

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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Page No: 1 of 3

Approved by:

**REPORTING PERIOD:
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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Much improved rainfall received...**
- **Signs of stress in vegetation**
- **More farming activity observed....**
- **Improved rainfall forecasted.....**
- **Cool to hot temperatures anticipated.....**
- **Increase in soil moisture expected.....**

RAINFALL SYNOPSIS AND PROGNOSIS

➤ **SYNOPSIS - PAST TEN DAYS**

Much improved slightly above average rainfall was recorded in most stations in the Lowveld and Lubombo Plateau. Temperatures were cold to warm in most parts, but hot in the Lowveld. This was attributed to the positioning of the upper high systems

➤ **PROGNOSIS - NEXT TEN DAYS**

The passage of Upper level Trough will result in an increase in rainfall in the outlook period with thunderstorms in some parts. Temperatures will range from cool to warm and hot in the Lowveld.

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RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

Slightly above average rainfall was received during the reporting period as shown in the figure below (**Figure 1**). Most of these rains fell over the North and Eastern parts of the country (**Map 1**).

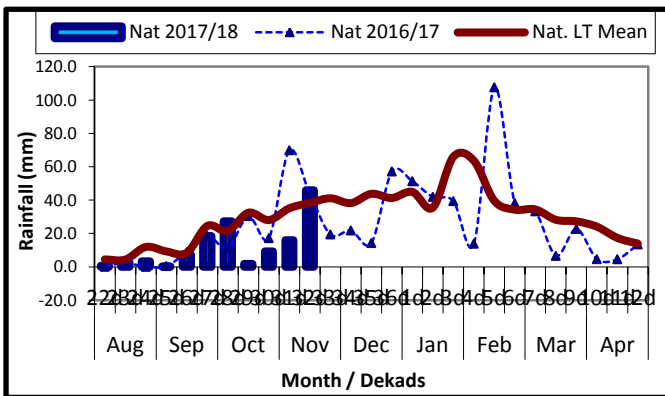
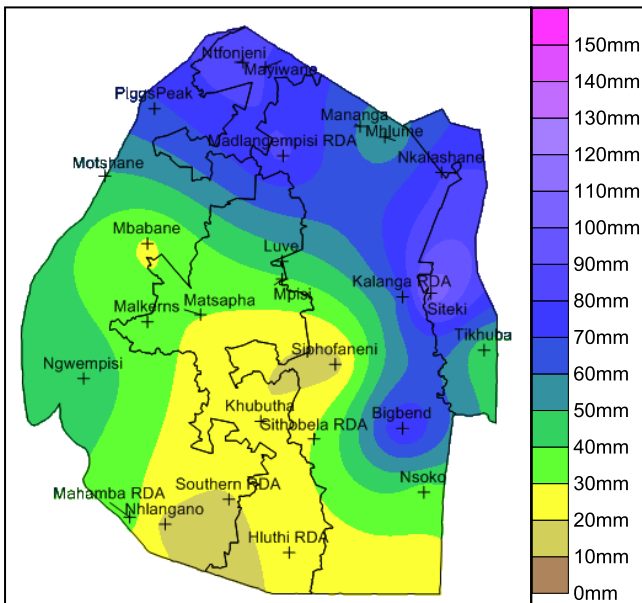


Figure 1: Rainfall distribution as second dekad of November 2017



Map 1: Spatial rainfall distribution for second dekad November 2017

The regional distribution shows that above

average rainfall was observed in the Lowveld and Lubombo Plateau, while the Highveld and Middleveld observed below normal rainfall and that of previous season 2016/17 (**Table 1**).

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

| | HV | MV | LV | LP |
|---------|-----|-----|----|----|
| 2016/17 | 33 | 41 | 26 | 75 |
| Average | 52 | 35 | 30 | 36 |
| 2017/18 | 31 | 25 | 52 | 76 |
| Anomaly | -22 | -10 | 22 | 40 |

TEMPERATURES

Most reporting stations observed about average maximum temperatures (**Figure 2**) and colder than normal minimum temperatures (**Figure 3**).

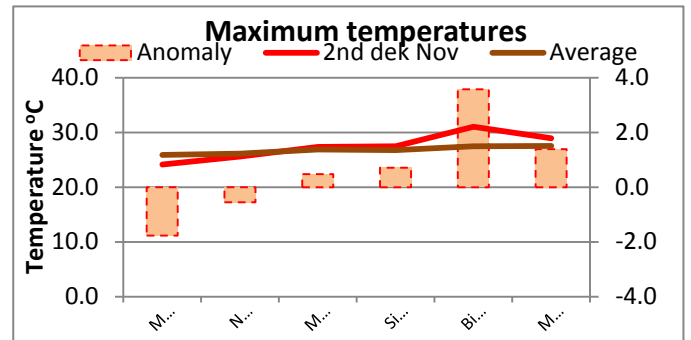


Figure 2: Minimum temperature as second dekad of November 2017

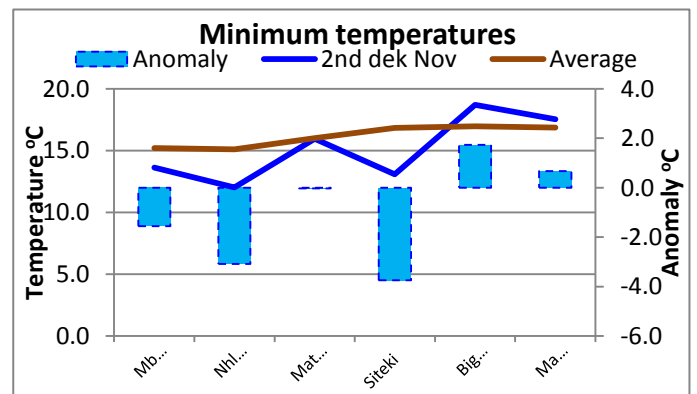


Figure 3: Maximum temperature as second dekad of November 2017

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MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS

MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

As a result of the recent rains in some parts farmers are busy with land preparation and planting. Few fields were observed to have maize at emergence stage while others were at early vegetative stages especially in some parts of the Highveld.

The condition of the crop is good in most parts.

OTHER CROPS

No other crops observed to have been planted.

CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY

Farmers are currently busy with land preparation and planting in most parts of the country.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

Vegetation continues to show signs of stress due to recent insignificant rains in the past dekads. Livestock is reported to be in poor to average condition in most parts.

WATER SITUATION

The water situation is hardly improving in most rivers and major reservoirs, but not yet showing signs of major decrease.

MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

RAINFALL

Occasional rain showers with some thunderstorms in some parts expected and clearing to partly cloudy and sunny conditions in the outlook period.

TEMPERATURE

Cold to warm temperatures anticipated in most parts, but hot in the Lowveld in the outlook period.

SOIL MOISTURE

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

WIND SPEED

Winds will be light to moderate breeze speeds.