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1 Weather Forecast for March-April-May (MAM) 2026 (Long Rains) Season

1.1 Highlights

The March-April-May rainfall season constitutes the main season along the coastal strip in which more than **300 mm** of rainfall is normally received as opposed to the hinterland **Figure** 1.

In MAM 2026, Kilifi County is expected to receive **Below-Normal** rainfall with a tendency towards Normal rainfall in the coastal strip. Towards the hinterland, rainfall will be depressed (**Fig**ure 2).

The distribution of rainfall will be poor in both time and space.

Occasional storms, and dry spells (long dry days within the season) are likely during the season.
The onset of the rainy season is anticipated between the **4th week of March and 1st week of April 2026** (approximately **24th – 31st March to 1st – 7th April 2026**). Intermittent rainfall may occur in February and March, and the season is expected to persist into June 2026, with cessation projected between **10th – 22nd June 2026**. For precise planning and decision-making, this forecast should be used together with the Monthly and Weekly forecasts to capture local variations and updated onset details.

The probability of getting **more than 300 mm** of rainfall during MAM 2026 season is higher in the coastal strip and reduces towards the hinterland **Figure** 3.

The temperature forecast indicates increased probability (**65% chance**) of warmer than normal temperatures in the whole of Kilifi County (**Fig**ure 4).

