



KMD

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN

KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

7th Dekad, 1st to 10th March, 2009

Issue No. 7/2009,

Season: FMA

HIGHLIGHTS

- *During the 7th Dekad i.e. 1st – 10th March 2009, light to moderate rainfall was experienced over western and Nyanza Provinces and Central Rift Valley, with Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu, Kitale, Kericho and, Narok, recording 23.1, 9.0, 22.9, 16.4, 8.8, and 4.5mm respectively. Some parts of Central Province and Nairobi Area and its environs experienced light to moderate rainfall with, Nyeri, Dagoretti, JKIA, Wilson Airport and Thika recording, 33.8, 3.1, 14.0, 7.7 and 17.0 mm respectively. The rest of the country remained generally sunny and dry except for some significant rainfall of 9.4 and 14.3mm received at Mombasa and Mtwapa respectively. (Fig 1, 2, 3, &4)*
- *Day time temperatures were relatively high over most parts of the country, due to reduced cloud cover, during the Dekad with Lodwar, Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Makindu, Dagoretti, JKIA and Mombasa recording a Dekadal Mean day Maximum of, 38.0, 38.9, 37.9, 37.4, 32.2, 26.7, 29.2, and 33.0 deg Celsius respectively. (Fig 1, 2, 3 &4)*
- *Night temperatures were relatively warmer over western and Central Rift Valley due to the slight decrease in the cloud cover during the Dekad with Nyahururu, Narok, and Eldoret Airport recording a Dekadal mean minimum of 7.5, 9.0, 10.7, and 9.2 deg Celsius respectively. (Fig 1, 2 &3).*
- *Land preparation in readiness of the “Long Rain Season” was taking place in the arable regions of the country.*
- *In pastoral regions and game parks of Northern Rift Valley, Southern Rift Valley, North Eastern and South Eastern, dry and sunny conditions prevailed resulting in acute water shortages for both human and*

animal use. Death of livestock has been reported in several pastoral regions due to the current drought. (Figs. 1- 4)

- *Incidences of human/wildlife conflict over food and water have been reported to be on the rise, causing serious damage on farms and on human settlements due the current drought facing the country. (Figs. 1-4)*
- *Famine and hunger was and is being experienced in many parts of the Country especially in Eastern, Central, Coast, Northeastern, Nyanza and Rift Valley Provinces which experienced inadequate rainfall during the last “Short Rains” season. Worst hit are the Districts of Turkana, Pokot, Barigo, Samburu, Marlal, North and South Horr, Wajir, Garissa, Mandera, Tana, Lamu, Kilifi, Kwale, Taita-Taveta, Machakos, Kitui, Kajiado and Narok e.t.c, just to mention a few which had experienced poor rainfall performances during the last 2-3 successive seasons. Famine relief efforts were under way to avert lose of human lives. (Figs. 1- 5)*

CROP AND WEATHER REVIEW **(21st to 28th February 2009)**

Central Province and Nairobi Area:

Light to moderate rainfall were experienced, but dry and sunny conditions generally dominated the better part of the Dekad over most places in Central province, Nairobi area and its environs. Land preparation is taking place in readiness of the “Long Rains” Season. Famine/hunger is still being experienced in many parts of Muranga, Maragua, Thika, Nyeri- North, Kiambu and Kirinyaga Districts and stringent measures urgently required to arrest the food situation. (Figs.1-4).

Eastern Province:

Light to moderate rainfall were experienced over few places, but dry and sunny conditions generally dominated the better part of the Dekad over most places bordering Mt. Kenya, in the Eastern Province. Land preparation is taking place in readiness of the “Long Rains Famine/hunger is being experienced in the many parts of Mbeere District. (Figs.1, 2, 3 & 4).

In the Southern Lowlands of the Eastern Province (Machakos, Makueni, Mwingi and Kitui districts) insignificant rainfall was experienced over few places in these regions, but dry and sunny conditions generally dominated the better part of the Dekad. Land preparation is taking place in readiness of the “Long Rains.

Famine and its related impacts were still being experienced in most parts of these regions, due to the last two consecutive seasonal crop failure. Malnutrition levels are on the increase, especially among young children and the elderly. Food distribution has been taking place. (Figs.1, 2, 3 & 4).

