

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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Page No: 1 of 3

Approved by:

**REPORTING PERIOD:
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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Reduced rainfall received...**
- **Slight improvement in vegetation**
- **Planting and weeding farming activity observed....**
- **Improved rainfall forecasted.....**
- **Warm to hot temperatures anticipated.....**
- **Slight increase in soil moisture expected.....**

RAINFALL SYNOPSIS AND PROGNOSIS

➤ **SYNOPSIS - PAST TEN DAYS**

Rainfall continued to be further reduced in this dekad due to the continued subsidence from the upper air high-pressure system that continues to persist with its position over our region.

➤ **PROGNOSIS - NEXT TEN DAYS**

The Upper Air High Pressure system is anticipated to slightly ease off from our region during the next ten days, thus increasing chances of rainfall towards the end of the outlook period.

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RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

Much reduced rainfall was received during the dekad (Figure 1) coupled with a few hailstorms in some places and significantly experienced on the 19th of December 2017 in the Southern parts of the country. Rainfall less than 50mm was observed throughout the country (Map 1).

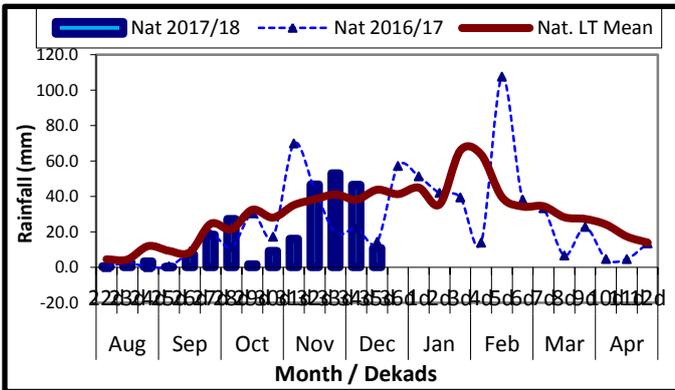
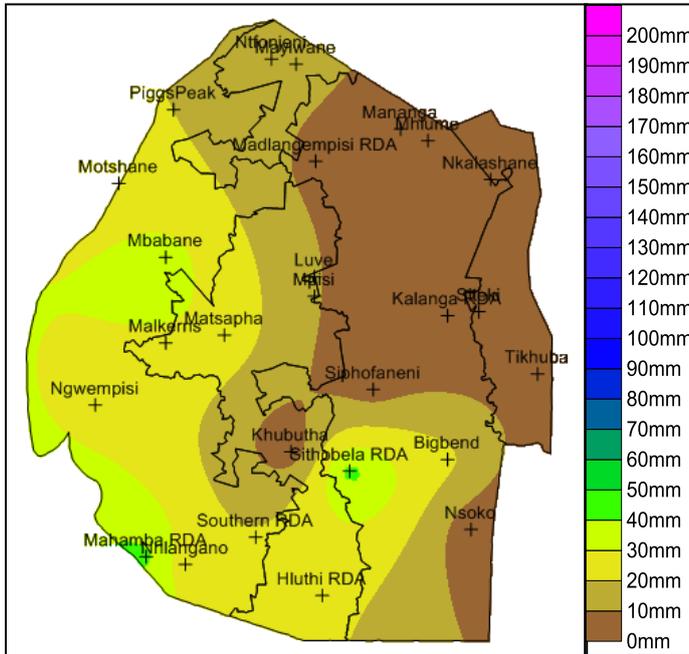


Figure 1: Rainfall distribution as 2nd dekad of December 2017



Map 1: Spatial rainfall distribution for 2nd dekad December 2017

All Agro-ecological zones observed below average rainfall and that of previous season 2016/17 (Table 1).

Table 1: Rainfall (mm) for 2nd dekad December 2017

	HV	MV	LV	LP
2016/17	12	10	3	32
Average	59	44	30	42
2017/18	21	8	10	4
Anomaly	-37	-37	-20	-38

TEMPERATURES

Below average maximum and minimum temperatures continued to be observed during the reporting period, save for Bigbend (Figure 2) and (Figure 3) below.

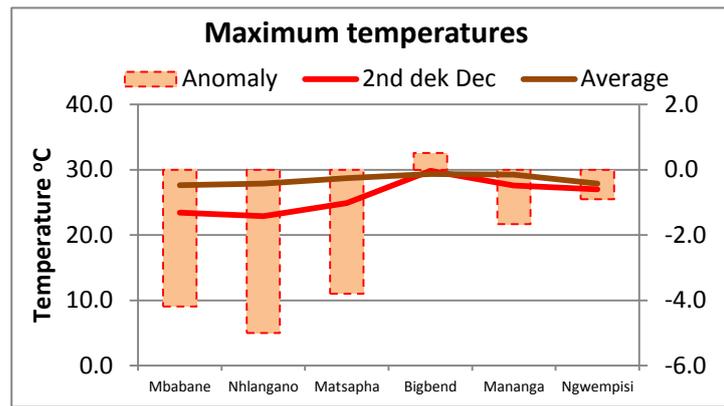


Figure 2: Minimum temperature as 2nd dekad of December 2017

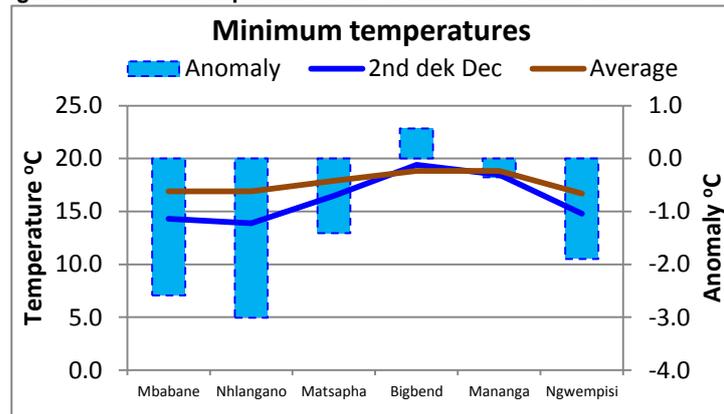


Figure 3: Maximum temperature as 2nd dekad of December 2017

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MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS

MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Maize is currently at germination to early vegetative stages and in good condition (**Picture 1**).



Picture 1: Maize at early vegetative stage at Ngwempisi

OTHER CROPS

Some legumes reported to be planted in some places.

CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY

Most farmers are busy with planting, especially those that were awaiting delivery of their inputs from the Government subsidy at the Rural Development Areas (RDAs). Those who planted early are already weeding their crops.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

Livestock is reported to be doing well in most places as pastures continue to improve (**Picture 3**).



Picture 3: Goats grazing at Maguga

WATER SITUATION

Major Dams observed to have recharged to more than half of their levels and rivers having good flows.

MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

RAINFALL

An increase in rainfall forecasted in the outlook period.

TEMPERATURE

Warm to hot temperatures anticipated in the outlook period.

SOIL MOISTURE

An improvement in soil moisture is expected in the outlook period.

WIND SPEED

Winds are expected to blow between 4 and 6m/s.