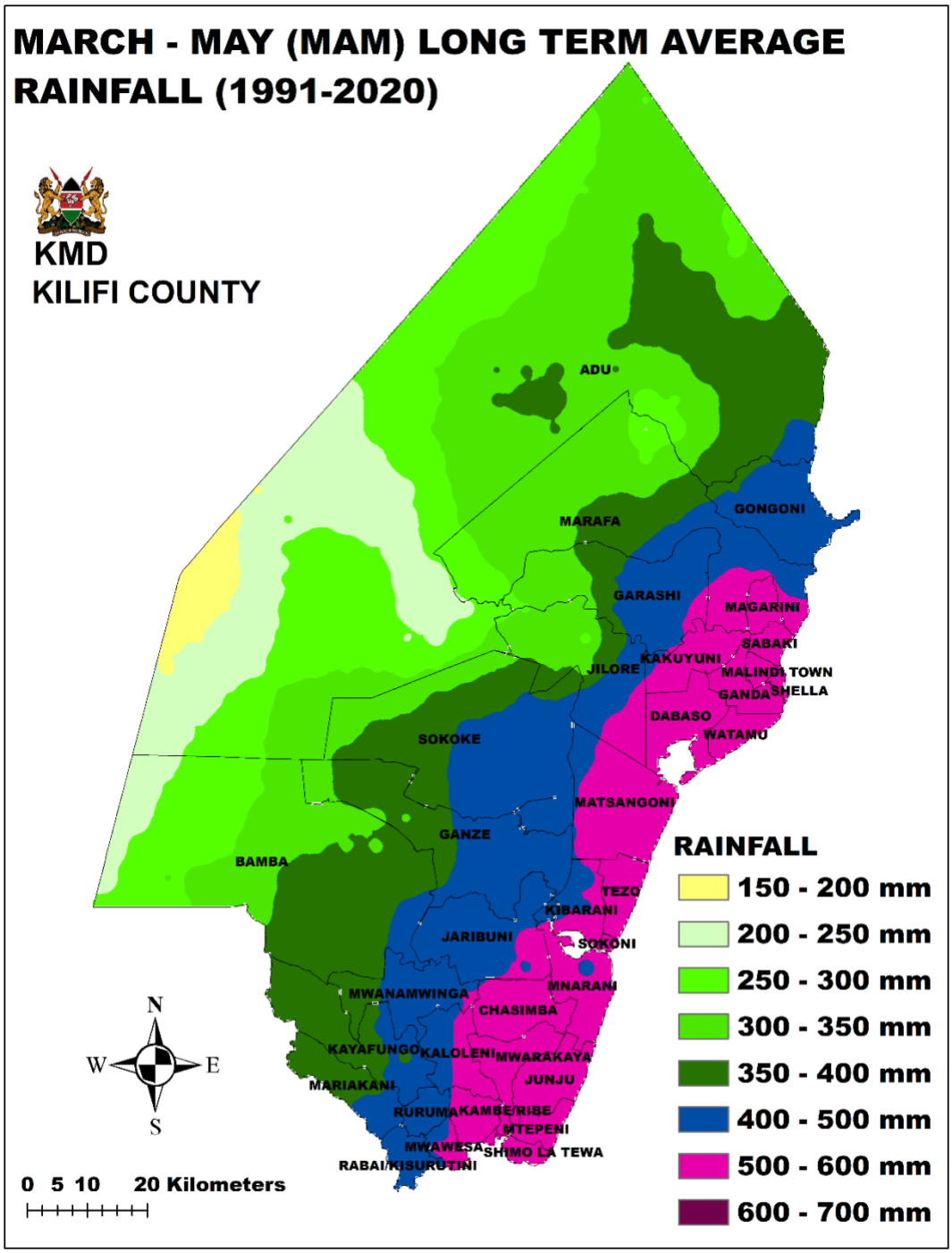


Figure 1. March-April-May (MAM) long term mean rainfall taken for the 1991-2020 climate normal.

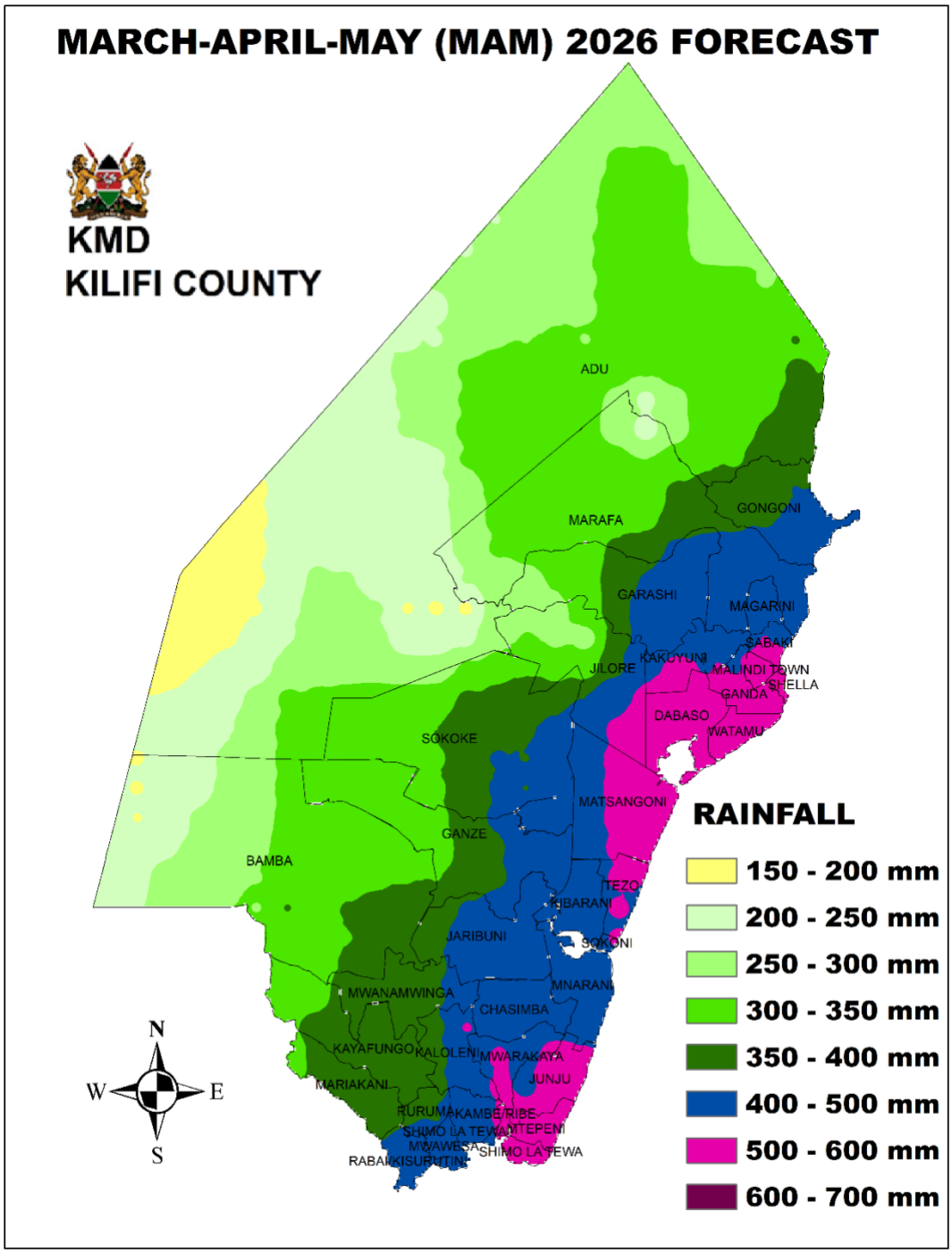


Figure 2. March-April-May (MAM) 2024 seasonal total rainfall forecast for Kilifi County

