

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)

LA NIÑA ADVISORY NO. 6

La Niña continues to manifest in the Tropical Pacific Ocean. Most climate models suggest that La Niña is likely to continue through March-April-May 2022 season (~77% chance) and returning to ENSO-neutral conditions in May-June-July 2022 season.

La Niña increases the likelihood of having above normal rainfall conditions in some areas of the country. Adverse impacts such as floods and landslides are likely to occur over the vulnerable areas and sectors of the country.

Assessment in February 2022

The weather systems that affected the country during the month were the Northeast (NE) monsoon, easterlies, localized thunderstorms, trough of low pressure areas (LPAs) and tail end of the frontal system (shear line). Moreover, no tropical cyclone entered/developed in the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) in February.

Rainfall assessment for the month showed that generally near to above normal rainfall was observed in most parts of the country except in Ilocos Sur, La Union, Zambales, Metro Manila, Guimaras, Negros Oriental and Misamis Occidental where below normal rainfall conditions were experienced. Moreover, way below normal rainfall was observed in Pangasinan.

Surface air temperatures were generally near to slightly above average in most parts of the country. This month, La Trinidad, Benguet, experienced the lowest observed temperature (9.6°C, 28 February) while San Jose, Occidental Mindoro observed the highest maximum temperature (36.7°C, 27 February). The actual temperature ranges were as follows: mountainous areas of Luzon: $12.4^{\circ}\text{C} - 25.6^{\circ}\text{C}$; rest of Luzon: $16.8^{\circ}\text{C} - 36.7^{\circ}\text{C}$; Visayas: $20.6^{\circ}\text{C} - 34.0^{\circ}\text{C}$; mountainous areas of Mindanao: $15.4^{\circ}\text{C} + 33.0^{\circ}\text{C}$; rest of Mindanao: $18.6^{\circ}\text{C} - 36.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $21.5^{\circ}\text{C} - 33.9^{\circ}\text{C}$ in Metro Manila. Furthermore, San Jose (36.7°C, 27 February) have surpassed its highest recorded maximum temperature for the month.

Outlook for March 2022

Warm and dry season may commence in March. The weather systems that may affect the country for the month are the NE monsoon, ridge of High Pressure Areas (HPAs), localized thunderstorms, tail end of frontal system (shearline), LPAs, easterlies and zero (0) or one (1) tropical cyclone that may enter/develop in the PAR. The combined effects of these weather systems may potentially trigger rains that may cause floods, flashfloods, and rain-induced landslides in vulnerable areas.

Rainfall forecast for the month suggests that near to above normal rainfall conditions in most parts of country are expected. However, below to way below normal rainfall will be likely in the provinces of Abra, Apayao, Mountain Province, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and La Union.

Generally, near average to slightly warmer than average air temperatures are forecasted in most parts of the country, except for Romblon and Samar, where cooler than average air temperatures are expected. Moreover, above average air temperature is forecasted in Zambales and Zamboanga del Norte. Forecast ranges of temperature are as follows: 10.0°C to 28.0°C over the mountainous areas of Luzon, 13.0°C to 37.0°C over rest of Luzon, 19.0°C to 36.0°C over the Visayas, 14.0°C to 35.0°C over the mountainous areas of Mindanao, 19.0°C to 39.0°C over the rest of Mindanao and 19°C to 37°C over Metro Manila.

Despite the changes in the quarantine alert levels due to the COVID-19 pandemic, PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the climate conditions that may affect the country, especially on the on-going La Niña and updates shall be issued as appropriate. For further information, please contact the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at telephone number 8284-0800, local 906.

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