

MOZAMBIQUE 443

News reports & clippings 18 March 2019

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President says up to 1000 dead in cyclone; massive damage & flooding; heavy rain continues

Cyclone Idai hit Beira Friday with 170 km/h winds and torrential rains, causing major damage. Even in the central "cement city" buildings were damaged and in the suburbs many houses have had roofs blown off and walls damaged. Aerial photos show the city flooded. There is no electricity or water, and only limited telephone service. All roads out of Beira are now cut off by flooding and washed out bridges and sections of road. The port is totally closed and the airport only partially open. Two photos of Beira:





President Filipe Nyusi in a statement this afternoon said the death toll could reach 1000. After smashing Beira, cyclone Idai continued west through Sofala and Manica. It then crossed the border into Manicaland in Zimbabwe, where more than 100 people have died. The very heavy rain across the area has caused floods in all rivers, and heavy rainfall is predicted to continue until Thursday, causing rivers to rise further and cutting off roads in even more places. Dondo in Sofala is now cut off, the President said. The Council of Ministers will meet tomorrow, Tuesday, in Beira. Helicopter footage of the flooding on

<https://apnews.com/83ae76a957154ea28fdccf1e879110f> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/video/2019/mar/18/aerial-footage-shows-cyclone-idai-devastation-in-mozambique-video> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/03/cyclone-idai-death-toll-215-beira-city-90-percent-destroyed-190318101752250.html>

Chang extradition hearing postponed again

In its efforts to keep Manual Chang from being extradited to the United States, his defence team is repeatedly requesting delays. The case was postponed from 7 March after the defence argued that the choice as to which extradition petitions - US or Mozambique - should be heard first is a political decision, and the case should be decided by the justice minister. Today that was rejected. So the defence argued today that the only person who can decide the issue is President Ramaphosa. The hearing has now been delayed until next Monday, 26 March.

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