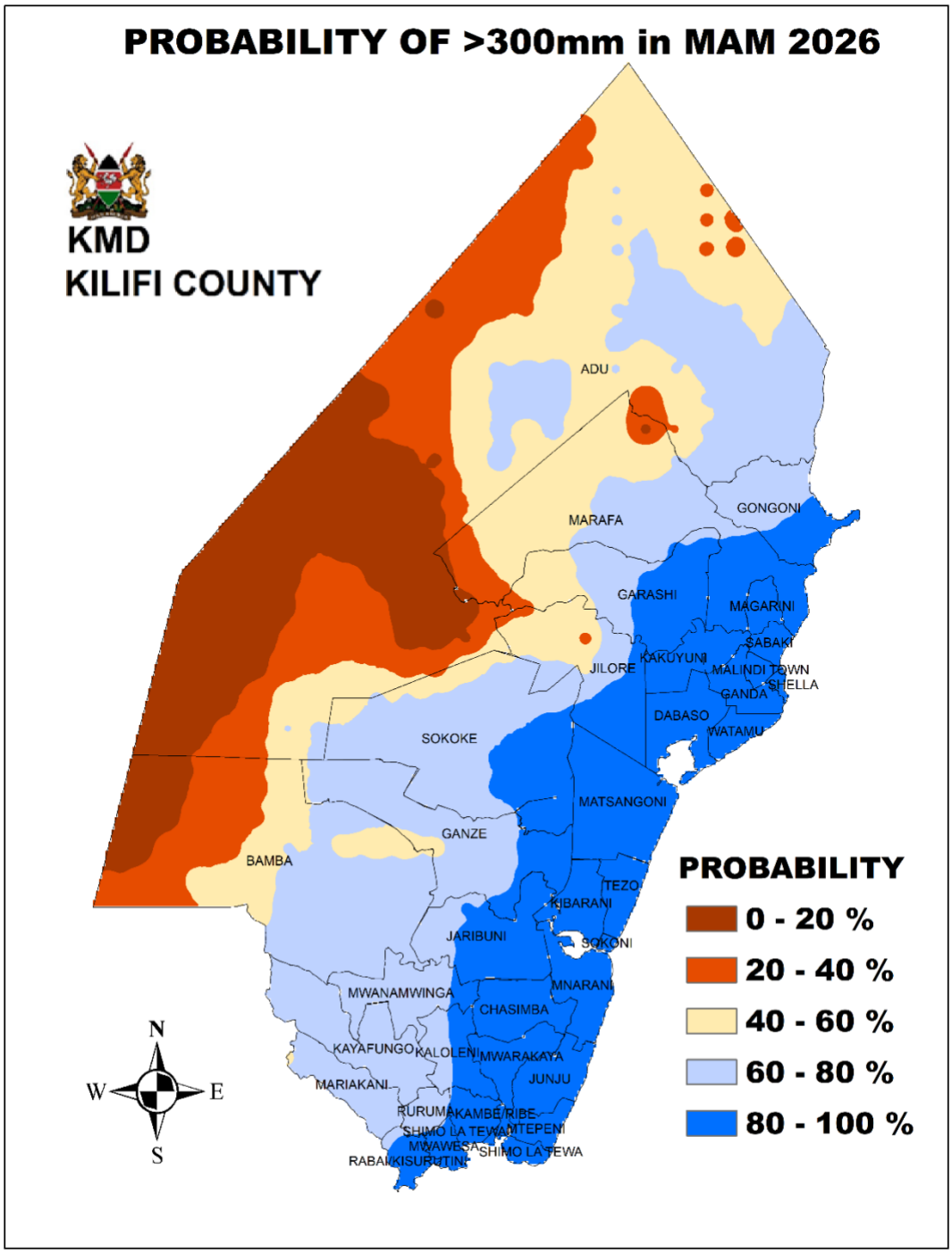


Figure 3. Probability of getting more than 300 mm of rainfall during MAM 2024 rainfall season in Kilifi.

