Seasonal Forecast 2019/20

Meteorological Services Department
OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

i. Terminology
ii. Mean Start of rainfall season
iii. Defining rainfall regions
iv. Forecast for 2019-2020 season
v. Implications
Terminology

- **Normal** – long term average rainfall (between 75% and 125%)
- **Normal to below normal** – cumulative rainfall totals most likely to be within the long term average range with a chance of going below this range
- **Normal to above normal** – cumulative rainfall totals most likely to be within the long term average range with a chance of going above this range
- **Above normal to normal** – cumulative rainfall totals most likely to be above the long term average range with a chance of falling within the long term average range
- **Below normal to normal** – cumulative rainfall totals most likely to be below the long term average range with a chance of falling within the long term average range
Definitions: start of season is any day after the 1\(^{st}\) of October that a place receives 20 mm or more in 1 or two days provided there is no dry spell of 10 or more in the next 30 days.

Rain day: is a day which receives 0.85mm or more rainfall
Forecast Regions

a) REG I
   - Mashonaland West
   - Mashonaland Central
   - Mashonaland East
   - Midlands
   - Manicaland
   - Bulawayo
   - Masvingo
   - Matabeleland North
   - Matabeleland South

b) REG II
   - Mashonaland West
   - Midlands
   - Masvingo
   - Matabeleland North
   - Matabeleland South
   - Manicaland
   - Bulawayo
   - REG III
Rainfall outlook for the October to December (OND) 2019 period

(a) Long term mean rainfall for October-November-December (1981-2010)
(b) Seasonal outlook for October-November-December
Rainfall outlook for the January to March (JFM) 2020 period

(a) Long term mean rainfall for January-February-March (1981 to 2010),
(b) Seasonal outlook for January-February-March.
IMPLICATIONS OF THE 2019/20 RAINFALL SEASON OUTLOOK

• October rains are generally erratic for rain-fed agriculture; more meaningful rains normally begin at the end of November into December.

• In view of suitable temperature thresholds, those with irrigation facilities should not wait for the main rains to fall.

• There is need to continue with water harvesting programmes.

• The policies of small dam construction and borehole drilling/ deepening, conservation and protection of wetlands should continue.

• On farm activities should be guided by the 10-day weather forecasts as well as advice from Agricultural authorities. The 10-day weather forecasts will be issued from October until end of season.

• Violent storms, prolonged dry spells, flash floods and tropical cyclones cannot be ruled out as the season progresses.
Thank you