



Republic of the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services

Administration (PAGASA)

EL NIÑO ADVISORY NO. 2

El Niño condition which started to develop during the last quarter of 2018 is still present in the tropical Pacific Ocean. Both oceanic and atmospheric indicators have reached El Niño threshold levels in February. Recent conditions suggest that this phenomenon will likely to continue until the April-May-June 2019 season and that varying impacts are now occurring in most areas of the country.

Assessment in February 2019

The weather systems that affected the country during the month were the northeast (NE) monsoon, low pressure areas (LPAs), ridge of High Pressure Areas (HPAs), localized thunderstorms, and the passage of Tropical Depression (TD) "Betty" (February 28) but did not affect any part of the country. It quickly dissipated into a LPA upon entering the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

Rainfall assessment for the month of February showed that most areas of the country received way below to below normal rainfall. Furthermore, based on observed rainfall from October 2018 to February 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 (Ilocos Norte), and MINDANAO: (Zamboanga Del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Maguindanao, and Sulu).

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 (Ilocos Sur, La Union, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, Palawan, and Catanduanes), VISAYAS (Aklan), and MINDANAO (Zamboanga Del Norte, Misamis Occidental, and Tawi-Tawi). In addition, thirty four 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](#).

Average temperatures during the month were generally near average to slightly below average, however, daytime temperatures were observed to be slightly above average especially in Mindanao and eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas. Temperature ranges were as follows: Metro Manila: 19.0 – 33.2°C; mountainous areas of Luzon: 11.0 – 25.8°C; lowland Luzon: 16.2 – 36.5°C; lowland Visayas: 17.2 – 33.5°C; mountainous Mindanao: 15.0 – 34.0°C; and lowland Mindanao: 17.7 – 35.8°C. Meanwhile, two stations in Luzon have surpassed their recorded highest temperature; Virac, Catanduanes (31.5°C on Feb. 21/ extreme record was 30.6 on Feb.24, 1988) and San Jose, Occidental Mindoro (36.5°C on Feb 9/ extreme record was 36.2 on Feb.27, 1998).

Outlook in March 2019

The weather systems that will likely affect the country during the month are the NE monsoon, localized thunderstorms, inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ), LPAs, ridge of High Pressure Areas (HPAs), easterlies, and 0 or 1 tropical cyclone that may enter/develop inside the PAR.

Rainfall forecast for March indicates that below normal to way below normal rainfall are expected in Luzon, Visayas and northern Mindanao. However, near to above normal rainfall conditions may be experienced in Surigao del Sur and Regions XI and XII in Mindanao. Based on this rainfall outlook, it is expected that twenty-one (21) provinces are potential for dry conditions, forty-one (41) provinces are potential for dry spell, and ten (10) provinces are potential for drought at the end of March. For a complete list of these provinces, please refer to the [Drought/Dry Spell Outlook map](#).

Generally, near average to slightly warmer than average surface air temperatures are predicted over most parts of Visayas and Mindanao with some areas in Luzon that may experience slightly below average temperatures. Predicted ranges are as follows: Metro Manila: 19.9 – 36.6°C; mountainous areas of Luzon: 11.3 – 28.6°C; lowland Luzon: 18.4 – 38.0°C; lowland Visayas: 18.9 – 36.0°C; mountainous Mindanao: 14.0 – 34.5°C; and lowland Mindanao: 19.0 – 37.7°C.

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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