



**Ministry of Works and Transport  
Namibia Meteorological Service**

**STATEMENT ON THE 2020/2021 RAINFALL SEASON**

El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral conditions were observed over the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Since early May 2020, the sea surface temperatures over central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean have been observed to be near-to below normal. Furthermore, projections from Global Prediction Centres (GPC) suggest development of weak La Nina conditions with a 60% chance during the period September to November 2020 over the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. El Nino is associated with depressed rainfall over Namibia and La Nina with enhanced rainfall.

The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) index passed the threshold level of  $-0.4$  °C during August 2020, but it is forecasted to remain within the neutral phase till early January.

The IDO has three phases namely neutral, positive and the negative phase. The warm phase together with its associated easterly winds are more favourable with enhanced rainfall over Namibia.

Statistical and dynamic climate prediction models were used to determine the likelihoods of above-normal, normal and below-normal rainfall for each area for overlapping three-monthly periods i.e. October-November-December (OND) and January-February-March (JFM). Below-normal is defined as within the driest third of rainfall amounts of the thirty year (1961 to 1990, 1971 to 2000 and 1981 to 2010) rainfall amounts, while above-normal rainfall is defined as lying within the wettest third of recorded rainfall amounts and normal is the middle third, centred on the climatological median.

During the period OND, large parts of the country are likely to receive normal to above-normal rainfall with pockets of normal to below normal as shown in the map below. Above normal rainfall is likely in parts of Otjozondjupa and Kunene during the same period.

The normal to above normal rainfall is predicted during the period January-February-March 2021 over the bulk of the country with pockets of normal to below normal rainfall in few constituencies (see map below for more detail).

The colours for each zone indicate the probabilities of rainfall in each of the four categories, above normal, normal to above, normal to below and below normal. The first colour (blue) indicates the probability of rainfall occurring in the above normal category, the second colour (cyan) is for normal to above-normal rainfall, while the

third colour (yellow) represent the probability for normal to below-normal rainfall and the last colour (brown) is for below-normal rainfall. The probabilities associated with the categories are provided as A for above normal, N for Normal and B for below normal.

