



Meteorological Services Department Newsletter



June 2026

Your Weather and Climate Services for a Resilient Future

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The Directors Foreword



Mrs. R. Manzou
Director, Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe

This month featured significant milestones for the Meteorological Services Department (MSD) as we continue working toward our vision of a climate-resilient nation.

We had the privilege of hosting the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, Mr. Simon Masanga, for his inaugural official visit. This engagement reinforced the Ministry's commitment to strengthening our institutional capacity and supporting our delivery of vital weather forecasting and early warning services.

Our key operational and collaborative highlights for the month included:

- **Proactive Disaster Preparedness:** We co-hosted the Inclusive Action-First Inception and Alignment Workshop, marking a critical shift toward Action-Based Forecasting to warn communities about what the weather will do, rather than just what the weather will be.
- **Youth and Regional Engagement:** The MSD participated in the 3rd Zimbabwe Youth Symposium on Disaster Risk Reduction and the SADC Cluster Meeting in Bulawayo to promote inclusive early warnings, digital transformation, and regional integration.
- **Continuous Monitoring:** We observed the official conclusion of the 2025–2026 cyclone season, which fortunately resulted in minimal direct impacts on Zimbabwe.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to empower communities with the essential knowledge needed for informed decision-making.

The Permanent Secretary Mr. S. Masanga Makes First Official Visit to MSD

Praise Ngonidzashe Govere

June saw the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, Mr. Simon Masanga, undertake his inaugural official visit to the Meteorological Services Department (MSD) following his appointment. The visit provided an opportunity to engage management and staff while gaining first-hand appreciation of MSD's operations, mandate and service delivery priorities.



The Permanent Secretary Mr. Masanga - seated left, and Chief Director Mr. Zhakata - seated right

Received by MSD Director Mrs. R. Manzou and accompanied by Chief Director Mr. Washington Zhakata, the Permanent Secretary commended the Department for its pivotal role in providing weather forecasting and early warning services that protect lives and livelihoods, strengthen food security, and support evidence-based national planning. The visit also afforded an opportunity for direct engagement with staff, who shared insights into the Department's work, achievements and operational priorities.

Mr. Masanga reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to strengthening MSD's institutional capacity and encouraged staff to continue upholding professionalism, innovation and excellence in public service delivery. The inaugural visit marked an important milestone in strengthening collaboration between the Ministry's leadership and one of its key technical departments, reaffirming a shared commitment to enhancing meteorological services in support of Zimbabwe's sustainable development agenda.

Zimbabwe Embraces Proactive Disaster Preparedness with Action Based Forecasting

MSD

From July 16 to 17, 2026, Luna Lodges in Kadoma hosted the Inclusive Action-First Inception and Alignment Workshop. The event was jointly hosted by the Zimbabwe Meteorological Services Department (MSD) and the Department of Civil Protection (DCP). It gathered a wide range of stakeholders from government ministries, academia, civil society, humanitarian partners, and the private sector.



Workshop participants posing for a group photo

The workshop introduced Action-Based Forecasting principles into Zimbabwe's National Disaster Risk Management framework. This creates a fundamental paradigm shift. Instead of simply telling communities what the weather will be, the new approach focuses on warning them about what the weather will do and what protective actions they can take.

Through technical presentations by the South African Weather Service (SAWS), the MSD, and the DCP, as well as collaborative breakout sessions, participants achieved several milestones:

- Participants co-developed multi-hazard impact matrices and trigger-action structures. These are designed to activate community responses before hazards hit vulnerable settlements.
- Facilitated by the Federation of Organizations of Disabled People in Zimbabwe (FODPZ), the group successfully integrated Gender Equity, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) criteria. This ensures early warnings reach everyone through accessible and diversified channels.



MSD Director, Mrs. R. Manzou presenting at the workshop

This initiative moves Zimbabwe's disaster management from a reactive approach to one of proactive preparedness and people centred action. It ensures that vulnerable groups, including women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities, are not left behind during extreme weather events. By reducing loss and damage, the new framework directly supports the country's national economic priorities. It also strengthens coordination between the MSD, DCP, and other branches of government through "Whole of Government" and "Whole of Society" approaches. Finally, the workshop aligns local early warning systems, including the use of indigenous knowledge, with the global Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative. Ultimately, this positions Zimbabwe to build a climate-resilient civil protection system that saves lives, protects livelihoods, and secures development gains in the face of increasing climate-induced hazards.



