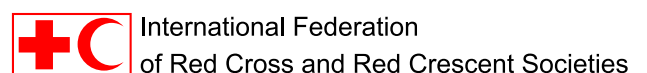
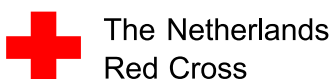




International Disaster Law Training Workshop Report

2018 Southern Sun Hotel - Lusaka

Co-organised by: Zambia Red Cross Society in conjunction with
Netherlands Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,
and the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit Office of the Vice President



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Background to Disaster Law

Disaster law encompasses key laws and standards that determine how we prepare for and respond to disasters and reduce disaster risks. This includes national disaster management laws and policies, especially as they relate to cross-border disaster cooperation (such as customs treaties, immigration procedures for emergency staff, import regulations etc.) and laws that strengthen risk reduction, such as building codes and land-use planning plans.

Zambia has made commendable stride in developing a disaster management legislative framework with the passing of the Disaster Management Act 2010, as well as the National Disaster Management policy and the Disaster Management Operations Manual in 2015. This framework has been instrumental in guiding disaster management practice and institutional accountability in ensuring communities are protected always.

Unfortunately, Zambia like many other countries in sub-Saharan Africa continue to face ever evolving crises and disasters partly attributed to increased complexity of conflicts across the region but mostly due to climate change. In that respect it is important to ensure that the existing frameworks in countries are equipped to handle all considerable dimensions that may be envisioned to arise in the management of these ever-evolving disasters. Resultantly, disaster relief assistance has over the past couple of decades seen more and more international actors offering a helping hand in the wake of national disasters such as drought, floods and even cross-border population movements. To ensure effective support to affected communities, it is necessary for the national institutional framework to offer a guiding role for climate smart regulation and thus, bringing effectiveness to disaster risk management. Further, to prevent continued large-scale impact of disasters it is necessary to ensure that the institutional and legislative framework for disaster management bears a strong focus on climate smart disaster risk reduction practices.

To discuss these issues Zambia Red Cross, with the support from Netherlands Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) organized a 2-day intensive training for DRM professionals from all relevant representatives of the government and other stakeholders on the legal issues in Disaster Risk Management and tools for the drafting of Disaster Risk Management Laws and other instruments.

Workshop objectives:

- Share progress in the field of Disaster Law over the past 10 years
- Equip authorities with knowledge of the IDRL Guidelines, Model act and the Checklist for DRR.
- Stimulate discussion on the legal facilitation of international response, development of efficient DRR legal frameworks, and other related issues.
- Highlight the role of National Red Cross Societies as auxiliary to government in the humanitarian sphere, and as the 'community voice' in developing and implementing disaster law and policy.

Develop ideas and priority areas for future work on disaster law Zambia in consideration of existing DM legal frameworks

The official opening was graced by the presence of the Hon. Sylvia Chalikosa, MP. Minister in the Office of the Vice President under which Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) falls. She was accompanied by the DMMU National Coordinator, Ms. Yande Mwape.

The official opening was preceded by welcoming remarks by Marianne, the Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) Country Representative, who expressed gratitude for the positive response by invited ministries and other stakeholders. She also underscored the good cooperation between Zambia Red Cross Society and government through DMMU. She specifically took note of the Hon. Minister's support which she described as humbling as this was not her first time to accommodate and personally support the Red Cross whenever called upon despite the ever-busy schedule of her office. She further acknowledged the National Coordinator's continued support.

Ms. Marianne also contextualised the essence of the workshop by highlighting some of the programmes Zambia Red Cross Society in collaboration with Red Cross movement partners, IFRC, ICRC and Partner National Society (NLRC).

After Marianne's welcoming remarks the DMMU National Coordinator, Ms. Yande Mwape, provided a brief and timely context of how government treats the subject of disasters. She highlighted the complementarity among different stakeholders and the Red Cross in particular.

The National Coordinator invited the Guest of Honour, Hon. Sylvia Chalikosa, MP. To deliver her speech.

In her speech the Hon. Minister regretted the rising recurrence interval of climate related hazards in Zambia, particularly floods which she described as a development menace accounting for considerable losses in economic value.

