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PRESS RELEASE

CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR TANZANIA JANUARY – FEBRUARY, 2015
RAINFALL SEASON

A: Introduction

This statement gives a review of rainfall performance for October to December, 2014 and an outlook for January to February, 2015 in the country.

B: REVIEW OF RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

During the short rain season of October to 30, December (OND) 2014, most parts of the country experienced normal to above normal rainfall with pockets of below normal rainfall over parts of Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma (Hombolo), Kilimanjaro (Same), Njombe, Mtwara and Lindi regions. During this period the short rains were characterized by episodes of heavy rainfall as shown in table No 1.

Enhancement of rainfall making mechanism over western areas of the country coupled with wind convergence contributed to enhanced rainfall over those areas. Moreover this condition also contributed to hail storms and strong winds over some areas including Tabora and Arusha regions.

Several houses were damaged due to the strong winds particularly in Tumbi –Tabora .The prevailing and expected climate systems are likely to enhance rainfall over the Western areas, South- western highlands and Southern parts of the country.

Table .1

Date	Station Name	Amount of rainfall recorded (mm)
30/12/2014	Port Met (Dar es Salaam)	69.3
29/12/2014	Mahenge (Morogoro)	42.8
	Mbeya	40.6
28/12/2014	Hombolo(Dodoma)	56.0
27/12/2014	Mpanda (Katavi)	54.8
27/12/2014	Nyiberekera (Mara)	35.8
26/12/2014	Tumbi (Tabora)	119.6
26/12/2014	Tabora (Tabora)	40.3
25/12/2014	Bukoba (Kagera)	31.8
25/12/2014	Singida (Singida)	31.1
24/12/2014	Singida (Singida)	83.6
24/12/2014	Babati (Manyara)	64.8
	Mbozi (Mbeya)	39.0
23/12/2014	Zanzibar (Zanzibar)	93.9
	Mahenge (Morogoro)	60.1

C: RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2015:

During January to February, 2015 warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) anomalies are expected over the Central Equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Based on the expected climate systems for January to February, 2015 rainfall season is likely to feature as follows:

(i) *Bimodal areas*

The rains during January to February, 2015 over northeastern highlands, northern coast areas, Lake Victoria Basin and northern Kigoma are expected to recede towards the end of December, 2014. However, out of season rains are likely to occur over northern parts of Morogoro region, southern parts of Coastal region and some parts of Arusha, Manyara, Kagera, Geita, Shinyanga and Mwanza regions. The remaining areas are expected to feature mainly dry conditions

ii) Seasonal Rainfall for the period of January to February, 2015 over Unimodal areas:

The western, central, southwestern highlands, southern region and southern coast experience one annual rain season. Rains are likely to be normal to above normal over most areas during the months of January to February 2015.

Western areas: (Tabora, Rukwa, Katavi and Kigoma regions):

Rains have already started and are expected to be normal.

Central (Singida and Dodoma regions):

Rains have already started and are expected to be normal to above normal.

Southwestern highlands: (Mbeya, Iringa, and Njombe regions and southern Morogoro areas):

Rains have already started and are expected to be normal to above normal.

Southern region and Southern Coast: (Ruvuma, Mtwara and Lindi regions):

Rains have already started and are expected to be normal to above normal.

It should be noted that although events of heavy and short duration of rainfall are likely to be more frequent in areas with above normal rains they are also common even in normal to below normal rainfall conditions. Development of tropical cyclones over the southwest Indian Ocean is likely to influence rainfall patterns in the country. Areas in which rainfall is likely to be more influenced by Cyclones includes Central, South-Western highlands, Western areas and Coastal areas.

D: TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS

Climate systems indicate that most parts of the country will continue to experience high temperatures for the period of January to February 2015. Increased temperature conditions are expected over the Western and Southwestern parts of the country which until now are experiencing normal temperature conditions.

Tanzania Meteorological Agency will continue to monitor these changes and their likely impacts and will issue updates whenever necessary



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