Participants in the venue of the workshop

PUMA 2025 and Meteosat Third Generation (MTG) Product Training

The event in pictures



Participants posing for a group photo at Bulawayo Goertz Observatory



MSD Participates in The National Youth Symposium on Disaster Risk Reduction

Praise Ngonidzashe Govere

The Meteorological Services Department (MSD) participated in the 3rd Zimbabwe Youth Symposium on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), joining government departments, policymakers, development partners, researchers, civil society organisations and youth leaders in discussions centred on strengthening resilience, preparedness and inclusive disaster risk governance. Held under the theme “From Risk to Resilience: Reclaiming Youth Agency in Disaster Risk Management,” the symposium provided a platform for dialogue on emerging disaster risks, innovation, policy frameworks and the role of young people in advancing community resilience.



Youths posing for a group photo with the Deputy Minister of Local Government

MSD took part in technical engagements focusing on innovation and technology in disaster risk reduction, where discussions explored the application of climate intelligence, digital solutions and impact-based forecasting in supporting risk-informed decision-making and anticipatory action. The symposium also highlighted the significance of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative, a global effort aimed at ensuring universal access to life-saving early warning systems. Deliberations underscored the growing importance of strengthening end-to-end early warning capabilities as countries confront increasingly complex weather, climate and disaster-related risks.

The gathering also reinforced the value of multi-stakeholder collaboration in advancing the objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, while promoting inclusive approaches that place communities at the centre of preparedness and response efforts. As discussions increasingly shift from reactive disaster management towards anticipatory and risk-informed approaches, early warning systems continue to feature prominently as a critical pillar for safeguarding lives, livelihoods and sustainable development gains. The symposium concluded with the adoption of the Zimbabwe Youth Position Statement on Disaster Risk Reduction, consolidating recommendations intended to strengthen resilience within the country's disaster risk management.

MSD Participates in The SADC Cluster Meeting of Senior Officials in Bulawayo

Praise Ngonidzashe Govere

In the month of June, The Meteorological Services Department (MSD), under the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, attended and actively participated in the SADC Cluster Meeting of Senior Officials Responsible for Transport, ICT, Information and Meteorology held in Bulawayo. The Department was represented by its Director, Mrs. R. Manzou, who joined the Zimbabwean delegation, alongside other senior government officials.



MSD Director. R. Manzou accompanied by her team of climate and meteorological experts

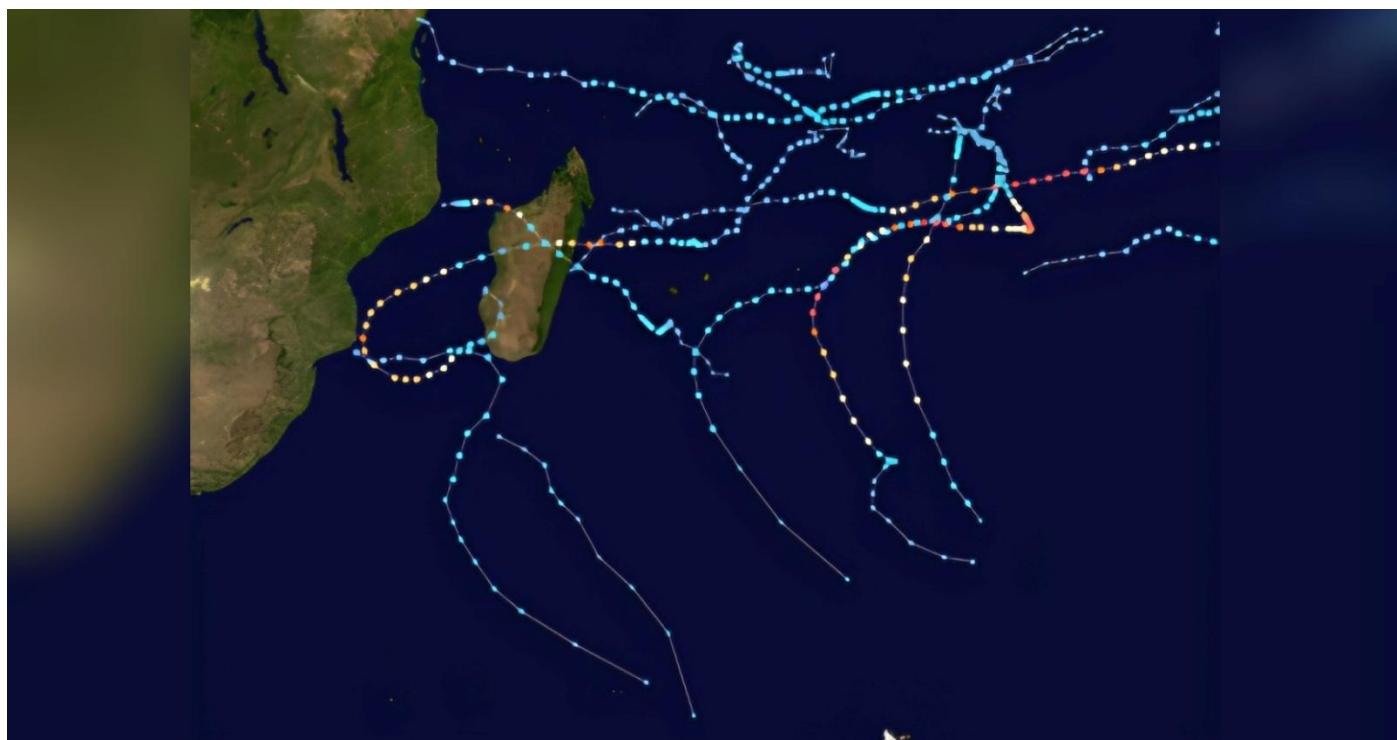
The meeting served as a strategic platform for policy harmonization, regulatory alignment and the consolidation of regional priorities across the transport, ICT, information and meteorology sectors. Deliberations focused on enhancing cross-border interoperability, strengthening institutional synergies, accelerating digital transformation, and reinforcing the resilience of strategic infrastructure and public service systems.

