

## **UGANDA NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY**

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**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2018

### **REVIEW OF THE RAINFALL PERFORMANCE IN MARCH AND THE OUTLOOK FOR APRIL 2018**

#### **1.0 Summary**

- During the month of March, enhanced rainfall was experienced over several parts of the country. Wet conditions were however, highly pronounced in Eastern region especially mountainous areas of Elgon and Lake Victoria basin
- The onset of March to May 2018 seasonal rainfall was established by late February and mid-March in most parts of the country as earlier predicted in the Rainfall outlook
- The rainfall outlook for April 2018 indicates that most parts of the country are likely to experience enhanced rainfall especially in western and mountainous areas of Elgon.
- Overall, wet conditions and reduced temperatures are likely to prevail during the month of April 2018 over most parts of the country

#### **2.0 Introduction**

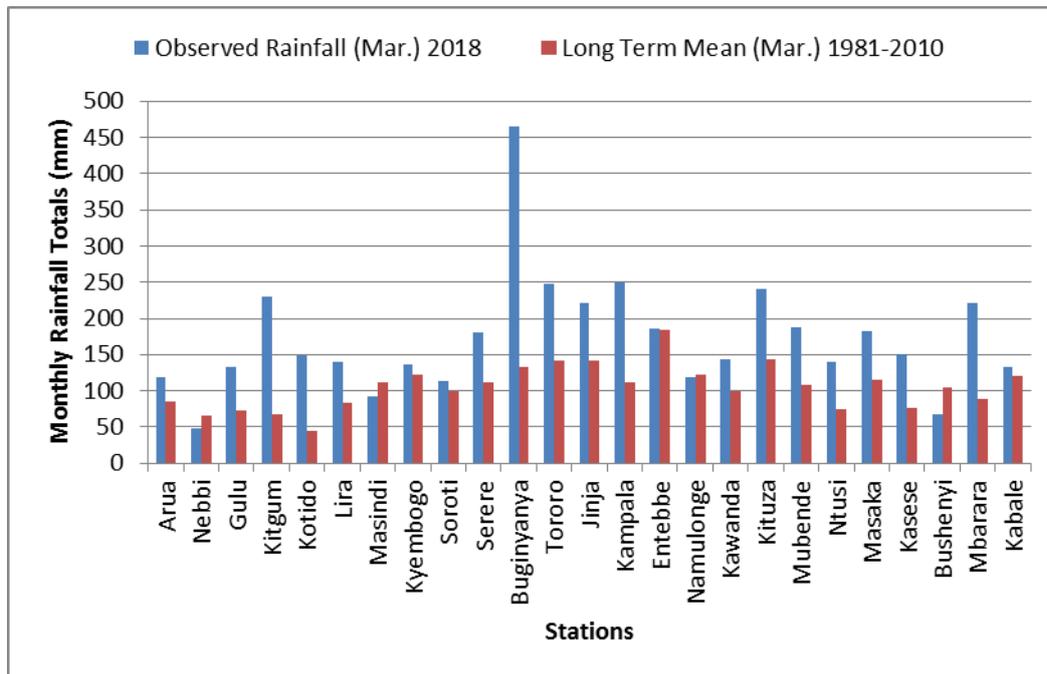
The month of April marks the peak of the March to May (“Long Rains”) seasonal rainfall while March is normally associated with the onset of rainfall over most parts of the country.

#### **3.0 Review of rainfall performance in March 2018**

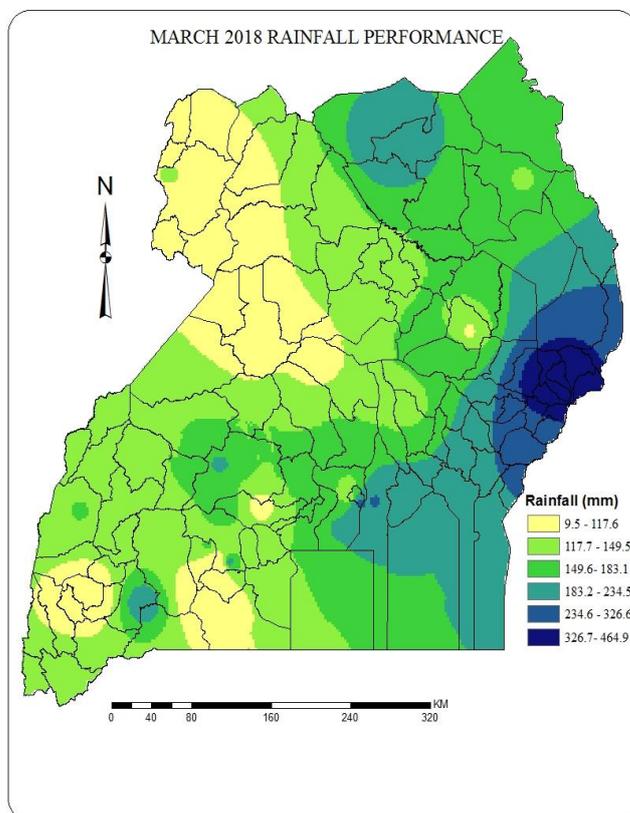
The March 2018 rainfall analysis indicates that most parts of the country generally experienced enhanced rainfall. There was a marked increase in rainfall amounts over several parts of the country as the season approaches its peak. Rainfall was more pronounced in Eastern mountainous areas of Elgon and its surroundings and Lake Victoria basin. Buginyanya station in Bulambuli district recorded the highest monthly total rainfall of 464.9mm followed by Kampala with 250.3mm and Entebbe with 248.9mm.

