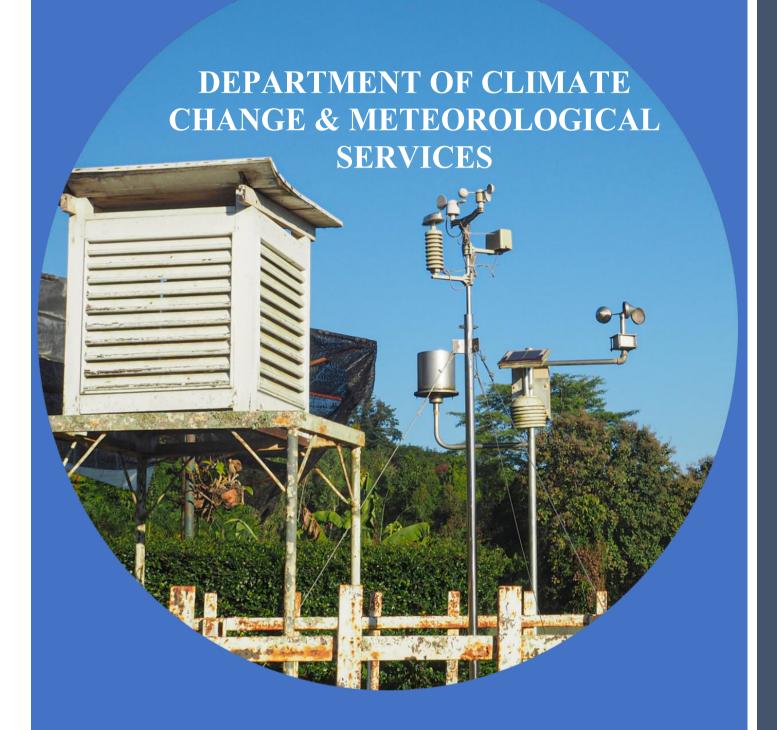
THE ZANYENGO E-NEWSLETTER





MARCH 2025
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Closing the early warning gap together

Be wise Be weather wise

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DCCMS

Be wise, Be weather wise

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S

DESK

MARCH 2025

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the inaugural edition of the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) quarterly newsletter.

This publication marks a significant step forward in our commitment to keeping the public, stakeholders, and partners informed about our ongoing efforts in climate and weather services across Malawi.

Through this platform, we aim to share insights, updates, and highlights from our department, fostering a deeper understanding of our pivotal role in national development and resilience-building.

This year's World Meteorological Day is celebrated under the theme "Closing the Early Warning Gap Together", a call to action that speaks directly to our mission at DCCMS. As we reflect on this global theme, it also provides a fitting backdrop for the launch of this newsletter.



Dr Lucy Mtilatila- Director DCCMS

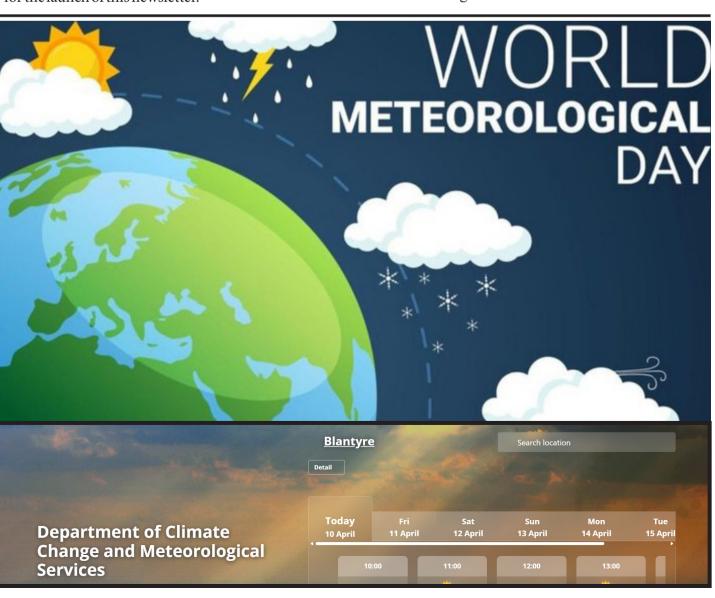
Dear Valued Partners, Colleagues, and Friends,

In a world where timely and accurate Day, capacity-building efforts, information can mean the difference between and innovations in data safety and disaster, communication is key.

This newsletter is one of the ways we aim to bridge the information gap; bringing you closer to the work we do, the progress we make, and the challenges we face. By sharing regular updates, we hope to increase awareness, build trust, and strengthen collaboration with all our stakeholders, including policymakers, development partners, researchers, the media, and the general public.