The engagement reaffirmed SADC's commitment to advancing regional integration, fostering strategic foresight, enhancing regional competitiveness, and driving transformative interventions that support sustainable economic growth and long-term regional prosperity.

Zimbabwe Records Minimal Direct Impact as the 2025–2026 Cyclone Season Concludes

Praise Ngonidzashe Govere

Two months after the official close of the 2025 - 2026 South-West Indian Ocean cyclone season, assessments indicate that Zimbabwe experienced minimal direct impacts despite an active season across the basin. The season, which ran from 16 July 2025 to 27 April 2026, produced 14 tropical disturbances, 11 named tropical storms, and six tropical cyclones, four of which intensified into intense tropical cyclones. Tropical Cyclone Horacio was the strongest by sustained winds, reaching 215 km/h, while Tropical Cyclone Dudzai recorded the lowest central pressure at 937 hPa.



Summary map of all cyclone paths for the 2025-2026 rainfall season

Across the South-West Indian Ocean region, tropical cyclones claimed more than 75 lives and caused over US\$2.48 billion in economic losses, making the season the third costliest on record. Several neighbouring countries experienced destructive winds, flooding, infrastructure damage, and displacement. In contrast, Zimbabwe was largely spared from significant direct cyclone impacts. While some weather systems contributed to enhanced rainfall over parts of the country, no tropical cyclone made landfall over Zimbabwe or resulted in widespread cyclone-related destruction. Consequently, the country's economic activities, critical infrastructure, and essential services continued with relatively limited disruption. The season underscored the value of robust weather monitoring, timely forecasting, and effective dissemination of early warnings in supporting national preparedness and disaster risk reduction. Continued investment in meteorological services and early warning systems remains essential as climate variability continues to influence the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events across the region. With the season now concluded, attention shifts to ongoing preparedness efforts to ensure Zimbabwe remains resilient to future tropical weather systems and other climate-related hazards.

June 2026 Zimbabwe Seismic Activity Summary

Monalisa Muponda

Description of Earthquakes

During the month of June 2026, a total of thirty-one seismic events were recorded. These events comprised seven local earthquakes, nineteen regional earthquakes, and five tele-seismic (distant) earthquakes.

