



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTRY
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
KENYA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

EMBU METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE

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EMBU COUNTY MARCH-APRIL-MAY 2026 RAINFALL SEASONAL ONSET UPDATE

1.0 THE EMBU COUNTY MARCH-APRIL-MAY RAINFALL CLIMATOLOGY

The March to May period is the major rainfall season (Long Rains) over most parts of Embu. The highest seasonal rainfall amounts (greater than 300mm) are normally received over the regions adjacent to Mt Kenya ie the upper zone (Manyatta & Runyenjes Sub counties).

2.0 UPDATED EMBU MAM 2026 RAINFALL ONSET DATES

Rainfall that is currently being experienced is likely to continue into early March 2026 and is expected to meet the onset criteria over several regions. The onset criteria is defined as the receipt of at least **20 mm of rainfall within three consecutive days**, with **no dry spell exceeding seven (7) days thereafter**.

The forecasted early season rainfall is associated with the presence of favourable mesoscale and large-scale atmospheric systems, including the enhanced convective activity linked to the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO). These systems are expected to temporarily enhance moisture convergence and rainfall amounts over several parts of the country during the late February to early March period.

However, indications suggest that the **Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO)** is likely to transition to **less favourable phases from mid-March**, which may result in a **reduction in rainfall amounts** and an **increased likelihood of dry spells**, as the **convective environment becomes suppressed** over some regions.

This outlook should be used together with the **24-hour, 5-day, 7-day, monthly** and **special forecasts**, as well as **regular updates and advisories** issued by this Office, in addition to the **Weekly** and **Monthly County forecasts** developed and disseminated by the Embu

County Meteorological Office. **Farmers are advised to consult Agricultural Extension Officers** for further guidance and decision-making.

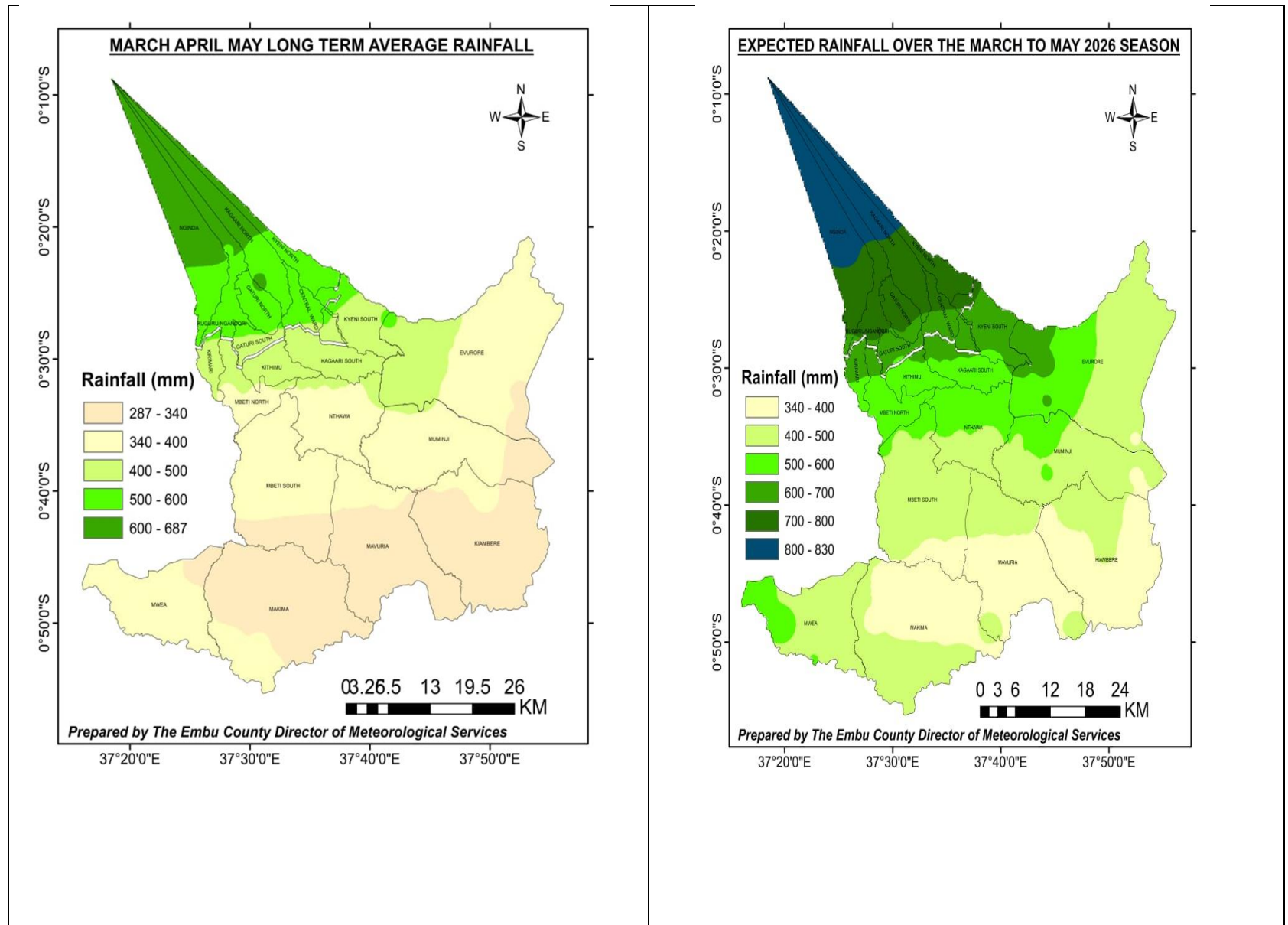
The MAM 2026 Long Rains onset has been realized from mid-February over Highground areas including Manyatta and Runyenjes Sub-Counties.

The onset dates for the various Sub-Counties are as indicated in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Onset, cessation and distribution

REGION	ONSET DATES	CESSATION DATES	DISTRIBUTION
<u>Manyatta Sub-County</u>	Onset criteria met in mid- February	<u>3rd to 4th week of May</u>	<u>Fair to Good</u>
<u>Runyenjes Sub-County</u>	Onset criteria met in mid- February	<u>3rd to 4th week of May</u>	<u>Fair to Good</u>
<u>Mbeere South</u>	<u>4th week of February</u>	<u>2nd to 3rd week of May</u>	<u>Fair</u>
<u>Mbeere North</u>	<u>4th week of February</u>	<u>2nd to 3rd week of May</u>	<u>Fair to poor</u>

Table 2: Spatial distribution of rainfall



NB: Updates on the seasonal performance and key climate drivers, including the Madden–Julian Oscillation (MJO) and tropical cyclones that may occasionally alter the seasonal rainfall performance, will be provided regularly. These updates will offer detailed insights into evolving rainfall patterns, thereby keeping stakeholders informed and supporting timely and informed decision-making.

Commentary of county weather forecaster:

County Meteorological Office: Email:cdmembu@meteo.go.ke.com/gideonlubia4@gmail.com

N.B: This forecast should be used in conjunction with the daily (24-hour) /weekly forecast issued by this department. For more information about the climate and weather in Kenya visit KMD website at <http://www.meteo.go.ke/>

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