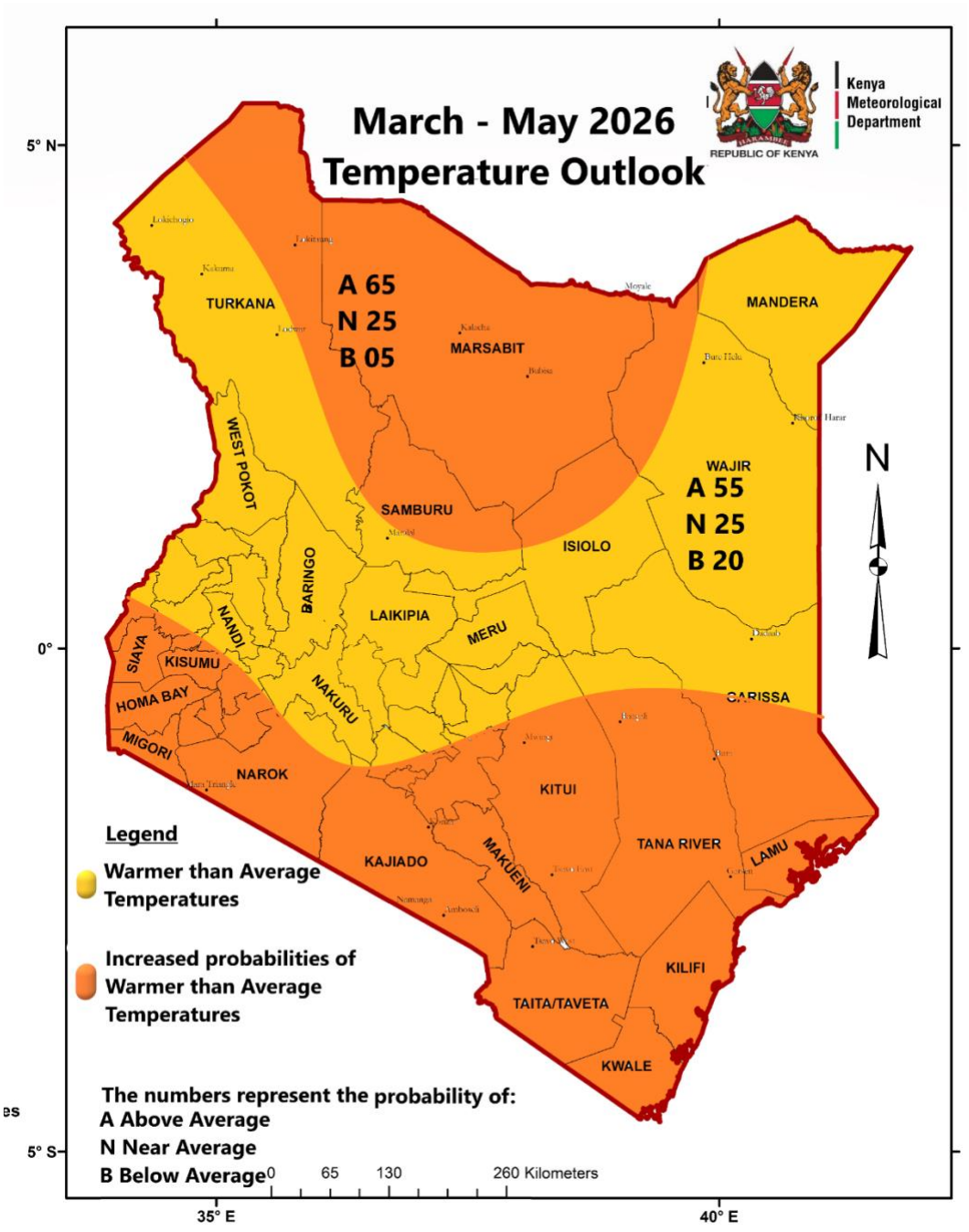


Figure 4. MAM 2026 Temperature Forecast

2.0 Summary for MAM 2024 forecast by ward

Sub-County	Ward	Probable Amount range in mm	Probable onset dates	Probable Cessation dates	Probable distribution
Magarini	Marafa (Dakacha)	200 – 300 mm	4th week of March to 1st week of April.2026	Continues to June 2026	long dry spells within the rain season that could affect vulnerable crops Poor distribution in both time and space
	Marafa (Mambrui, Madina)	300 – 400 mm			
	Magarini	400 – 500 mm			
	Gongoni	350 – 450 mm			
	Adu (Makongeni)	150 – 300 mm			
	Adu (Kisiki)	150 – 250 mm			
	Adu (Matolani)	250 – 350 mm			
	Adu (Kamale, \Adu, Ramada, Merereni, Kadzandani)	300 – 350 mm			
	Garashi (Baricho, Gandini)	250 – 350 mm			
	Garashi (rest of Garashi)	350 – 500 mm			
	Sabaki	400 – 500 mm			
Malindi	Jilore (Mkondani, Makobeni, Lango baya)	250 – 350 mm			
	Jilore (Kakoneni, Jilore, Girimacha)	350 – 520 mm			
	Kakuyuni	400 – 550 mm			
	Ganda	500 - 550 mm			
	Malindi Town	500 – 550 mm			
Kilifi South	Junju	400 – 550 mm			
	Mwarakaya	400 – 550 mm			
	Chasimba	400 – 500 mm			
	Mtepeni	500 – 600 mm			
	Shimo La Tewa	400 – 550 mm			

Kilifi North	Matsangoni	400 – 550 mm			
	Watamu	500 – 600 mm			
	Mnarani	400 – 500 mm			
	Tezo	400 – 550 mm			
	Kibarani	400 – 500 mm			
	Sokoni	400 – 500 mm			
Kaloleni	Mariakani	300 – 400 mm			
	Kayafungo	300 – 400 mm			
	Kaloleni	350 – 500 mm			
	Mwanamwinga [Tsangatsini, Viragoni, Kibwabwani, Kitangwini (West)]	350 – 400 mm			
	Mwanamwinga (East)	350 – 500 mm			
Ganze	Sokoke	300 – 450 mm			
	Ganze (Mwambani, Mirihini)	350 – 450 mm			
	Ganze (rest of Ganze)	300 – 400 mm			
	Jaribuni	350 – 500 mm			
	Bamba (Western Gede)	200 – 300 mm			
	Bamba (Rest of Bamba)	300 – 400 mm			
Rabai	Rabai	400 – 500 mm			
	Kambe/Ribe	400 – 500 mm			
	Ruruma	350 – 500 mm			
	Mwawesa	400 – 500 mm			

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAM 2026 (LONG RAINS) SEASON.

1.0 Choosing the Right Crops to Plant.

To minimize agricultural risks during the **March–April–May** (MAM) 2026 season, farmers are advised to:

- Select crops whose seasonal crop water requirements fall within the **lowest limit** of the predicted rainfall range.
