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# UGANDA NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY CELEBRATES WORLD INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL DAY

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 23rd March respectively. The National celebrations for this year will be held jointly with the Directorate of Water, The National Forestry, at Serere Town Ship Primary school grounds in Serere District and the three Themes are:

- "Hotter, Drier, Wetter, Face the Future" for Meteorology
- "Good sanitation how is your leader" for Water
- "Celebrating forests and water" for Forestry

## 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.

## Background

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:

- Protection of life and property
- Safeguarding the environment
- Contributing to sustainable development
- Promoting long-term observation and collection of meteorological, hydrological and Climatological data, including related environmental data
- Promotion of indigenous capacity-building
- Meeting international commitments and obligations
- Contributing to international cooperation.

## Functions of Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA)

Below is an outline brief of what functions the public expect from the Uganda national Meteorological Authority;

- Provision of meteorological and

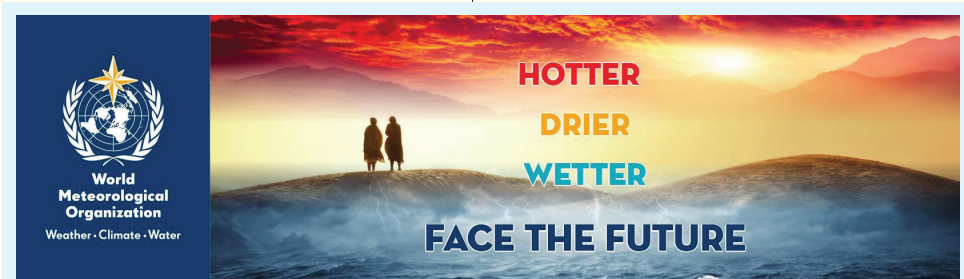
climatological services to weather dependant sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water resources management, civil aviation, marine and the private sector including industry, commerce and public utilities for the better exploitation and utilization of natural resources for national development;

- 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.

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## MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY 2016

BY  
**PETTERI TAALAS**  
**SECRETARY-GENERAL**  
**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

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 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.

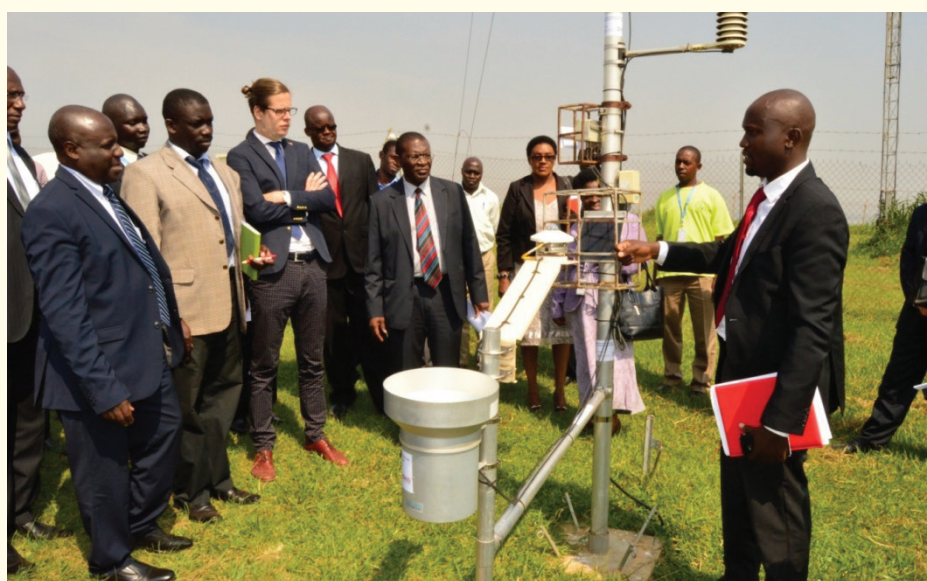
Climate change is also increasing the risk of heavy rains and floods. We can protect lives and property from such hazards through impact-based forecasts. This approach to disaster risk is the best way to empower emergency managers with information they can act on.

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.



The Technical Officer, GIZ/USAID, Daniel Opwonya, explains security at one of the 12 commissioned weather stations to ED UNMA, Festus Luboyera, (in Stripped shirt), the GIZ –Representative | Johannes Rumohr, Director for Environmental Affairs in the Ministry of Water and Environment, Paul Mafabi (left), Stakeholders, Directors and Staff of UNMA at National Meteorological Authority in February this year.