She attributed government's resolve to proactively formulate an administrative and legislative framework through the National Disaster Management Policy 2015 and its operations manual and the enactment of the National Disaster Management Act No. 3 of 2010 to the importance government attaches to the consequential developmental losses the country incurs due to such damaging events.

She also elaborated on Zambia's historical overview of disaster management framework from the establishment of the Contingency Planning Unit in the office of the Prime Minister in 1966 to date when we have the DMMU in the office of the Vice President. She highlighted government's open-door policy on disaster management where there is wider room for stakeholder participation to supplement government efforts and cited the role Zambia Red Cross Society plays as evidence to that.

She further said the country collaborates with multiple partners both locally and beyond and noted the Red Cross movement which has an international outlook could be one of the vehicles by which external support could reach the country. She, however, noted that such cross-border collaboration would be enhanced if regulatory and legislative environment becomes conducive to facilitate such. She logically connected this observation to the IDRL training whose timing she described as appropriate to help initiate measures to broaden our perspective regarding the handling of international humanitarian relief and personnel.

She expressed her hopes that the workshop would generate needed enthusiasm among participants to start reflecting on critical measures that would improve our legal framework. She lastly assured the audience and Red Cross Society of her office's continued support through the National Coordinator.

She declared the workshop officially opened and wished participants fruitful deliberations as she awaited the outcome of the workshop.

Introduction to the Auxiliary role of National Societies

The Communications and Public Relations Manager, Esther Phiri,
presented on the auxiliary role of National Societies.

Ms. Phiri discussed the history and scope of the Red Cross' Auxiliary role with special reference to the history and development of the movement as well as the importance of the Fundamental Principles. She also discussed the unique nature of the RC auxiliary role and how the RCRC societies are able to engage government to offer technical counsel on a myriad of issued. She noted that this role is critical to RCRC societies effectiveness in fulfilling their mandate, and as a result all should endeavour to guard this unique relationship. In this regard, she pointed out the crucial role Parliamentarians, in their development of RCRC related laws, in the promotion and safeguarding of this role.

Introduction to Zambia Legal Framework for Disaster Management

Presented by Mr. Lenganji Sikaona

The Disaster Management and Mitigation (DMMU) made a presentation through Mr. Lenganji Sikaona on this subject. He made a concise presentation that outlined the notable trends in the country's disaster management administrative and legislative efforts. He also highlighted several international instruments which informed the government's policy formulation orientation.

He further highlighted key priorities and the mechanisms government uses to address them. Preparation of Contingency Plans is such key strategy that provides a coherent response system to identified risks. He also explained the collaborative approaches DMMU uses to bring other stakeholders on board.

The Role of the Red Cross Movement in Disaster Management

Presented by Mr. Mulambwa Mwanang'ono

The Disaster Management Manager, Mulambwa, made a presentation that covered the role of the International Red Cross Movement in disaster management by highlighting the supportive mechanisms to National Societies. He described the structure of the red cross and red crescent movement composed of the IFRC, ICRC and National Societies and how these parties work together in supplementing government efforts in the 191 countries where the movement exists. He cited, for illustration purposes, the IFRC supported interventions in Africa alongside ICRC's contributions specially to addressing man-made disasters. He further made reference to the seven principles upon which the movement's operations are based.

He later narrowed down to Zambia Red Cross Society's roles in pursuit of its auxiliary status. He cited the mutual cooperation ZRCS receives from the movement partners particularly IFRC, ICRC and Partner National Societies, particularly the Netherlands Red Cross. Among the ongoing programmes he mentioned include the Response Preparedness targeting flood prone districts of North Western province supported by Netherlands Red Cross.

Population movement supported by ICRC was also mentioned and briefly outlined the activities being carried out by the ZRCS in both Mantapala Refugee Settlement in Nchelenge, Luapula province and Meheba in Kalumbila district of North Western province.