The current food situation has led to various human and animal activities which include migration and settlement in other regions thereby adding more population pressure on the already degraded lands.

Some activities of concern such as chacoal burning as a source of income, game hunting and use of roots as an alternative source of food are causing further land degradation thereby destroying the limited vegetation cover and exposing the soil to wind and water erosion.

In the pastoral region, dry and sunny conditions has resulted in impoverished pastures and inadequate water situation for human, livestock and wildlife use. Death of livestock has been reported in several areas of this region due to the current drought. (Figs.1-5)

Coast Province:

Sunny and dry conditions were predominant in this region during the period under review. Land preparation is taking place in readiness of the “Long Rains. Famine and its related impacts are still being experienced in most parts of these region. (Figs.1-4)

The current food situation has led to activities that are causing further land degradation such as chacoal burning, and use of roots as an alternative source of food thereby destroying the limited vegetation cover.

In the pastoral region, dry and sunny conditions has resulted in impoverished pastures and inadequate water situation for human, livestock and wildlife use. Death of livestock has been reported in several areas of this region due to the current drought. (Figs.1-5)

North Eastern Province:

Sunny and dry conditions were experienced over this region during the Dekad resulting in depressed pastures and diminishing water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use and this may lead to death of livestock and wildlife. Death of livestock has been reported in several areas of this region due to the current drought and pastoralists are being advised to de-stock to avoid total loss.

Famine/hunger and its related impacts is still being experienced in the region due to inadequate rainfall for the last three consecutive seasons and malnutrition levels are still high, especially among young children and the elderly. Food distribution to the vulnerable livelihoods has been taking place. (Figs.1-4).

The current drought and food situation has led to various human and animal activities which include migration and settlement in other regions thereby adding more population pressure on the already degraded lands.

Western Province:

Light to moderate rainfall were experienced over few places, but generally sunny and dry conditions were experienced during the Dekad over most places of this region (Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia, Eldoret and Kitale). Land preparation for the “Long Rain” Season was taking place. (Figs.1,2,3 & 4).

Nyanza and Central Rift Valley:

Light to moderate rainfall were experienced, but generally sunny and dry conditions were experienced during the Dekad over few places in this regions. Land preparations in readiness or the “Long Rain” Season is taking place. In areas around Kisii land preparations/planting in readiness or the “Long Rain” Season is taking place. (Figs 1-4)

Northern and Southern Rift Valley:

Sunny and dry conditions were experienced in most places of the North Western Riftvalley regions during the dekad resulting in inadequate pastures and diminishing water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use. This has led to death of livestock and wildlife. (Figs.1-4).

Famine/hunger and its related impacts is being experienced and malnutrition levels are still high, especially among young children and the elderly. Famine reliefs efforts are in place to avert lose of human lives.

Sunny and dry conditions were experienced in most places of the the Southern Rift Valley region during the Dekad, resulting in inadequate pastures and diminishing water sources for livestock, wildlife and human use. Death of livestock has been reported in several areas of this region due to the current drought. (Figs.1-6).

The current drought and food situation has led to various human and animal activities which incude migration and settlement in other regions thereby adding more population pressure on the already degraded lands.

Decadal Rainfall (mm)