Largest Event

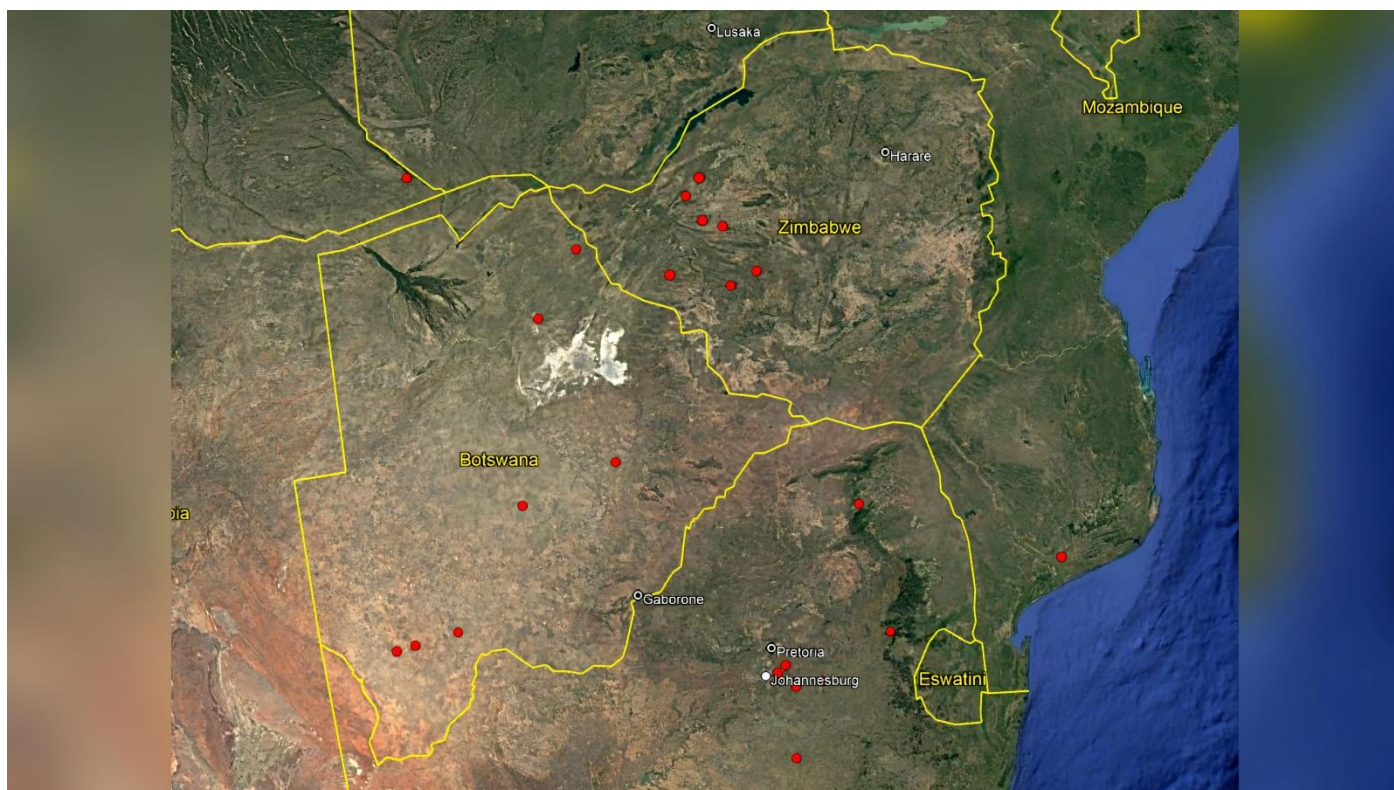
The largest local earthquake recorded during the reporting period had a magnitude of 3.7 ML and occurred near Binga on 19 June 2026. Earthquakes in the Binga area are primarily associated with tectonic activity related to the southern extension of the East African Rift System into western Zimbabwe through the Kariba Rift. The region's proximity to Lake Kariba also means that some seismic activity may be reservoir induced.

Local Seismicity Distribution

Local seismicity during the reporting period was in Binga, Lupane and Nyamandlovu. Earthquakes in Nyamandlovu are due to water extraction.

Regional Seismicity

Earthquakes occurring in neighbouring South Africa and Botswana are mining-induced earthquakes.



Map of events recorded in June 2026, with the epicentres shown as solid red circles



Meteorological Services Department of Zimbabwe

Vision

Towards a Climate-Resilient Nation in the face of Socio-Economic impacts of extreme Weather, Climate, and Seismic Events by 2030.

Mission Statement

To empower communities with the weather, climate, and seismic knowledge needed for informed decision-making using innovative technologies.

Our Core Values

Accountability

Teamwork

Equality

Integrity

Innovation

Timeliness

User-Centricity

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