Key legal issues in disaster risk management and Disaster law themes part 1: International Disaster Response law (IDRL)

Maria Martinezi, Disaster Law Coordinator for Africa, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Ms. Martinez introduced the workshop participants to the key disaster law theme, 'Legal issues in international disaster response' or 'International Disaster Response Law'. She outlined the key regulatory barriers when it comes to facilitating and regulating international disaster response, and the absence of a comprehensive global framework to address these issues. She noted that over the past 10 years, the IFRC has supported National Societies to assist their governments in using the "Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance" (also known as the "IDRL Guidelines") to develop, examine and strengthen their laws and procedures for international disaster response. She also shared anecdotal examples of some of the regulatory issues that have been faced in recent large-scale disasters, and highlighted new tools that had recently been developed by the IFRC, such as the IDRL Checklist and Model Decree, to help states overcome these challenges.

In complementing the information shared in the IDRL presentation and in order to jumpstart the conversation on the disaster management legislation, Ms. Martinez presented the key features of the Model Act for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance. She reiterated the gaps and the regulatory problems that are still a concern in disaster relief operations such as failure to consult with beneficiaries on their needs and a lack of clarity of customs requirements. She also discussed how addressing these remaining gaps at country level is often not given priority and tends to be postponed to a later time which is often too late.

In discussing the model act, Ms. Martinez emphasised that it is an ideal reference tool to be used by governments either as whole or in part to meet their disaster management needs. In discussing the key features of the model act, she noted that the major aim of a nationally developed disaster management legislation should also be to ensure that the right aid is received at the right time.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

Presented by Mr. Lenganji Sikaona - DMMU

After a recap of the previous day's discussions, facilitated by Ms. Martinez, Mr. Sikaona from DMMU introduced the participants to the day's discussion on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for community resilience. He introduced the participants to key concepts of climate change and resilience and discussed the key factors that are leading to climate change. He also opened up discussions on what impacts climate change is having on the world's populations, and specifically the various communities in Zambia. He hinted on the economic losses associated with declining adaptive capacity to the impacts of climate change, hence the efforts by government to mainstream risk reduction measures even in sector plans as demonstrated by the contingency plan.

Disaster law themes part 2: Law and Disaster Risk Reduction

Maria Martinez, Disaster Law Coordinator, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Ms. Martinez took the participants through an introduction to key legal issues and norms in disaster risk reduction. She noted that laws and regulations serve as a foundation for building community resilience and are essential to reducing existing risks posed by natural hazards, as well as preventing new risks from arising. She also detailed global commitments in strengthening disaster risk management such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (the Sendai Framework), with a focus on Priority 2 which call for strengthening disaster risk governance to reduce disaster risks.

Ms. Martinez also introduced The Checklist on law and disaster risk reduction which provides a prioritized and succinct list of ten key questions that relevant actors need to consider, to ensure that their laws provide the best support for disaster risk reduction. She noted that It is designed to serve as an assessment tool to guide the development and review process of relevant laws and regulations that can enhance disaster risk reduction. Ms. Martinez emphasized the cross-cutting and multi-sectoral nature of disaster risk reduction, and the need to look beyond disaster risk management laws and consider all relevant sectoral laws, such as building codes, land use plans, and environmental protection laws.

Next Steps in Zambia: Road Map for next steps

In a plenary discussion, participants had the opportunity to discuss and recommend elements of a road map to guide the next steps:

- i. Constitute a National Disaster Law Working Group, which should firstly develop its terms of reference. DMMU and ZRCS to initiate the process.
- ii. Conduct a legal mapping process to assess the strengths and gaps in the existing legal framework for Disaster Management.
- iii. With the findings of the law mapping, revise and update the Disaster Management Act, the DM Policy and its operations Manual, making sure they comply with the international commitments and Disaster Law recommendations.

- iv. Incorporate DRR considerations and principles in sectorial legislation.
- v. Advocating for the enforcement of the existing legal framework for Disaster Management.
- vi. Dissemination of the DM Legal framework at all levels and within the different sectors (including the private sector and the academia).
- vii. Lobby for the inclusion of Disaster Risk Management in the academic curricula (all levels).
- viii. Mainstream DRR in all sectors plan.
- ix. Initiate the process to review the Zambia Red Cross Society Act Cap 307 of 1966

Closing Ceremony

The workshop was closed by the DMMU National Coordinator, Ms. Yande Mwape, who also participated in the concluding plenary discussions.

