



ENSO ADVISORY

El Niño Advisory No. 9 / La Niña Watch

El Niño across the tropical Pacific Ocean shows signs of weakening and is expected to persist until March-April-May (MAM) 2024 season. Majority of climate models suggest a transition to ENSO-neutral conditions during the April-May-June (AMJ) 2024 season (79% chance). However, there is a likelihood for La Niña to develop (55% chance) during the June-July-August (JJA) 2024 season. With this development, the PAGASA ENSO Alert and Warning System is now raised to La Niña Watch.

Assessment in February 2024

The Northeast (NE) monsoon, easterlies, localized thunderstorms, the ridge of high-pressure area (HPA), low-pressure areas (LPAs), and shear lines were the weather systems that influenced the country in February. Moreover, no tropical cyclone entered/developed in the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

During the month, several flooding and rain-induced landslides occurred in some areas of Mindanao due to the combined effects of the NE monsoon, trough of LPA, and shear lines. These hazards caused twenty-two (22) casualties and damages to infrastructure and agriculture totaling around Php3.6 billion, as contained in the Situational Report No. 21 from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) dated February 25, 2024.

Rainfall assessment for the month showed that generally way below to below normal rainfall conditions were experienced in most parts of the country except in some areas in Mindanao, where near to above normal rainfall conditions were observed.

Based on observed rainfall data, twenty-four (24) provinces from Luzon and one (1) province in the Visayas experienced meteorological drought; sixteen (16) provinces were under dry spells, and ten (10) provinces were under dry conditions. For a complete list of these provinces, please refer to the [Drought/Dry Spell Assessment Maps and Tables](#).

Surface air temperatures were generally near average to warmer than average across the country. The actual temperature ranges were as follows: mountainous areas of Luzon: 11.3°C – 27.4°C; rest of Luzon: 14.1°C – 36.8°C; Visayas: 21.5°C – 35.0°C; mountainous areas of Mindanao: 15.4°C – 33.0°C; rest of Mindanao: 18.7°C – 37.1°C and 20.9°C – 34.3°C in Metro Manila.

Furthermore, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro (36.8°C, 22 February), and Zamboanga City (37.1°C, 15 February) have surpassed their highest recorded maximum temperature for the month.

Outlook for March 2024

The warm and dry season will commence in March. The weather systems that may affect the country for the month are the weakening NE Monsoon, HPAs, localized thunderstorms, LPAs, easterlies, and zero (0) or one (1) tropical cyclone that may enter/develop in the PAR.

The rainfall forecast for March shows that most parts of the country will likely experience way below to below-normal rainfall conditions and the probability is high.

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Likewise, twenty-five (25) provinces in Luzon and five (5) provinces in the Visayas are potential for meteorological drought conditions; twenty-two (22) provinces are potential for dry spell and fifteen (15) provinces are potential for dry conditions. For the complete list of these provinces, please refer to the [Drought/Dry Spell Outlook](#).

Generally below-average to warmer-than-average surface air temperatures are expected throughout the country this month. The forecast temperature ranges are as follows: 20.0°C to 36.0°C over Metro Manila; 12.0°C to 28.0°C in the mountainous areas of Luzon; 17.0°C to 37.0°C for the rest of Luzon; 20.0°C to 36.5°C in the Visayas; 14.0°C to 35.0°C over the mountainous areas of Mindanao and 18.0°C to 37.5°C over the rest of Mindanao.

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the ongoing El Niño, its effect on the local climate, and the possibility of La Niña. Moreover, areas potential for meteorological dry spells and drought will be updated and disseminated accordingly. Consequently, all government agencies concerned and the general public are encouraged to take precautionary measures to mitigate the adverse impacts of the said phenomena. For more information, please contact the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at 8284-0800, extension 4920 or 4921.

Original Signed:

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Administrator

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