



## **SEASONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK** **JANUARY - JUNE 2024**

A strong El Niño persisted across most of the tropical Pacific Ocean and is expected to continue through January-February 2024, although the sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the far eastern equatorial Pacific starts to weaken. Majority of global climate models suggest that El Niño will likely persist until the March-April-May (MAM) 2024 season with a transition to ENSO-neutral during April-May-June 2024 season.

El Niño increases the likelihood of below-normal rainfall conditions, which could bring negative impacts (such as dry spells and droughts) in most areas of the country which will likely be manifested in March to May 2024. This may adversely affect the different climate-sensitive sectors such as water resources, agriculture, energy, health, public safety, and other key sectors of the country.

### ***January to March 2024 Outlook***

El Niño is expected to persist in the tropical Pacific during the season. However, the warmer than normal sea surface temperatures will likely continue to gradually weaken.

The climate for this period is still influenced by the ongoing El Niño in the tropical Pacific. The weather systems that may affect the country for this season are the Northeast Monsoon (NEM), shear lines, frontal system, easterlies, intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ), localized thunderstorms, low pressure areas (LPAs), ridge of high-pressure areas (HPAs) and zero (0) to two (2) tropical cyclones (TCs) may develop/enter in the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). TCs are generally less frequent at this time of the year with tracks mostly dissipating before landfall, recurving, or passing through the Visayas towards Palawan area. Surges of the Northeast Monsoon (NEM) are still expected to affect the country, bringing colder temperatures, especially over the northern portions of the country.

Rainfall for the Jan-Feb-Mar (JFM) season is predicted to be way below to below normal over most parts of the country except for Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur. Likewise, probabilistic forecast for the season also suggests a higher chance for below normal rainfall conditions in most areas of the country. With this rainfall forecast and previous assessment of observed rainfall, areas potential for meteorological dry spell and drought were identified, wherein at the end of March 2024, 60% of the country are likely to experience drought and 18% for dry spell.

Surface air temperatures are expected to be generally near to slightly above average in most parts of the country except for a few areas that may experience cooler than average (Ilocos Sur, Coron, Romblon Masbate, and Maasin) and warmer than average temperature (Iba, Clark, NAIA, Dipolog and Misamis Oriental). Cold surges are still expected to affect the country during the period, especially in January and February.

Gradual weakening of the NE monsoon is expected in March. This may signal the start of the dry and warm season in the country as surface air temperatures will slowly begin to rise.

### ***April to June 2024 Outlook***

Transition from El Niño to ENSO-neutral condition is anticipated during the season. However, majority of climate models suggest an increasing probability for the development of La Niña thereafter (> 50% chance).

This period is characterized by warm and humid weather conditions, especially during the months of April and May, where the transition of the winds toward the southwest (SW) monsoon season occurs. With the ongoing El Niño, onset of the rainy season over the western sections of Luzon and Visayas (Climate Type I) is expected to be slightly delayed but within the normal range, which may occur during the first half of June.

The weather systems that may influence the country's climate are the easterlies, LPAs, HPAs, ITCZ, localized thunderstorms, southwest monsoon and two (2) to four (4) TCs that may develop/enter in the

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PAR. During the period, the average tracks of TCs are generally from eastern Visayas moving westward with its approach to the central and northern Luzon areas in April and May and from Bicol Region that may traverse the central and northern Luzon in June.

Predicted rainfall conditions for this season are generally below normal throughout the country with some exceptions of near normal conditions over the provinces of Quirino, Aurora, Cotabato, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Sur, Basilan and Davao Region. Probability forecast also suggests higher probability of below normal rainfall conditions across the country. Further analyses of monthly rainfall also suggest that areas potential for dry spell and drought will peak in April (67% for drought and 22 % for dry spell), and at the end of May, 34% of the country are still potential for drought and 2% for dry spell.

Generally, surface air temperatures in most parts of the country will likely be near average to above average except for Calayan, Daet, Coron, San Jose, Occ. Mindoro, Romblon, Masbate and Bohol where below average temperatures are expected to be felt.

PAGASA will continue to closely monitor the ongoing El Niño. Likewise, areas potential for meteorological dry spells and drought will be updated and will be disseminated accordingly. Meanwhile, all government agencies and the public are encouraged to take precautionary measures to mitigate the adverse impacts of the said climate phenomenon. For more information, please call the Climatology and Agrometeorology Division (CAD) at 8284-0800, extension 4920 or 4921.

Original Signed:

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Date Issued: 15 January 2024

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