



**WEEKLY WEATHER STATEMENT**

**11<sup>TH</sup> TO 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024**

**SUMMARY OF WEATHER AHEAD**

From Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024 expect mostly cloudy conditions with locally heavy rain and thunderstorms due to the influence of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) oscillating over Malawi. Threat of sporadic flash flood will be high mainly over lakeshore, low lying and flood prone areas. Expect moderate to strong Mpoto winds over lake water bodies especially from Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Therefore fishermen and all lake users take all the necessary precautionary measures like staying away from the lake.

Additionally, low pressure system in the Mozambique Channel could develop into a **tropical storm to be named FILIPO** between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Currently, the system is projected to move a north-west towards Mozambique, then southward possibly returning to the Indian Ocean by Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March. Southern Malawi areas including Mulanje, Phalombe, Chiradzulu, Thyolo, Blantyre, Mwanza, Nsanje, and Chikwawa may experience strong winds and increased rainfall, potentially leading to flash flooding.

**WEATHER DURING PAST WEEK**

During the week 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March heavy rainfall caused flash flooding mainly over lakeshore areas such as Nkhatakota and Mangochi. Notable rainfall amounts were with Nkhatakota registering highest rainfall with 125.1mm followed by Chintheche in Nkhata Bay 109mm on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Substantial rainfall was also recorded on 5<sup>th</sup> March from Neno Boma Agriculture with 73.3mm while Chichiri had 47.5mm. Lastly on 6<sup>th</sup> March Mahowe in Chitipa had 75.4mm seconded by Njolomole in Ntcheu with 64.9mm. Refer to figure below.

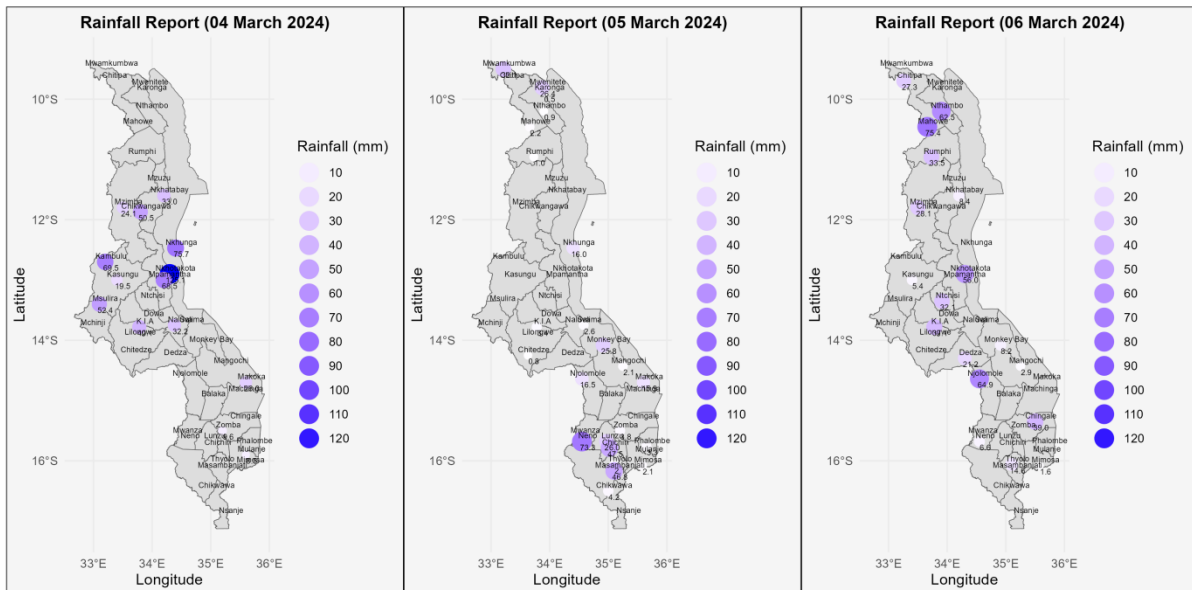


Figure: Rainfall reported from 4 to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**ADVISORIES FOR THE COMING WEEK**

- Do not attempt to walk or drive through flooded and fast flowing waters.
- Thunderstorms are often times associated with lightning and possible damaging winds. Seek refuge in a secure, enclosed shelter until the thunderstorm dissipates.
- To reduce the risk of flash flooding by clearing debris and trash from drainage systems.

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Place of issue: Blantyre

Date of issue: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2024