In her closing remarks the National Coordinator registered her appreciation of the Red Cross' initiative to call for national reflection on the disaster legislation in anticipation of international response to local emergencies so as to facilitate the entry of both relief items and personnel.

Ms. Mwape reiterated her office's support and further conveyed the Hon. Minister's encouraging advice to organisers and participants and shared her wish to receive the workshop report.

She finally implored all stakeholders to continue supplementing government efforts in making Zambia safe from the effects of all sorts of disasters at all levels by promoting programmes and activities that help to protect life, protect our assets and the environment in the face of rising frequency of hazards and disaster occurrences.

With these remarks she declared the International Disaster Law Training officially closed.



Annex 1: List of Participants

S/n	Name	Institution	Email	Contact
1	Hon. Sylvia Chalikosa	Office of the Vice President		0211251089
2	Yande Mwape	Office of the Vice President (DMMU)		0979548788
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Disaster Law Programme

Disaster Law is a general term that encompasses legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks related to cohesive disaster and crisis risk management which encompasses disaster risk reduction (DRR), national disaster preparedness and response, international assistance (IDRL), and post-disaster recovery.

The Disaster Law Programme (DLP) assists National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies of the region to support their authorities in developing and applying disaster-related legislation, policies and procedures. It does this to make communities safer, to ensure timely and effective humanitarian relief, and to improve the protection of the most vulnerable when faced with crisis.

The DLP operates on an international mandate given by all state parties to the Geneva Conventions, providing technical advice based on over a dozen years of global research and consultations. By harnessing their unique auxiliary role, National Societies working with the DLP have successfully strengthened new disaster laws and policies since 2007. The programme provides expert advice to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and governments, undertakes legal research, and fosters discussion and learning about the development of disaster law.

DLP main themes include:

Auxiliary Role

Recognizing the critical role of National Societies, as auxiliaries to their public authorities in the humanitarian field with a unique community outreach, to ensure community voices and engagement with national level policy development and planning processes on key humanitarian issues such as: disaster management, migration, health, among others.

Legal Preparedness for International Disaster Assistance ('IDRL')

Procedures for international disaster relief that put domestic authorities in the driver's seat, reduce barriers, costs and quality problems, and uphold humanitarian principles.

Law and Disaster Risk Reduction

Modern legal frameworks that have integrated disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into disaster risk management and sectoral laws and policies, in line with key international and regional commitments.

He later narrowed down to Zambia Red Cross Society's roles in pursuit of its auxiliary status. He cited the mutual cooperation ZRCS receives from the movement partners particularly IFRC, ICRC and Partner National Societies, particularly the Netherlands Red Cross. Among the ongoing programmes he mentioned include the Response Preparedness targeting flood prone districts of North Western province supported by Netherlands Red Cross.

Domestic Preparedness and Response

Integrated legal frameworks for disaster risk management that adequately address domestic preparedness and response, including institutional and procedural arrangements, gender and protection issues, as well as planned approaches to regulatory issues in post-disaster shelter.

Why Disaster Law in Zambia

Disaster law encompasses all laws that influence the way we prepare for and respond to disasters. This includes national disaster management laws and policies, domestic and international legal instruments pertaining to cross border disaster cooperation (such as customs treaties, import regulations and VAT laws), legislation related to the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies and, finally, laws that strengthen risk reduction, such as building codes and land planning policies.

Most countries do not have special laws in place for facilitating and regulating international relief, and even if they do, they are not always implemented. The result is a common set of problems, including unnecessary taxation or delays at customs, and restrictions in the operation concerning the use of communication equipment and a lack of overview over the quality of the assistance delivered to the affected communities. It is widely accepted that the poor and marginalized will bear the brunt of these developments if no action is taken to both reduce disaster risks and to better prepare for responding to disasters when they strike. As affirmed in the Sendai Framework for Action, law is a critical tool for empowering such action and adapting to a changing world.

