

# ZIMBABWE UPDATE:



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## Idai: President leads from the front

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Cletus Mushanawani and Rumbidzayi Zinyuke



President Mnangagwa has said Government will engage experts to investigate an earth tremor that was felt in Chimanimani before Cyclone Idai hit the district last week, resulting in massive loss of lives and destruction of property.

The President was speaking during his tour of Chimanimani to assess the extent of the damage caused by the cyclone and meet with the affected communities to evaluate their immediate needs.

He was accompanied by Vice President Constantino Chiwenga, Defence Minister Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri, Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services Minister Monica Mutsvangwa and various other ministers, service chiefs and some members of the Zanu-PF Central Committee.

Speaking at Mutare Aerodrome on arrival from Chimanimani yesterday, where he toured the affected areas, the President said it was evident that an unexplained weather phenomenon had struck the community just before the cyclone.

“We visited the area and saw that infrastructure in relation to roads has been seriously damaged and there is destruction of almost every single bridge you can think of and the roads themselves have been washed off by the cyclone,” he said.

“But beyond that, it is quite revealing that some areas which we visited had landslides before the rains came and the local people say there was some sound which came earlier on and a lot of mud began falling from the mountains. Rains began falling two hours later. So, you can see that there is some other phenomenon which we are not quite clear about.”

President Mnangagwa said some of the areas he had visited were littered with huge rocks that villagers were not clear of their origins.

President Mnangagwa and his entourage visited Ngangu and Kopa areas that were also hard hit by the cyclone.

“As your Government, we want to assure you that we have enough food for everyone. We know that you lost everything and we are mobilizing enough resources to make sure that your lives return to normal. We will avail clothes, blankets and all your medicinal needs.”

President Mnangagwa said the response for their distress call was overwhelming both locally and from international organisations.

“Our teams are working flat out to ensure that all the secured goods are brought here timeously,” he said. “We do not want to hear cases of people suffering here yet stocks of donated goods will be piled in warehouses in Mutare.

“Our ministers are on the ground co-ordinating the speedy distribution of all sourced goods. All those who were injured will receive the necessary care, while the deceased will be accorded decent burials.”

President Mnangagwa hailed the Zimbabwe National Army for working round the clock to clear all blockages on roads leading to the most affected areas.

He assured the gathering that all damaged infrastructure would be repaired.

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