



**MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND MINING
DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES**

STATEMENT ON TROPICAL CYCLONE IDAI IN THE MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL

Following the development of **Tropical Cyclone IDAI**, the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services is issuing the following information on the Tropical Cyclone:

A deep and wide low pressure system in the Mozambique Channel developed into a Tropical Cyclone named 'IDAI' on 11 March 2019 at a distance of 900 kilometers from southern Malawi border in Nsanje at position 17.4° South and 43.2° East approximately west-north of Madagascar, with a south-westward movement towards Beira in Mozambique. Tropical Cyclone IDAI is expected to make a landfall over Beira in Mozambique which is 480 kilometres to Nsanje Boma by Thursday 14th March 2019, while dumping heavy rains overland in Mozambique including southern Malawi. The anticipated heavy rains and strong winds are expected starting from Thursday 14 March to Sunday 17th March 2019 mainly over southern areas Malawi which are at risk for locally damaging winds, flooding and significant travel disruptions as the Tropical Cyclone makes its way to Zimbabwe where it is expected to weaken and die on 18th March 2019

A Tropical cyclone in Indian Ocean, also called typhoon in Pacific Ocean or hurricane in Atlantic Ocean, is an intense circular storm that originates over warm tropical oceans and is characterized by low atmospheric pressure, high winds, and heavy rain. The main effects of tropical cyclones include heavy rains, strong wind, large storm surges at landfall, and tornadoes.

To secure property and lives, the public should therefore take precautionary measures such as: (i) moving to higher grounds when water levels have started rising, (ii) avoid crossing flooding rivers and (iii) not seeking shelter under trees and weak infrastructures.

The public is advised to continue following weather updates issued from time to time by the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services as it continues to monitor weather development over the country to ensure seamless use of weather information on all timescales by the public and to be kept safe from any weather related threats.

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