

# AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

Doc No: TEA 3/3/7/2 F-004

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Page No: 1 of 4

Approved by:

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Reduced rainfall received...**
- **Improvement in vegetation**
- **Not much farming activity observed....**
- **Slight improvement in rainfall forecasted.....**
- **Warm to hot temperatures anticipated.....**
- **Decrease in soil moisture expected.....**

## RAINFALL SYNOPSIS AND PROGNOSIS

### ➤ **SYNOPSIS - PAST TEN DAYS**

Much reduced rainfall was received in most parts of the country. This drying effect is due to the current positioning of the upper level convergence over the country.

### ➤ **PROGNOSIS - NEXT TEN DAYS**

The current positioning of the upper high over our region is expected to shift during the outlook period; thus increasing the probability of improved rainfall in some parts of the country in the next dekad.

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## RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

### RAINFALL

Below average rainfall continued to be observed during the dekad (Figure 1). Only the western part received amounts up to 85mm while the rest of the country received below 20mm (Map 1).

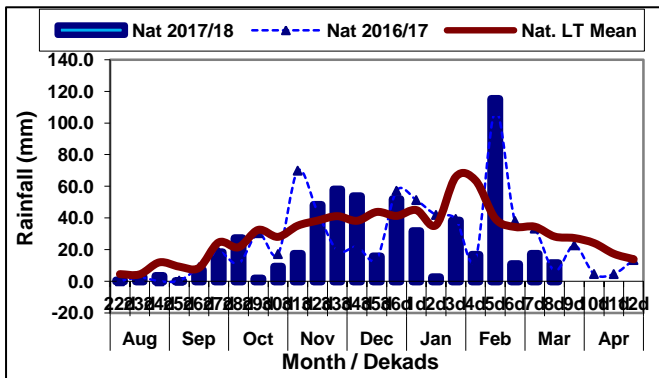
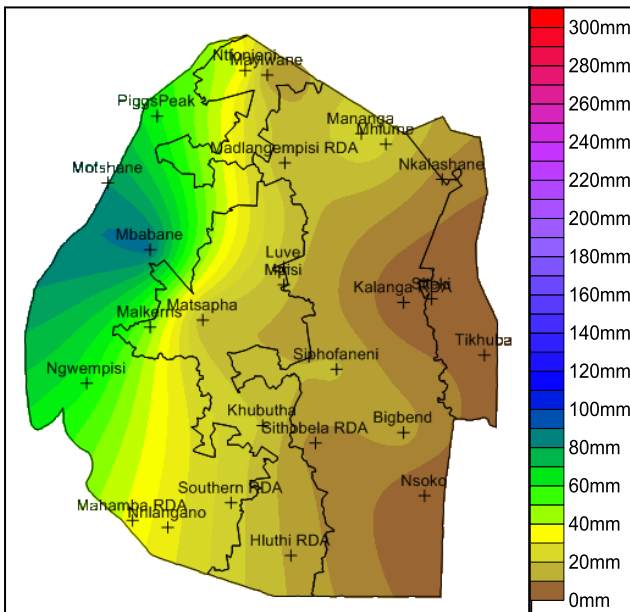


Figure 1: Rainfall distribution as 2<sup>nd</sup> dekad of March 2018



Map 1: Spatial rainfall distribution for 2<sup>nd</sup> dekad March 2018

All the Agroecological zones observed below average rainfall save for the Lubombo Plateau which observed just about average rainfall during the reporting period (Table 1).

Table 1: Rainfall (mm) for 2<sup>nd</sup> dekad March 2018

	HV	MV	LV	LP
2016/17	43	25	21	45
Average	54	33	27	23
2017/18	7	15	24	23
Anomaly	-47	-18	-4	0

### TEMPERATURES

Warm to hot temperatures were observed throughout the country during the reporting period (Figure 2) and (Figure 3).

