



LA NIÑA ADVISORY NO.4

La Niña continues to persist across the Tropical Pacific. Majority of climate models predict La Niña will likely to continue until January-February-March 2022 season (~80% chance), and returning to ENSO-neutral in March-April-May 2022 season (~60% chance).

La Niña increases the likelihood of having above normal rainfall conditions across most 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 December 2021

The weather systems that affected the country during the month were the Northeast (NE) monsoon, localized thunderstorms, low pressure areas (LPAs), easterlies, intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), tail end of the frontal system (shear line) and the occurrence of one (1) tropical cyclone (TC), named Odette with international name, Rai (Dec. 14-18). TC "Odette" entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) as a severe tropical storm (STS) and further intensified into a typhoon (TY), maintained its strength while traversing and making nine (9) landfalls over the islands of Northern Mindanao, Visayas, and Palawan. TY Odette brought heavy to intense rainfall which caused massive flooding, storm surges and rain-induced landslides that significantly affected several areas in Regions 6,7,8,9,10, CARAGA and MIMAROPA. Furthermore, notable damage to lifelines, such as power, communication, water supply, ports, infrastructures as well as agriculture. Significant number of casualties were documented (dead - 407; missing - 78; injured -1,147) according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) latest situational report dated 05 January 2022.

Rainfall assessment for the month showed that below normal rainfall condition was experienced in general portions of mainland Luzon, while near to above normal rainfall were observed in Palawan, Catanduanes, Masbate, Sorsogon, Visayas and Mindanao, except with some patches of below normal rainfall in Antique, Zamboanga Sibugay, Davao City, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental and Basilan.

Slightly cooler to slightly warmer than average surface air temperatures were observed in most parts of the country except in some areas of Occidental Mindoro, Romblon Southern Leyte and South Cotabato, where cooler than average surface air temperatures were experienced. Surges of cold temperatures were also felt in most areas of the country, notably over Benguet province were 7.7°C was recorded. The mean temperature ranges were as follows: mountainous areas of Luzon: 13.7°C – 22.7°C; rest of Luzon: 19°C – 34.3°C; Visayas: 23°C – 30.6°C; mountainous areas of Mindanao: 18.8°C – 29.4°C; rest of Mindanao: 22.8°C – 33.8°C and 22.7°C – 31.4°C in Metro Manila.

Outlook for January 2022

The weather systems that will likely affect the country in January are the Northeast (NE) monsoon, localized thunderstorms, tail-end of frontal system (shearline), LPAs, ITCZ, easterlies and zero (0) or one (1) tropical cyclone that may enter/develop in the PAR. The NE Monsoon may still be enhanced by other prevailing weather systems that could trigger floods, flashfloods and rain-induced landslides over susceptible areas. Moreover, surges of cold temperatures will still be likely.

Rainfall forecast for the month shows that most parts of Ilocos Region, Central Luzon and northern Palawan will likely receive below normal rainfall, while the major parts of the country will likely receive near normal rainfall. Moreover, above normal rainfall condition will be likely in Region IV-A, Romblon, Albay, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Leyte, Southern Leyte, most of Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Generally, near average to slightly warmer than average air temperatures are forecasted in most parts of the country, except Batanes, Romblon, Southern Leyte and South Cotabato, where slightly cooler to cooler than average surface air temperatures are expected. Forecast ranges of temperature are as follows: 10°C to 27.5°C over the mountainous areas of Luzon, 13°C to 37°C over rest of Luzon, 20°C to 35.0°C over the Visayas, 17°C to 33.5°C over the mountainous areas of Mindanao, 19°C to 36.5°C over the rest of Mindanao and 19°C to 35°C over Metro Manila.

Despite the on-going community quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic, PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the climate conditions that may affect the country, especially with 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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