



Republic of the Philippines

## DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services

Administration (PAGASA)

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### SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK JULY – DECEMBER 2021

#### Overview

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) - neutral conditions are present across the tropical Pacific Ocean, as both the oceanic and atmospheric indicators are within neutral levels. Majority of the climate models suggest ENSO-neutral conditions are likely to prevail during the July-August-September 2021 season. However, La Niña is likely to re-emerge (55% chance) during the September-October-November 2021 season and may persist until the first quarter of 2022. PAGASA ENSO Alert status is at La Niña Watch.

La Niña increases the likelihood of having above normal rainfall conditions across most areas of the country, as what have been experienced during the previous episode. Adverse impacts such as flooding and landslides are expected over vulnerable areas and sectors of the country.

#### July to September 2021

The season suggests a continuation of ENSO-neutral conditions, but cooling in the tropical Pacific may likely develop. Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are forecasted to gradually decrease toward weak La Niña levels.

The normal climate pattern during these months are characterized by widespread and heavy rainfall affecting the western sections of Luzon and Visayas since this is the peak of the Southwest (SW) monsoon season or "Habagat". However, monsoon breaks are also expected to occur within the season as the ridge of the North Pacific high-pressure area (HPA) extends toward the country, where warm and sunny weather can be experienced in some affected areas. Tropical cyclone (TC) activity is also more active during this period, with average tracks mostly located over the northern part of the country that may enhance the SW monsoon.

The weather systems expected to affect the country during the season include the SW monsoon, localized thunderstorms, easterlies, inter-tropical convergence zone (ITCZ), low pressure areas (LPAs) and five (5) to seven (7) TCs that may develop or enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

The average rainfall condition throughout the period is predicted to be near normal all over the country, however in July, a higher probability for below normal condition is predicted in most areas of Luzon. Moreover, average surface air temperatures are also expected to be near to warmer than average in most areas of the country, while the places in Baguio, Infanta, Daet, San Jose, Romblon, Masbate and Maasin, Leyte may experience cooler than average temperatures.

#### October to December 2021

There is a 62% probability for La Niña to emerge during the last quarter of the year. Normally, the eastern part of the country receives more rainfall at this period, therefore above normal rainfall conditions may cause potential adverse impacts over vulnerable areas.

The period covers the first half of the Northeast (NE) monsoon season. The weather systems likely to affect the country are the easterlies, ITCZ, LPA, ridge of HPA, tail end of frontal system, NE monsoon and five (5) to six (6) TCs, which are mostly crossing or landfalling. Historically, average tracks of these TCs are across the central and southern parts of Luzon during October and towards Visayas and Northern Mindanao in November and December.

Rainfall forecast for this season will likely be near normal over most provinces in northern Luzon and Mindanao while above normal in most areas of central Luzon and Visayas. However, probabilistic forecast suggests a high likelihood for above normal rainfall over the eastern and central parts of Luzon, Visayas and northern Mindanao. Furthermore, surface air temperatures are predicted to be near to warmer than average in most parts of the country, except for Batanes, Romblon and Maasin, Leyte, where cooler than average temperatures are expected.

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 on the development of La Niña in the coming months 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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