



Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services
Administration (PAGASA)**

EL NIÑO ADVISORY NO. 3

El Niño conditions which started to develop since the last quarter of 2018 continue to persist in the tropical Pacific. Majority of climate models suggest around 75% probability of El Niño condition to continue to June-July-August (JJA) 2019 season.

In March, the weather systems that affected the country were the northeast (NE) monsoon, ridge of high pressure areas (HPAs), easterlies, low pressure areas (LPAs) and the passage of one tropical cyclone, named Tropical Depression (TD) "Chedeng" (March 17-19) which made landfall over Malita, Davao Occidental which brought widespread moderate to heavy rains in the eastern part of Mindanao and weakened into a low pressure area. The emergence of the North Pacific High (NPH) during the latter part of the month indicates the termination of the Northeast Monsoon (NE) and a shift of wind direction from northeasterly to easterly.

Rainfall assessment for the month of March showed that most areas of the country received way below to below normal rainfall, except for most parts of Davao region which received near normal rainfall. Furthermore, based on observed rainfall from November 2018 to March 2019, several areas of the country were affected by meteorological dry condition, dry spell or drought. Drought is defined as three (3) consecutive months of way below normal (>60% reduction from average) rainfall condition. The drought-affected provinces were as follows: LUZON (8), VISAYAS (1) and MINDANAO: (7).

Meanwhile, dry spell is characterized by three (3) consecutive months of below normal (21%-60% reduction from average) rainfall condition. Provinces affected by meteorological dry spell include the following: LUZON (28), VISAYAS (10), and MINDANAO (9). In addition, sixteen (16) provinces were experiencing dry condition or two consecutive months of below normal rainfall (21%-60% reduction from average) rainfall condition. For a complete list of these provinces, please refer to the Drought/Dry Spell Assessment map.

Generally during March, warmer than average night time air temperatures were observed, while slightly cooler than average daytime air temperatures were observed over most parts of the country. Average ranges of temperature recorded in the country are as follows: 19°C to 34°C over the lowlands of Luzon, 14°C to 24°C for mountainous areas of Luzon, 19°C to 32°C for Visayas, 23°C to 36°C over the lowlands of Mindanao and 19°C to 32°C over the mountainous areas of Mindanao.

The month of April signifies the period of dry and warm season. The weather systems that will likely to affect the country are the easterlies, intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), ridge of HPAs, LPAs and zero (0) or one (1) tropical cyclone that may develop or enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). Localized convection that may bring isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms in the afternoon or early evening maybe frequently experienced during the month.

Rainfall forecast for the month of April showed that most parts of the country will receive way below normal rainfall to below normal rainfall conditions.

Generally, near average surface air temperatures are predicted over most parts of the country. Predicted ranges of temperature will be as follows: 19°C to 39°C over the lowlands of Luzon, 12°C to 29°C in the mountainous areas of Luzon, 19°C to 38°C for Visayas, 18°C to 39°C in the lowlands of Mindanao and 14°C to 36°C in the mountainous areas of Mindanao.

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the on-going El Nino and areas potential for dry spell and drought will be made available at PAGASA website. Updates shall be issued as appropriate. For further information, please contact the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at telephone numbers 434-0955 or 435-1675.


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Issued: 05 April 2019
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