OF STATE FOR PROVINCIAL
AFFAIRS AND DEVOLUTION HON.
ADVOCATE M. MUGADZA FOR THE
SADC EMERGENCY RESPONSE
TRAINING PROGRAMME AT THE
MONTLAIR HOTEL, NYANGA 27 AUGUST
2025**

- ✓ Director of Ceremonies
- ✓ Minister of Local Government and Public Works, Hon. D. Garwe
- ✓ Chief Director Civil Protection, Mr N. Nkomo
- ✓ Secretary For Provincial Affairs and Devolution – Mr. A. Maronge
- ✓ Acting Director, Local Government Services and Administration – Mr. J. Misi
- ✓ Acting District Development Coordinator for Nyanga, Mr L. Kasima
- ✓ JOC Members here present

- ✓ District Heads of Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies
- ✓ Council Chairman for Nyanga Rural District Council and All Councillors
- ✓ Acting Chief Executive Officer for Nyanga RDC, Mr Mlambo
- ✓ The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society Provincial Manager
- ✓ Trainees from SADC Member States
- ✓ Non-Governmental and Partner Organisations
- ✓ The Business Fraternity
- ✓ Distinguished Guests
- ✓ Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is with immense pleasure that I welcome you all to Manicaland Province, Zimbabwe, for this crucial workshop on emergency response. I am honored to host such a vital gathering that brings together the brightest minds and most courageous hearts in disaster management. Your presence here today underscores our collective commitment to building a more resilient Southern Africa;
2. Zimbabwe, like many of our sister nations in SADC, has faced, and continues to face, its share of natural and human-induced disasters. These experiences have profoundly shaped our approach to disaster management, emphasizing the critical need for preparedness, swift response, and robust recovery mechanisms;
3. Under the visionary leadership of His Excellency, the President Dr. Emmerson

Mnangagwa, Zimbabwe has embraced a proactive and comprehensive stance on disaster management. Our President has consistently reiterated that no Zimbabwean must succumb or die from hunger or any disaster. This guiding principle underpins our national disaster risk reduction strategies and responses; calling for a "whole-of-government" approach and fostering partnerships with all stakeholders, from local communities to international partners;

4. His Excellency, the President's decisive declarations of national disasters, such as those for the recent El Niño-induced drought and during the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrate a firm commitment to mobilizing all necessary resources to protect our citizens and ensure their well-being;

5. Manicaland, in particular, bears the indelible marks of the devastating Cyclone Idai in 2019. It was a moment that tested our resolve but also showcased the extraordinary spirit of our people and the invaluable support from our regional and international partners;
6. Our recovery efforts, significantly bolstered by initiatives of Government and private players; saw a concerted effort involving multiple layers of response. We worked tirelessly to provide immediate humanitarian assistance, rehabilitate critical infrastructure like schools, roads, and water systems, and restore livelihoods, particularly in the hardest-hit districts of Chimanimani and Chipinge;
7. These efforts were not just about rebuilding what was lost, but about **"building back better"** – integrating resilience and climate-proofing into our

reconstruction to withstand future shocks. The lessons learned from Cyclone Idai continue to inform and strengthen our disaster preparedness and response frameworks;

8. As a proud and active member of the Southern African Development Community, Zimbabwe recognizes that disaster management is a collective responsibility that transcends national borders. We are fully committed to strengthening regional cooperation in this vital area. Our participation in SADC's Disaster Risk Reduction Unit and the implementation of the SADC Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2030) reflect our dedication to a coordinated regional approach;
9. We actively engage in discussions and initiatives aimed at enhancing early warning systems, promoting cross-border

collaboration, and aligning our national strategies with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. We believe that by working together, sharing expertise, and pooling resources, we can significantly reduce the impact of disasters on our communities and foster greater resilience across the SADC region;

10. This workshop provides an excellent platform for us to share experiences, learn from best practices, and forge stronger networks among our emergency responders. The knowledge and insights gained here will be instrumental in enhancing our collective capacity to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters more effectively;

11. As I conclude my remarks let me take this opportunity to advise our delegates and would-be tourists to participate in the Sanganai/Hlanganani Tourism Exhibition

which Manicaland hosts from the 9th to the 11th of September in Mutare. This is a rare opportunity for the tourists to experience the true beautiful nature of Manicaland by visiting various tourist sites like Mutarazi Falls and Skywalk, Nyangani Mountain, Bridal Veil Falls, Hotsprings, Vumba Mountains, Rupise Hotspring in Chipinge, Mapembe Game Reserve just but to mention a few;

12. We also are fully aware that disaster preparedness is key at significant crowd pulling functions such as this upcoming World Tourism Expo, and we therefore anticipate your support whilst also promising our cooperation with you every time;

13. As I extend my warm welcome to you Hon Minister, all the guests present here, I wish you all a productive and insightful workshop. May your deliberations be

fruitful, and may the bonds of cooperation among our SADC nations grow even stronger.

**Tatenda! Siyabonga! I thank you!
Twalumba!**

**Hon Adv M. Mugadza
Nyanga
27 August 2025**