

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Below average rainfall received...**
- **No much improvement in vegetation**
- **Weeding activities observed....**
- **Much improved rainfall forecasted.....**
- **Mild temperatures anticipated.....**
- **Improvement in soil moisture expected.....**

RAINFALL SYNOPSIS AND PROGNOSIS

➤ **SYNOPSIS - PAST TEN DAYS**

The strength of tropical systems over the region pulled most of the moisture towards it, thus rendering our area in the region drier, hence the reduced rainfall during the reporting period. Temperatures were mostly warm to hot in most places.

➤ **PROGNOSIS - NEXT TEN DAYS**

An increase in rainfall episodes is expected in the coming dekad. Temperatures will be mild in most places, but warm to hot in the Lowveld.

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RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURES

RAINFALL

Much below average (**Figure 1**) continued to be received in the country mainly in the Western and Eastern parts (**Map 1**).

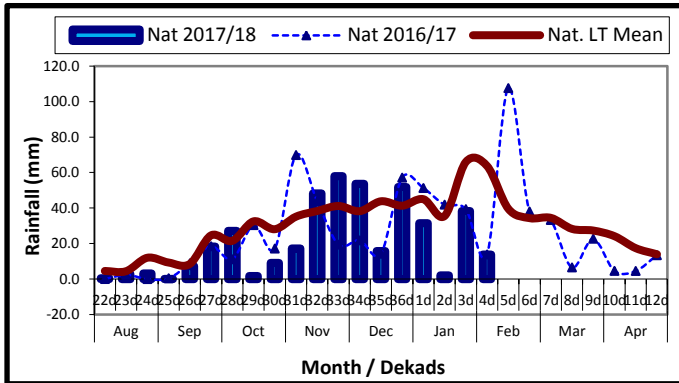
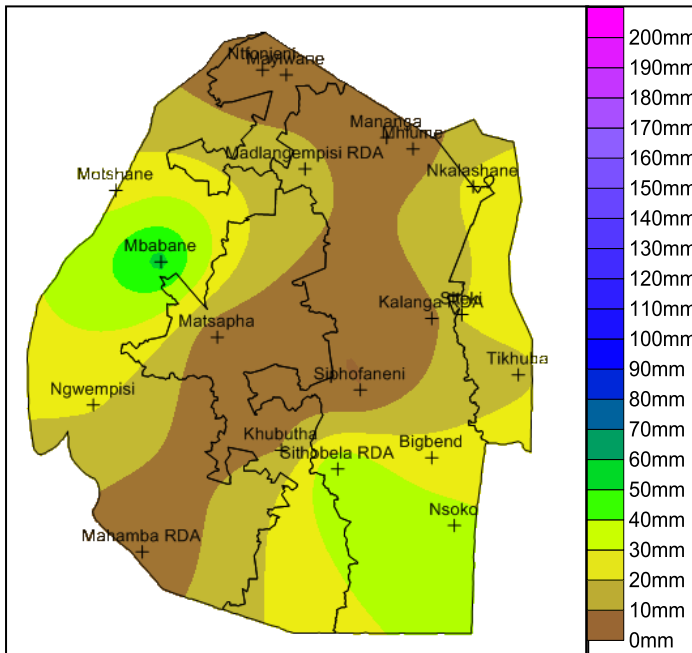


Figure 1: Rainfall distribution as 1st dekad of February 2018



Map 1: Spatial rainfall distribution for 1st dekad February 2018

All the Agroecological zones observed below long-term mean rainfall during the reporting period (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Rainfall (mm) for 1st dekad February 2018

	HV	MV	LV	LP
2016/17	32	20	4	0
Average	84	60	48	63
2017/18	15	4	17	20
Anomaly	-69	-56	-31	-43

TEMPERATURES

Temperatures varied from warm to hot during the dekad ranging between 15 and 32 degrees Celsius (**Figure 2**) and (**Figure 3**).

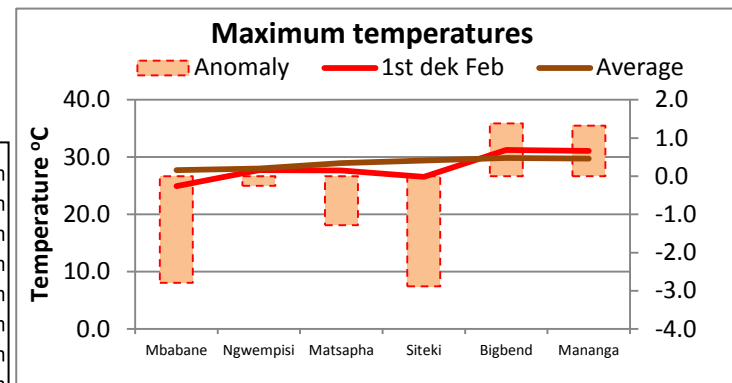


Figure 2: Minimum temperature as 1st dekad of February 2018

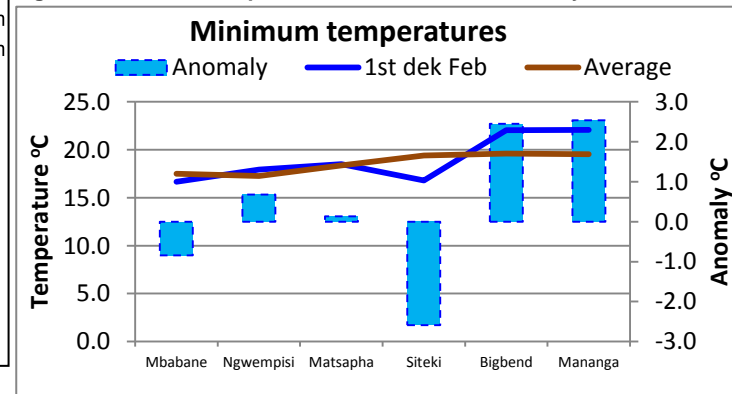


Figure 3: Maximum temperature as 1st dekad of February 2018

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MAIZE AND OTHER CROPS

MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION

Maize crop stage varies mostly between vegetative and grain filling (**Picture 1**), with a few crops already at maturity stage. The crop is good in most places save for some affected by dry spells and Fall Army Worm (FAW) which is reported to be causing vast damage despite control measures.



Picture 1: Maize at tasseling stage

OTHER CROPS

Legumes such as sweet potatoes and groundnuts are reported to be doing well in most places. Others which are still being planted include beans and cowpeas.

CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY

Some farmers are busy with weeding activities in the fields.

LIVESTOCK AND PASTURES

Livestock and pastures are reported to be in good condition save for some in the Lowveld as pastures are affected by dry spells and insufficient moisture.

WATER SITUATION

There is insignificant improvement in water sources. Some rivers have started losing their healthy flows.

MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

RAINFALL

Much improved significant rainfall is anticipated in the outlook period.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures will be mostly mild in most places save for the Eastern part of the country where warm to hot temperatures are expected.

SOIL MOISTURE

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

WIND SPEED

Gentle breeze speeds ranging between 2m/s and 4m/s are forecasted for the outlook period.