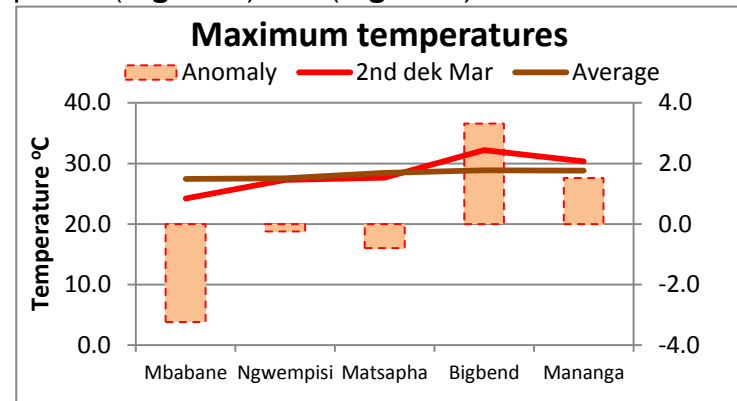


Figure 2: Minimum temperature as 2<sup>nd</sup> dekad of March 2018

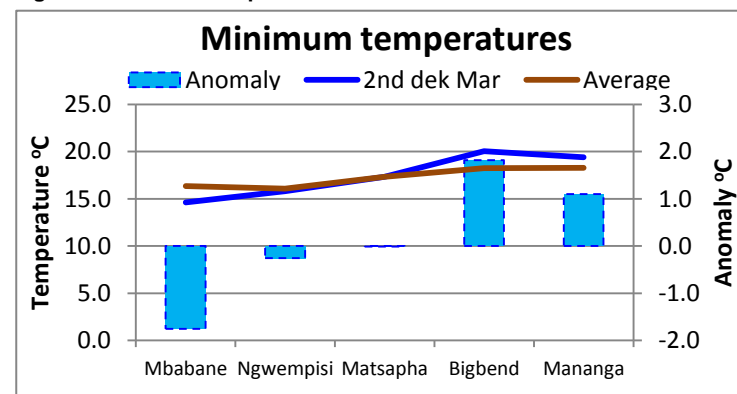


Figure 3: Maximum temperature as 2<sup>nd</sup> dekad of March 2018

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### MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS

#### MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Most maize crops are at reproduction to maturity stages (**Picture 1**). The crop condition is good in most places with a few affected by Fall Army Worm (FAW) (**Picture 2**).



Picture 1: Maize at Mahlalini area in the Shiselweni region



Picture 2: Maize attacked by FAW at Mantambe area in the Shiselweni region

#### OTHER CROPS

Most legume crops are in good condition and are in vegetative stage (**Picture 3**)



Picture 3: Beans at Sihlangwini area in the Lubombo region

#### CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY

Farmers are mostly busy with legume crop management activities.

### LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

Livestock is reported to be in good condition together with rangelands as vegetation continues to improve (**Image 1**) and (**Image 2**).

### WATER SITUATION

Water situation continues to improve in most major reservoirs and rivers in the country.

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## MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

### RAINFALL

Slight improvement in rainfall is forecasted for the outlook period.

### TEMPERATURE

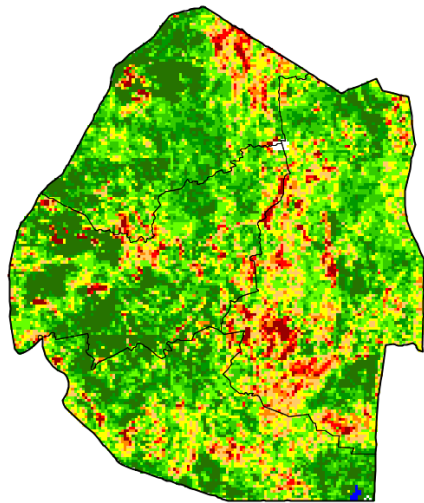
Temperatures will be warm to hot in the outlook period.

### SOIL MOISTURE

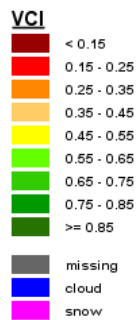
A decrease in soil moistures is expected in the outlook period.

### WIND SPEED

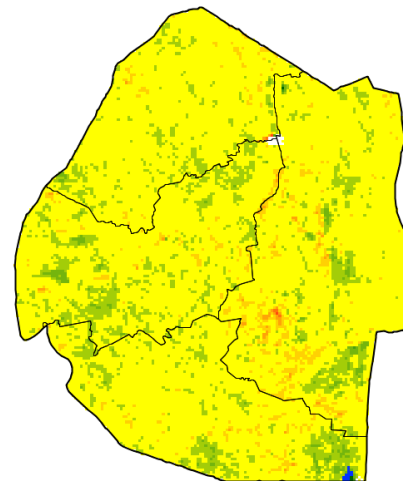
Wind will be mostly light breeze ranging between 2-3m/s.



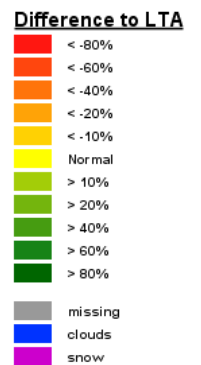
#### Legend



**Image 1:** Vegetation Condition Index image (2<sup>nd</sup> Dekad March 2018) *Source: FAO-GIEWS*



#### Legend



**Image 2:** Vegetation Anomaly image (2<sup>nd</sup> Dekad March 2018) *Source: FAO-GIEWS*