Key goal

Developing a plan of action for the review and implementation of the existing legal and institutional framework for an effective disaster risk management

25-30 persons

Red Cross and National Disaster Management Staff, to be trained on disaster law

1 Plan of Action

to be developed to map next steps for review of existing Zambia Legislative framework

A National Disaster Law Workshop for 2018

Zambia has made commendable stride in developing a disaster management legislative framework with the passing of the Disaster Management Act 2010, as well as the National Disaster Management policy and the Disaster Management Operations Manual in 2015. This framework has been instrumental in guiding disaster management practice and institutional accountability in ensuring communities are protected always.

Unfortunately, Zambia like many other countries in sub-Saharan Africa continue to face ever evolving crises and disasters partly attributed to increased complexity of conflicts across the region but mostly due to climate change. In that respect it is important to ensure that the existing frameworks in countries are equipped to handle all considerable dimensions that may be envisioned to arise in the management of these ever-evolving disasters.

Resultantly, disaster relief assistance has over the past couple of decades seen more and more international actors offering a helping hand in the wake of national disasters such as drought, floods and even cross-border population movements. To ensure effective support to affected communities, it is necessary for the national institutional framework to offer a guiding role for climate

smart regulation and thus, bringing effectiveness to disaster risk management. Further, to prevent continued large-scale impact of disasters it is necessary to ensure that the institutional and legislative framework for disaster management bears a strong focus on climate smart disaster risk reduction practices.

To discuss these issues Red Cross of Zambia, and IFRC proposed a Disaster Law workshop in November 2018 to be held in Lusaka. The workshop will consist of a 2-day intensive training for DRM professionals from all relevant representatives of the government and other stakeholders on the legal issues in Disaster Risk Management and tools for the drafting of Disaster Risk Management Laws and other instruments.

Workshop objectives:

- Share progress in the field of Disaster Law over the past 10 years.
- Equip authorities with knowledge of the IDRL Guidelines, Model act and the Checklist for DRR.
- Stimulate discussion on the legal facilitation of international response, development of efficient DRR legal frameworks, and other related issues.
- Develop ideas and priority areas for future work on disaster law Zambia in consideration of existing DM legal frameworks.

Target participants (approx. 25- 30 participants):

- Relevant staff from Zambia Red Cross
- IFRC Disaster Law Programme and Netherlands Red Cross RPII staff
- Relevant senior level representatives of the National Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit,
- Relevant officials from UN agencies and international and national CSOs and NGOs
- Selected members of the media in Zambia (potentially only for the opening ceremony)

Dates and Format:

The format will be a set of interactive sessions introducing the substance of Disaster Law, followed by a table top exercise in working groups in which participants review a fictional disaster scenario from the legal perspective an exercise designed to deepen the understanding of the practical implications of gaps in the legal framework pertaining to disasters. Topics may include: allocation of mandates and funding for DRM, community representation in contingency planning for disasters, importation of relief items, servicing of a refugee population, and experience with collaboration and coordination with international actors. Finally, based on an analysis of the current DRM Act, Policy and Operations Manual, the participants will be invited to share and develop fresh ideas concerning the review of the existing framework to develop a suitable legal environment for preparation and management of disasters, both at the national and provincial levels in Zambia.

It is expected that the workshop will result in a set of recommendations and a plan of action for the next steps.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- General facilitation, course materials and presentation IFRC Disaster Law Coordinator, Netherlands Red Cross and Zambia Red Cross.
- Invitation and registration of Participants Zambia Red Cross.
- Administration, venue and logistics of the conference Zambia Red Cross.

More information can be found at www.ifrc.org/dl.

For queries please contact:

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- Maria Martinez, Disaster Law Coordinator for Africa, maria.martinez@ifrc.org

SPEECH BY THE HON. MINISTER IN THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, HON. SYLVIA CHALIKOSA, MP AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE LAW TRAINING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2018 AT THE SOUTHERN SUN HOTEL IN LUSAKA.

THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR - DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION UNIT, MS YANDE MWAPE, ZAMBIA RED CROSS SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT MS. ROYCE MULENGA AND MR. FRED KASONGOLE, NETHERLANDS RED CROSS COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE -. MS. MARIANNE DEELDER, THE FACILITATOR FROM INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE RED CROSS (IFRC), MS. MARIA MARTINEZ, INVITED PARTICIPANTS. MAY I SIMPLY SAY LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I WANT TO START BY WELCOMING OUR VISITOR, MARIA, FROM THE IFRC REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA WHO IS THE MAIN FACILITATOR FOR THIS TRAINING. YOU ARE MOST WELCOME TO ZAMBIA. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DISASTERS THE WORLD OVER ARE A DEVELOPMENT MENACE. DISASTERS ARE THE GREATEST ENEMY TO THE EFFORTS WE MAKE AIMED AT IMPROVING OUR WELFARE. IN THIS COUNTRY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I DO NOT NEED TO BORE YOU BY MENTIONING THE HUGE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LOSSES WE INCUR AS A RESULT OF DISASTER OCCURRENCES.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAD TO PUT IN PLACE A POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO GUIDE US IN TACKLING THE ISSUES OF HAZARDS AND DISASTERS.

JUST A BIT OF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF OUR RESOLVE TO PRIORITISE DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN THIS COUNTRY. TO OUR VISITOR FROM IFRC AND SOME WITHIN HERE MAY NOT BE PRIVY TO OUR DISASTER MANAGEMENT HISTORY, ZAMBIA EMBARKED ON A DELIBERATE PLAN TO ADDRESS DISASTERS BARELY TWO YEARS AFTER GAINING HER POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE BY ESTABLISHING A CONTINGENCY PLANNING UNIT IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER IN 1966 THAT WAS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GUIDING THE COUNTRY'S RESPONSE TO DISASTERS; EVEN WHEN THIS UNIT WAS LATER ABOLISHED IN THE THIRD REPUBLIC, WE STILL HAD TO CREATE AN ADHOC INTER-MINISTERIAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO LOOK AT ISSUES OF DISASTERS IN THE COUNTRY. THIS COMMITTEE, THOUGH, WAS AN INTERIM MEASURE TO ENSURE THE COUNTRY IS NOT LEFT UNCOVERED IN MATTERS OF DISASTERS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO CUT THE HISTORY SHORT THE GOVERNMENT LATER CREATED THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION UNIT IN THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WHICH TO DATE IS COORDINATING THE COUNTRY'S DISASTER MANAGEMENT CYCLE ACTIVITIES.

UPON THE CREATION THIS UNIT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE GOVERNMENT EMBARKED ON CREATING A SUPPORTIVE POLICY ENVIRONMENT BY CAUSING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT POLICY AND ITS OPERATIONS MANUAL. SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE WITNESSED OR EVEN PARTICIPATED IN ITS LAUNCH IN 2005.

FURTHERMORE, THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO ENSURE THE POLICY MAINTAINS ITS RELEVANCE TO TACKLING CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES BY RESPONDING TO EMERGING ISSUES LIKE CLIMATE CHANGE.

JUST TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO DISASTERS, I WISH TO MENTION AND REMIND OURSELVES THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAUSED THE ENACTMENT OF THE NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT NO. 13 OF 2010. THIS WAS A GREAT MILESTONE IN OUR EFFORTS TO LEGISLATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN THIS COUNTRY.

THE ENACTMENT OF LAW ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT NECESSITATED SOME POLICY REVIEWS. IN THIS VEIN, AND IN RESPONSE TO THE HYOGO FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION AND LATER THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION WHICH UNDERSCORED DISASTER PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS RATHER THAN FOCUSING SOLELY ON RESPONSE, THE GOVERNMENT THOUGHT IT NECESSARY TO REVISE THE 2005 POLICY TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE NEW LAW AS STATED ABOVE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS TO WHICH WE ASCRIBED TO AS A COUNTRY. THIS CULMINATED IN THE 2015 NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT POLICY WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN FORCE.