In this edition, you will find stories that highlightour recent activities, achievements, and initiatives—including our commemorations of World Meteorological Day, capacity-building efforts, and innovations in data collection and dissemination. We are proud of the dedication and hard work exhibited by our staff nationwide and are excited to share our journey with you.

We hope this newsletter serves as a bridge between DCCMS and the communities we serve, promoting transparency, engagement, and a shared commitment to building a climate-resilient Malawi.



CYCLONE JUDE: A TEST OF MALAWI'S EARLY WARNING SYSTEM – LESSONS FROM DCCMS

CONTRIBUTOR

By Fatsanawo Dzingomvera

The difference between a disaster and an inconvenience is how much warning you had."

This truth became evident in March 2025 when Tropical Cyclone Jude threatened Malawi with heavy rains, strong winds, and the risk of severe flooding, particularly in the southern region.

As the nation faced this natural disaster, the Department of ClimateChangeandMeteorological Services (DCCMS) played a vital role in monitoring, forecasting, and issuing early warnings to safeguard lives and property.

This year's World Meteorological theme, "Closing Early Warning Gap Together," aligns perfectly with the lessons learned from Cyclone Jude. It emphasizes the crucial need for collaboration between meteorologists, disaster response agencies, communities to ensure that timely warnings translate into effective action.

As early as March 9, 2025, DCCMS issued alerts outlining Cyclone Jude's trajectory and its potential impact. The forecasts warned that southern Malawi would experience heavy rainfall and strong winds, heightening the risks of flash floods, infrastructure damage, and displacement of communities.



Through radio, television, social media, and direct communication with disaster response agencies, DCCMS ensured regular updates, enabling early preparedness measures to be activated.

Following DCCMS's warnings, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) promptly advised communities in low-lying areas to evacuate to safer grounds.

Humanitarian organizations, including World Vision Malawi, collaborated with government agencies to preposition relief supplies and assess high-risk areas. Local councils and traditional leaders were pivotal in spreading the message, ensuring that even the most remote areas were reached.

Despite proactive measures, Cyclone Jude still left significant damage:



A damaged road-DCCMS remains committed to improving forecasting capabilities - (MANA)

Over 11,370 people (about 2,527 households) were affected across nine districts.

Three people were reported missing.

Damage to homes, schools, and health facilities widespread. was However, the early warning system played a critical role in minimizing casualties, providing people time to evacuate prepare.

Key lessons from the experience include the need for early warnings to lead directly to action. Enhancing communication channels in remote areas will ensure early warnings reach even the most difficult-to-access communities.

Moreover, improving forecasting technology is essential—upgrading weather monitoring systems will enhance the accuracy and timeliness of future cyclone warnings.

Cyclone Jude served as a stark reminder that early warnings save lives, but only if they prompt action. DCCMS remains committed to improving forecasting capabilities, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that every Malawian, regardless of location, receives timely and actionable weather alerts.

As we mark World Meteorological Day 2025, let us reaffirm our commitment to closing the early warning gap together and building a more resilient Malawi.



Last 3 Months Review & Current Updates

STATE OF MALAWI CLIMATE 2024

By Hussein Milanzi

The department produced the State ▲ of Climate of Malawi Climate in 2024 document through a workshop funded through CREWS project, and took place at Mulunguzi Riverside Lodge in Zomba from 20 to 24 January, 2025.

The workshop successfully met its objectives, producing a detailed document that highlights the far-reaching

impacts of El Niño on Malawi's weather, climate, and socio-economic sectors.

By the end of the week, the document titled "State of Climate in 2024" Malawi was officially published, earning recognition from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as a critical input to the broader State of Climate in Africa report.

This milestone marks important step toward building resilience climate in Malawi, underscoringtheurgentneedforcollective action to mitigate the impacts of extreme weather and climate change in the years ahead.





Participants practicing measuring rainfall the right way.

The Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) with funding support from the Dai Global UK through Climate Just Communities programme organized a refresher session to enhance the knowledge and skills of weather observers and recorders from selected districts, namely Karonga, Salima, Neno, Machinga, Zomba, Phalombe, and Chikwawa.

These sessions provided an opportunity for participants to refine their observation techniques, improve data accuracy, and familiarize themselves with updated meteorological guidelines and best practices.

The session also provided a platform for

Refresher Working Session for Weather Observers and Recorders in Selected Districts of Malawi.

addressing key challenges faced by observers, such as equipment shortages and station maintenance issues. Participants expressed their expectations for continued support in enhancing community

resilience through better dissemination of seasonal forecasts and improved access to meteorological instruments.

forward, Going sustained capacity-building initiatives and resource allocation will be critical in ensuring that observation and recording remain accurate and reliable. Strengthening partnerships between DCCMS, local stakeholders, and funding partners will help maintain momentum in improving climate services for disaster risk reduction sustainable and development.



