



**Press Statement**

*Quezon City, 28 November 2014*

**DRY CONDITION ADVISORY**

PAGASA has been continuously monitoring the possible development of an El Niño event since May 2014. El Niño is characterized by unusually warm sea surface temperatures (SSTs) at the central and eastern equatorial Pacific (CEEP). The established threshold of SST anomaly for an El Niño condition is  $+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  or higher persisting for five consecutive overlapping three months.

Current status of El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is still at neutral state. However, since August-September-October season, PAGASA has noted the occurrence of dry condition in some areas of the country as a result of anomalous atmospheric conditions associated with the continuous warming of the SST over the CEEP.

During the month of October and up to the remaining days of November, some parts of the country have experienced drier than normal rainfall conditions particularly over northern Luzon.

With these developments, and considering indications obtained from climate forecast generated from computer models, a general increase in the number of dry days is expected in the coming months. This may lead to possible occurrence of dry spell in some areas affecting irrigation and household water supplies. Dry spell is described as three (3) consecutive months of below normal (41%-80%) rainfall condition.

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor this event and will issue climate outlook in areas where dry spell will likely develop and/or intensify, as appropriate.

Meanwhile, all concerned government agencies are advised to take precautionary measures to mitigate the potential impacts of this phenomenon and follow PAGASA advisory update as necessary.

*signed*

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Acting Administrator

*"tracking the sky... helping the country"*