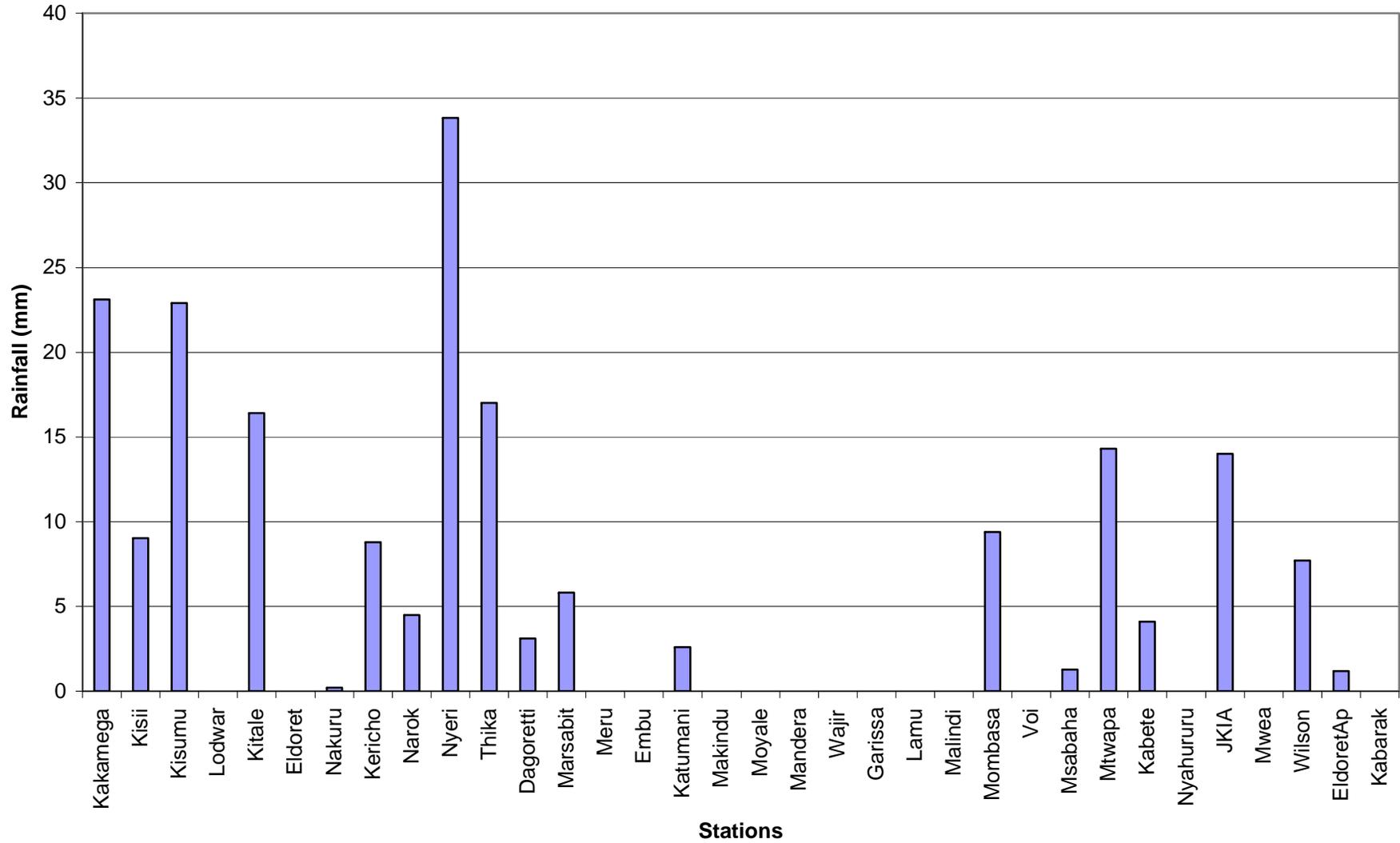


Fig. 1: Actual Rainfall (1st to 10th March, 2009) in mm

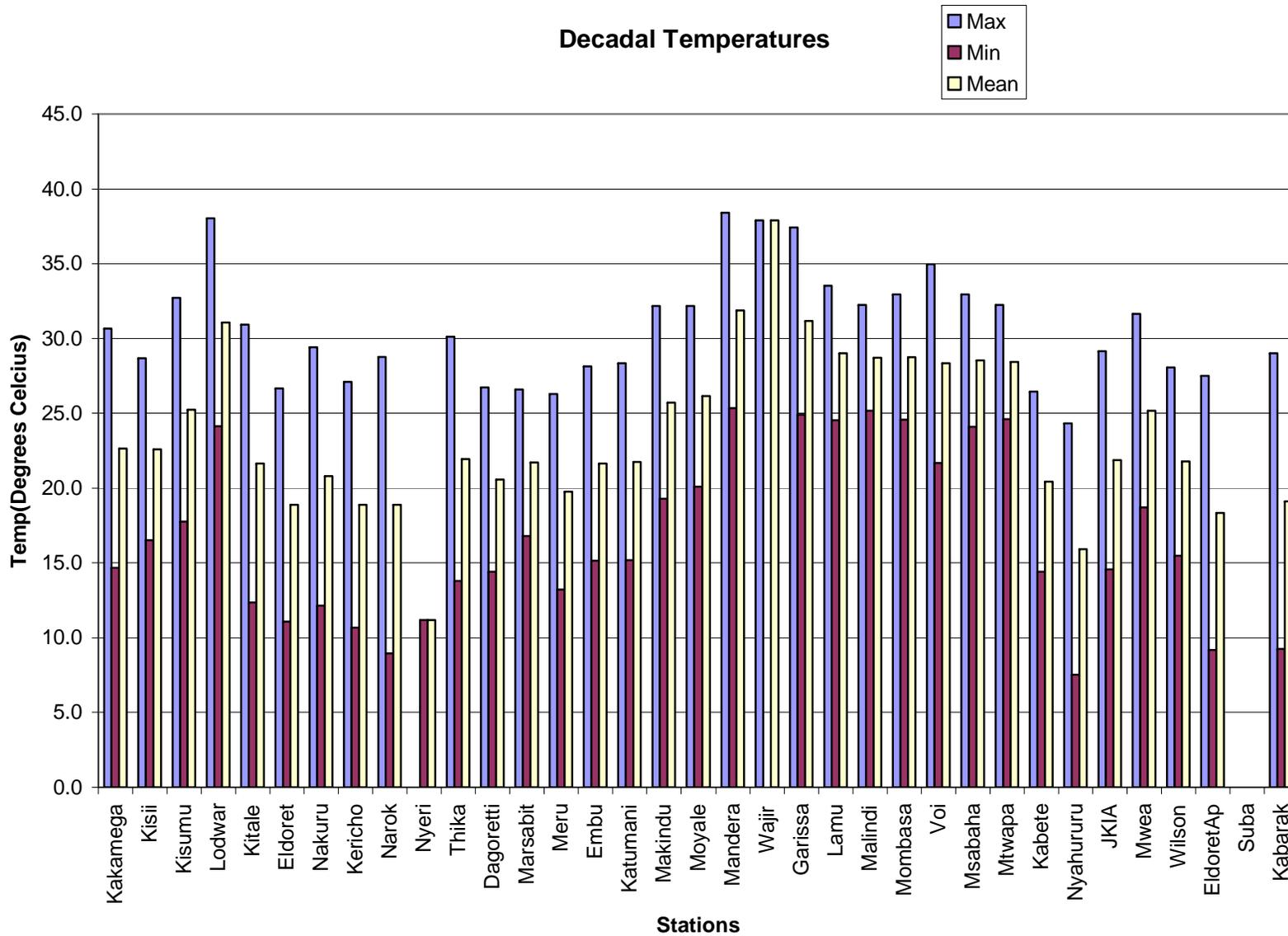


Fig 3: Mean Temperatures (1st to 10th March, 2009) deg. Celsius

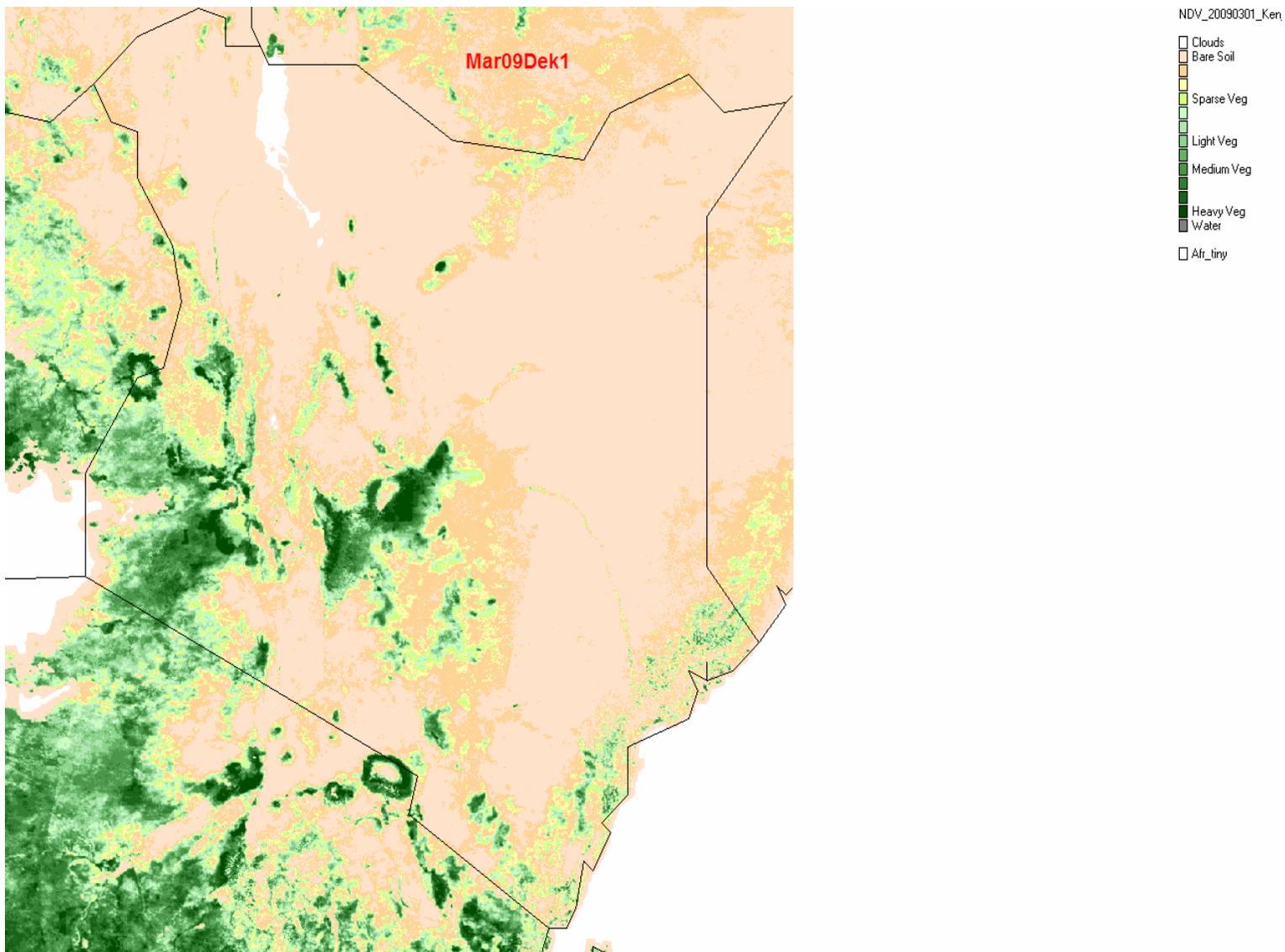


Fig. 5: Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (1st to 10th March, 2009)

EXPECTED WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS DURING THE NEXT 10 DAYS (1st –10th March, 2009).

During the next 10 days (11th - 20th March, 2009), Western, Nyanza and Central Rift Valley regions are expected to experience light to moderate rainfall over few places. Land preparations in readiness for the Long Rains Season are expected to continue.

Central Highlands, Nairobi area and its environs, are expected to experience generally sunny and dry conditions in most places with light rains over a few places. Land preparations/planting in readiness or the “Long Rain” Season is expected to continue taking place.