WHAT I WANT TO EMPHASISE TO YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IS GOVERNMENT'S RESOLVE TO EMBRACE ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN OUR EFFORTS TO PREPARE FOR, PREVENT AND RESPOND TO DISASTERS IN THE COUNTRY. OUR APPROACH IS ALL INCLUSIVE AND WE TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE EFFORTS BY VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS WHOSE CONTRIBUTIONS DO SUPPLEMENT OUR EFFORTS AS GOVERNMENT. THERE ARE MANY STAKEHOLDERS WHICH I MAY NOT FINISH MENTIONING.

ALLOW ME FOR NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO NARROW DOWN TO ONE STAKEHOLDER WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN CLOSELY WORKING. THE ZAMBIA RED CROSS SOCIETY.

FOR SOME OF YOU WHO MAY NOT BE VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE STATUS OF THE ZAMBIA RED CROSS SOCIETY, YOU SHOULD KNOW NOW THAT IT IS ACTUALLY A CREATURE OF STATUTES, HAVING BEEN CREATED BY AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT, THAT IS, THE ZAMBIA RED CROSS SOCIETY CAP 307 OF THE LAWS OF ZAMBIA. THE RED CROSS IS CREATED AS AN AUXILIARY TO PUBLIC AUTHORITIES. THIS MEANS THEY CARRY OUT GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS MEANT TO SUPPLEMENT GOVERNMENT EFFORTS IN DELIVERING DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORTING LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND BUILDING RESILIENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT THE RED CROSS HAS BEEN AN ALL-WEATHER PARTNER TO THE GOVERNMENT AND HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE PLAYER PURSUING ITS INSPIRATION OF BEING AMONG THE FIRST RESPONDERS IN TIMES OF EMERGENCIES. THE RED CROSS IS FOUND IN THE MANAGEMENT OF BOTH NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS.

ANOTHER CHARACTER ABOUT THE RED CROSS I WISH TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION IS THAT OF ITS UNIVERSALITY. THE ZAMBIA RED CROSS SOCIETY IS PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MOVEMENT. THROUGH ITS INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER IT IS NOT UNCOMMON TO SEE INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL BROUGHT TO SUPPLEMENT NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITY TO RESPOND AND MANAGE SOME OF THE HAZARDS AND DISASTER AFFECTING US.

THE MOVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL AND GOODS REQUIRES A CONDUCIVE ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK THAT FACILITATES RATHER THAN HAMPERS SPEEDY INTERVENTIONS TO SAVE LIVES, PROTECT PROPERTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

THIS NOW TAKES US TO LEGAL ISSUES WHICH I BELIEVE THIS TRAINING IS MEANT TO HIGHLIGHT AND IGNITE OUR ATTENTION TO SUCH MATTERS.

I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS TRAINING WILL CREATE NECESSARY ENTHUSIASM TO START TAKING STOCK OF OUR EXISTING LEGISLATIONS AND SEE HOW BEST OUR DISASTER RELATED INSTRUMENTS CAN SERVE US.

LOOKING AT THE PROGRAMME OF THIS TRAINING THERE ARE SEVERAL VITAL COMPONENTS TO BRAINSTORM OVER AND I AM HOPEFUL THE PRODUCT WILL BE OF MUCH HELP TO US AS A NATION IN OUR EFFORT TO ALWAYS REMAIN RELEVANT TO CURRENT TIMES AND CHALLENGES.

I WISH TO FINALLY THANK ALL OF YOU THAT HAVE MANAGED TO TURN UP FOR THIS IMPORTANT TRAINING AND SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FACILITATOR WHO TRAVELED ALL THE WAY FROM NAIROBI.

MAY I END BY ASSURING ALL STAKEHOLDERS AND THE RED CROSS IN PARTICULAR OF MY OFFICE'S SUPPORT THROUGH MY NATIONAL COORDINATOR AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IN GENERAL.

HAVING SAID ALL THIS IT IS MY HONOUR TO DECLARE THIS TRAINING ON INTERNATIONAL DISASTER LAW OFFICIALLY OPENED.

THANK YOU AND MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU ALL.



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