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STATEMENT OF CONCERN ABOUT CYCLONE GIOVANNA'S EFFECTS ON MADAGASCAR BY HON. MARIUS FRANSMAN

On behalf of SADC and on my own behalf as the Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the SADC Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation in my capacity as Deputy Minister of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation and South Africa's Special Envoy to Madagascar, I wish to express my heartfelt concern and empathy for the people of Madagascar in the wake of the destruction caused by Cyclone Giovanna.

SADC expresses its sincere support and sympathy to all the victims of cyclone Giovanna and, in particular, the poor, women and children who are the worst affected during such natural disasters.

SADC's clarion call at this point is that the interim government, all political stakeholders, civil society and the nation at large put aside their political differences and firmly unite behind the victims of cyclone Giovanna. It is your patriotic duty to provide the necessary assistance and human solidarity to all victims at this critical time.

SADC furthermore hopes that out of this terrible disaster, the nation will pull together to rebuild the communities directly affected as well as to use this experience to start the process of healing the nation from its recent political challenges.

ISSUED BY: **15 FEBRUARY 2012**
SADC LIAISON OFFICE, ANTANANARIVO
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