



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET

Department of Disaster Management Affairs

STATEMENT ON STATUS OF TROPICAL STORM ANA RESPONSE OPERATIONS

**Read by the Commissioner for Disaster Management Affairs, Mr. Charles
Kalembe**

At

The Central Office of Information Conference Room

BLANTYRE

Tuesday, 1st February; 2022

- **The Deputy Inspector General of Police Responsible for Operations, Mr. Demister Chigwenembe,**
- **The Chief of Training and Operations at the Malawi Defence Force, Major General Saiford Mandiza Kalisha**
- **The Director of Disaster Response and Recovery, Rev. Moses Chimphepo**
- **The Director of Disaster Risk Reduction, Mr. Dyce Nkhoma**
- **All senior government and humanitarian partners present here,**
- **Esteemed members of the press,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen;**

It gives me great honour to update members of the press and the general public in particular, on the status of disaster response operations in the wake of Tropical Storm ANA.

BRIEF BACKGROUND

On 21st January 2022, a tropical depression that formed to the north east of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean travelled into the Mozambique Channel where it intensified developing into a moderate Tropical storm **ANA** on Sunday, 23rd January 2022.

The storm made a landfall on the Mozambique coast around midday of Monday, 24th January, 2022 and later headed for southern Malawi.

Members of the press, the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) forecasted **heavy rains exceeding 150mm** in a day and **very strong winds exceeding 80km/hour** in more areas over southern Malawi spreading to the centre.

The likely impacts of the storm were torrential rains, very strong winds, floods and falling of trees and power lines, as well as some structural damage. The public was strongly advised to move to higher grounds and avoid crossing flooded rivers and streams to reduce loss of life.

PREPAREDNESS AND IMMEDIATE RESPONSE INTERVENTIONS

The Department of Disaster Management of Affairs (DoDMA) in collaboration with Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) developed and disseminated warning messages about the storm which were aired on both national and community radio stations. The messages were also shared with the councils to be disseminated through public address system in the communities.

DoDMA activated and deployed the search and rescue team to Chikwawa, Nsanje, Mulanje and Phalombe districts where boats were dispatched to conduct search and rescue operations in the areas that were cut-off. The boats were provided by the Malawi Defense Force (MDF), Malawi Police Service- Marine, MRCS and Marine Department in the Ministry of Transport and Public Infrastructure. The MDF also deployed a Gazelle Helicopter to support with aerial surveillance as well as search and rescue of trapped people.

DoDMA dispatched a total of 42 housing units to Nsanje, Phalombe, Chikwawa, Mulanje, and Zomba. MRCS provided a total of 46 tents to Chikwawa, Mulanje, Thyolo, Phalombe, Zomba and Nsanje.

Provision of relief items to the affected districts is on-going. Currently the department has dispatched a total of 985 metric tonnes (MT) of maize, 125 MT of maize flour, 60 MT of beans, 15 MT of salt, 6,000 plastic plates, 1,500 plastic pails, 800 plastic basins, 7,500 plastic cups and 200 sacks of clothes.

UNICEF Malawi, Concern Worldwide, Partners in Health, Gift of the Givers, Save the Children, The World Food Programme and World Health Organisation have also provided relief assistance in affected districts. Other organisations, companies and individuals of goodwill are also coming in with assistance. In due course, the department will issue reports on the type of assistance provided.

IMPACTS OF MODERATE TROPICAL STORM ANA

The storm influenced torrential rains over most areas of the country with highest rainfall amounts recorded in Southern Region of the country. Some stations

recorded rainfall above 250mm in 24hrs; Masambanjati 360 mm, Mpemba 344 mm, Supuni (Chikwawa) 336 mm, Chileka 305 mm, STECO in Mulanje 295mm, Thyolo Boma 289mm, Chikwawa Boma 260mm, Mtubwi (Liwonde) 255mm.

The affected districts in the central and southern regions are as follows; Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Mchinji, Mangochi, Balaka, Machinga, Zomba City, Zomba District, Blantyre City, Blantyre District, Dedza, Thyolo, Chiradzulu, Neno, Ntcheu Mwanza, Phalombe and Mangochi.

And following the disaster, the State President declared a State of National Disaster on 26th January. The President further appealed for support from donors, partners including UN Agencies, Non-governmental organizations and well-wishers towards people affected by ANA.

So far, a total of 193, 558 households, which is approximately 871,011 people have affected. The country has recorded 33 deaths and 158 injuries. Twenty people have been reported missing, 19 in Chikwawa and one in Mwanza.

A total of 22,174 households, which is approximately 99,783 have been displaced with 122 camps set in 13 affected councils, namely; Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Mangochi, Balaka, Zomba City, Zomba District, Blantyre City, Blantyre District, Neno, Thyolo, Mwanza and Phalombe.

The impacts of ANA include damage to houses and loss of household property, damage to houses and loss of household property including cooking utensils, clothes livestock and crops through washaways, damage of public and private infrastructure (Schools, Health facilities, churches), collapsing of houses and toilets, cut off of roads network, damage of bridges, culverts and other road structures, damage on teaching and learning materials such as books, disruption of teaching and learning, damage on power plant leading to disruption of power supply across the country, contamination of water sources like boreholes and wells. Feed the Children has also provided 400,000 sachets of water guard through the Department of Nutrition to be distributed to affected districts.

Inter-agency assessment teams were deployed in affected areas to assist councils and expedite disaster needs assessments.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF THE AFFECTED PEOPLE

The affected people are in need of the following:

1. Food
2. Shelter
3. Water, Sanitation and Health materials
4. Protection i.e psycho-social support
5. Nutrition (supplementary feeding programmes)
6. Teaching and learning materials, mobile classrooms
7. Seeds for replanting
8. Provision of medical assistance

Meanwhile, the department is coordinating the development of a three-month Moderate Tropical Storm ANA Response Plan.

Members of the Press, I thank you all for your attention