In terms of heavy rainfall recorded in a day (24 hours), Buginyanya station in Bulambuli district recorded 134.9mm and 110.5mm on 18<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March respectively. Mbarara recorded the highest rainfall of 122.0mm on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018. In terms of rainfall distribution during the month of March, Buginyanya station recorded the highest with 21 rainy days, followed by Mbarara with 17 and Entebbe, Jinja, Kawanda and Kyembogo (Kabarole district) each reporting 16 rainy days. Nabiswera station (Nakasongola district) reported 6 rainy days, the lowest in the country.

Figure 1 shows the total amount of rainfall recorded in March 2018 (the blue bars) as compared to the Long Term Means (LTMs) - the red bars) while Figure 2 depicts the spatial distribution.



**Figure 1: Rainfall amounts recorded in March 2018**



**Figure 2: Spatial rainfall distribution in March, 2018**

#### 4.0 Experienced impacts during March 2018

The onset of rainfall experienced in most parts of the country impacted both positively and negatively on various sectors of the economy;

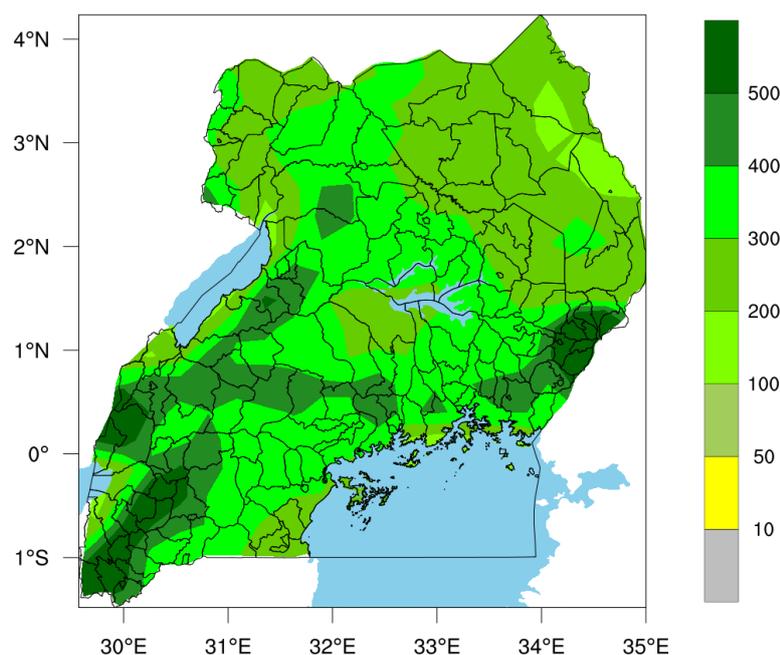
- In Agricultural sector, most farming communities took advantage of rains and planted in time in areas where there was early onset particularly western and south western; In general most parts of the country experienced early onset and early planting of crops.
- In some pastoral areas, pastures improved due to the moderate rains experienced across the country. The rains also enabled the replenishment of water reservoirs;
- Water levels in most rivers increased due to the enhanced rainfall in most parts of the country.
- In some areas, the onset of rainfall resulted into serious violent winds, hail and thunderstorms that destroyed crops, houses and other properties; these incidences were reported in many parts of the country.
- Heavy rainfall led to flooding in some areas for example in Muhanga, in Kabale district

#### 5.0 Rainfall Outlook for April 2018

Overall, the April forecast indicates that most parts of the country are expected to have **enhanced rainfall**. However, the mountain areas of Rwenzori and Elgon plus the highlands of South Western Uganda are expected to receive above the average rainfall which might impact negatively to the communities in those areas.

The expected spatial rainfall distribution is given below in figure 3:

#### Rainfall Forecast (mm): for April 2018



**Figure 3: Expected spatial rainfall distribution for April 2018**

## **6.0 Potential impacts for April climate outlook**

The enhanced rains expected over several areas of the country will have the following impacts;

- In Agricultural sector, good crop performance is expected in most areas of the country and farmers should generally take advantage of the expected rains
- In pastoral areas, the enhanced rains will lead to further improvement in foliage and pasture for livestock
- Water resource availability is likely to increase over most areas of the country
- There is a high risk of flooding due to the expected enhanced rainfall especially in urban centers, low-lying areas particularly those near river banks
- There is a high risk of cholera outbreaks associated with poor sanitation due to water contamination and other water borne diseases.
- Cases of lightning and violent winds are expected in most parts of the country

Dr. Festus Luboyera  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**