In Eastern Province regions of Embu and Meru districts, bordering Mt Kenya, are expected to experience mainly sunny and dry conditions in most places. Land preparations/planting in readiness or the “Long Rain” Season is expected to continue taking place.

In South-Eastern lowlands, sunny and dry conditions are expected to prevail over most parts of this region. Land preparations/planting in readiness or the “Long Rain” Season is expected to continue taking place. Drought Impacts are expected to continue depleting pastures and water sources for human, livestock and wildlife use. Death of livestock and game is expected to increase due the persistent and prolonged drought.

The Coastal region is expected to experience generally sunny conditions during the Dekad. Famine/hunger and its related impacts is expected continue being experienced in the region.

In the pastoral regions of Northwestern, Northeastern, Northern & Southern Rift Valley districts sunny and dry conditions are expected. Inadequate pastures and water sources for human and animal/wildlife use is expected to prevail. Death of livestock and game is expected to increase due the persistent and prolonged drought.

In summary, sunny conditions will prevail in most parts of the country. Famine and hunger is expected to continue being experienced in many parts of the Country, due to poor crop performances/yields during the last concluded “Short-Rains” Season. Famine relief efforts, to avert lose of human lives, are expected to continue supplying food to the vulnerable livelihoods as the drought severity continues worsening.

This product should be used in conjunction with Kenya Meteorological Department weather forecasts. For more information, Contact

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