- Prioritize **drought**-tolerant and **early-**maturing crop varieties where appropriate.

2.0 Onset Date Versus Planting Dates.

The seasonal rainfall onset is expected between the **4th week** of March and the **1st week** of April 2026, specifically:

- **24th – 31st March 2026**.
- **1st – 7th April 2026.**

Planting Guidance:

a. Dry Planting:
Farmers intending to dry plant are advised to do so during the **first week** of the forecasted onset window.

b. Wet Planting:
Farmers preferring wet planting are advised to wait for confirmation through **weekly** weather updates before planting.

c. Rainfall Threshold for Planting:
Whether **dry** or **wet** planting, farmers are strongly advised to plant only when the weekly forecast indicates at least **three (3**) consecutive rainy days with a total rainfall amount exceeding **20mm.**

3.0 Agricultural Advisory.

Farmers are encouraged to **consult** their respective **Agricultural Extension Officers** for technical guidance on crop selection, land preparation, soil and water conservation practices, and planting schedules aligned with this seasonal forecast.

4.0 Flood Risk Advisory.

Communities residing in **low-lying** and **flood**-prone areas, particularly coastal and riverine wards, are advised to:

• **Avoid** settlement in **flood**-prone zones.
• **Clear** drainage systems to prevent waterlogging.
• **Tak**e early precautionary measures to reduce flood-related risks.

5.0 Use of the Seasonal Forecast.

This seasonal forecast should be used together with:

• Monthly forecasts.
• Weekly forecasts.
• 5-day forecasts.
• Special weather advisories and updates issued by the **Kenya Meteorological Department** (KMD) and **relevant sectors**.

Regular monitoring of updated forecasts is highly recommended.

6.0 How to Access Weather Updates

Weekly weather updates are available from the **County Forecasts section** on the **Kenya Meteorological Department** (KMD) **website:**

https://meteo.go.ke/node/4942

Updates are typically published every **Monday evening** or **Tuesday morning**.

Issued by:

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