



WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY 2016

On the 23rd of March, every year, the Uganda National Meteorological Authority, under the Ministry of Water and Environment joins the rest of the world annually to celebrate the World Meteorology Day.

This day comes at a time when according to the World Meteorological Organisation, the world got hotter in parts of the world including Africa.

"In 2015 the long-term rise in global temperatures, caused mainly by greenhouse gas emissions, combined with the effects of a powerful El Niño to turn up the heat. Large areas of South America, Africa, much of Europe, northeast Eurasia, the Middle East and western parts of North America were particularly warm."

World Meteorological Organisation.

Hotter weather means longer dry seasons as has already been experienced by Uganda in this first quarter of the year while it will be wetter in other areas leading to floods & landslides.

The theme for this year's celebrations; **Hotter, Drier, Wetter**, is intended to emphasize the need to take urgent action on these drastic changing weather & climate patterns.

It is for this reason that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Uganda has partnered with the Government of Uganda to build the capacity of the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) to enable it monitor these changes in weather and climate change in the country more robustly so that they can be dealt with at the local level.

Through the Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Uganda Project, UNDP is looking to support the;

- Enhanced capacity of the Uganda National Meteorology Authority and Department of

Water Resource Management to monitor and forecast extreme weather, hydrology and climate change through training of staff and procurement of new weather stations and upgrade of existing ones.

- Efficient and effective use of hydro-meteorological and environment information for making early warnings and long-term development plans. Human technical capacity will be developed to use the data collected from the modernized weather and climate observation and information management systems established under the first outcome.

Already the project has;

- Procured and installed 20 base Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) and rehabilitated 32 weather stations.
- It has also installed the Automatic Message Switch System at Entebbe National Meteorological Center which connects UNMA to the Regional (Nairobi) and Global Telecommunications enabling them to get up to date weather information.
- In addition, various staff from UNMA have been trained on how to manage Automatic Weather Station.

To commemorate this day, national celebrations will be held jointly with the Directorate of Water, The National Forestry, at Serere Town Ship Primary school grounds in Serere District.

The Uganda National Meteorological Authority

WHAT IS UNMA?

Uganda National Meteorological Authority UNMA- (formerly Department of Meteorology) under Ministry of Water and Environment is a semi-autonomous government institution for weather and climate services (UNMA Act. 2012) and a focal institution to Inter-Governmental

Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an international body of experts mandated to analyze scientific research findings on climate change.

What UNMA Does:

The Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) is responsible for establishing and maintaining weather and climate observing stations network, collection, analysis and production of weather and climate information, (including warnings/advisories) to support social and economic development.

Mandate:

Uganda National Meteorological Authority-UNMA is mandated to promote, monitor weather and climate as well as provide weather predictions and advisories to Government and other stakeholders for use in sustainable development.

Mission:

Contribute to the overall national development through provision of quality customer focused cost effective and timely information for weather and climate services to all users.

Vision:

"To be a centre of excellence on Weather and climate services for sustainable development of Uganda".

Sectors served by UNMA;

The key sectors served by UNMA are; transport (mainly aviation and marine), defence, agriculture, disaster preparedness, environmental and water resources management, tourism and construction industry. UNMA accomplishes these responsibilities in collaboration and coordination with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and its Member States and other global and regional meteorological centres.

Functions of Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA)

The main purpose of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services as stated in the World Meteorological Organization Convention is Monitoring weather and climate; providing meteorological, hydrological and related services in support of relevant national needs in the following areas:

- Provision of meteorological and climatological services to weather dependent sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water resources management, civil aviation, marine and the private sector including industry, commerce and public utilities for the better exploitation and utilization of natural resources for national development;
- Provision of tailored meteorological services to the aviation industry for the safety of the civil aviation operations in accordance to WMO and ICAO recommendations.
- Organization and administration of surface and upper air meteorological observations within our area of responsibility (Uganda geographical boundaries) and the publication of all relevant Climatological data;
- Maintenance of an efficient telecommunications system for rapid collection and dissemination of meteorological information required for national and international use in accordance with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) procedures;
- Co-ordination of research in the fields of meteorology and climatology including co-operation with other authorities in all aspects of applied meteorological research and the maintenance of the National Meteorological Library;
- Evolvement of suitable training programmes in all fields of meteorology and other related scientific subjects which are relevant to the development of Uganda and other countries that may participate in the UNMA's training activities.

MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY 2016 BY PETTERI TAALAS SECRETARY-GENERAL WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION



Climate change is affecting our natural and human environment. Our emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise, and the temperature of the lower atmosphere and the ocean is increasing.

Today the Earth is already 1°C hotter than at the start of the twentieth century. The international community has unanimously recognized the need for bold action.

Governments adopted the Paris Agreement last year to "hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels



Petteri Taalas

and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C."

This is an ambitious

commitment, and the national plans adopted so far may not be enough to avoid a rise of 3 °C. Yet, we have the knowledge and tools we need to face the future.

WMO and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services are playing an essential role in building climate-resilient societies. Because of past and present emissions, we must prepare for a future with more hot days, warm nights and heat waves. This will affect public health and put a strain on our societies. We can reduce health risks related to heat through multi-hazard

early warning systems that provide timely alerts to decision-makers, health services and the general public.

We must also address droughts more proactively through integrated drought management. We need to provide decision-makers with guidance on effective policies and land management strategies. We also need to improve access to scientific knowledge and share best practices for coping with drought.

Climate change is also increasing the risk of heavy

rains and floods. We can protect lives and property from such hazards through impact-based forecasts. This approach to disaster risk is the best way to empower emergency managers with information they can act on.

The UN Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals establish a powerful global commitment to end poverty. This includes pursuing improved food security and water and sanitation for all. It calls for clean energy and resilient cities. And it promotes the sustainable management of natural ecosystems.

Building climate and weather resilient communities is a vital part of this global strategy for achieving sustainable development.

The WMO community will continue to support countries in pursuing sustainable development and tackling climate change through the provision of the best possible science and of operational services for weather, climate, hydrology, oceans and the environment.

Thank you.

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