PARTICIPATORY INTEGRATED CLIMATE SERVICES FOR AGRICULTURE (PICSA)

The PICSA Training of Trainers was I organized by the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural

Extension Services (DAES) with funding from DAI Global UK from 24 to 28 February, 2025 at Mulanje. Nalipiri Eco Resort in

The training was organized to promote the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) extension service Methodology in an effort to

improve access to weather and climate information to inform livelihood decision-making among farmers, such as seasonal planning and climate risk management.

This approach involves collaboration between agriculture extension staff and groups of farmers before the agricultural season.

involves analyzing historical climate data and employing Machinga. participatory tools to select crop, livestock, and livelihood options that best suit each farmer's unique circumstances. As the season approaches, they also consider how seasonal and short-term forecasts might affect their plans.

The training targeted and brought together 43 participants among them were; Extension Methodologies Offices (EMOs), Crop officers, workers, **DCCMS** Extension officers and CJC project partners from Phalombe, Zomba, Neno, Chikwawa, Karonga, Salima and

The training workshop successfully equipped frontline workers with a comprehensive understanding of the PICSA approach, fostering collaboration between agricultural extension staff and farmers to improve access to weather and climate information for informed decision making.

<<< FROM PAGE 4

Participants were trained to make a story from historical climate data, interpret short-term seasonal and weather forecasts, and use participatory tools to support farmers in selecting suitable crops, livestock, and livelihood options.

The training also enhanced their capacity to implement the 12-step **PICSA** process through structured interactions with farmers, helping them mitigate climate risks and build resilience.

The recommendations provided production of PICSA products and upscaling the approach to other sections of the EPAs in the program implementing districts. Thanks to DAI Global UK for supporting the inititative through the Climate Just Communities Programme.











Meet the KIA and Chileka Meteorological Teams

MAKING THE SKIES SAFER

By Charity Mapondo

Taleather can be one of the most significanthazardstoaviation. The aviation meteorological teams collaborate to play a crucial role for flight safety by providing critical, timely and efficient weather information.

The information is vital for landing, take-off, taxing and enroute of aircrafts. By ensuring the safety, regularity and efficiency of air navigation through our aviation weather services, DCCMS thereby contributing significantly to the economy of

The weather observation team at the Surface Observation Station (SOS) makes routine weather observations and reports hourly while special observations and reports are made whenever changes significant occur routine between observations. They observe and record parameters such as temperature, air pressure, wind speed and direction, cloud type and height among others.

The weather forecasting team at the Main Meteorological Office (MMO) is responsible for maintaining a continuous watch over meteorological conditions affecting flight

The operations. team ensures the aircraft crew is well-informed of the significant weather conditions that may impact flight to safeguard lives.





Precious Muta

Zizwani Theu

this addition, team uses meteorological data produce to Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs), landing (trend), take-off enroute forecasts and aerodrome reports.

The forecasters also conduct briefings for pilots, prepare flight folders that include prognostic weather charts, and issue significant meteorological information on the occurrence or expected occurrence of hazardous weather phenomena (SIGMET) in the atmosphere and enroute which may affect operation and safety of aircrafts.



Edwin Tadeyo V Thokozani Kabwinja





World Meteorological Day 2025 - Malawi

orld Meteorological Day 2025 in Malawi was held in Machinga District under the theme, "Closing the Early Warning Gap Together."

The vibrant event brought together diverse stakeholders in weather and climate from across the country, some notable stakeholders included the Malawi Red Cross Society and the Development Fund of Norway.

This important occasion, coordinated by the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), was presided over by the Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change, Hon. Owen Chomanika. (Photos by Abel Ikiloni and Robert Namakhwa)





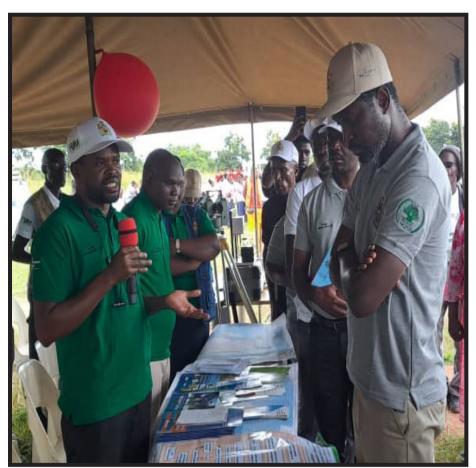








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Rain or Shine, Zanyengo's Got You Covered By Daniel Mwakanema

We're excited to introduce Zanyengo, Malawi's newest and smartest weather app designed to keep you one step ahead of whatever the skies may bring!

Developed in partnership with the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services and Met Norway Zanyengo delivers accurate, real-time weather updates straight to your mobile device.

Whether it's a surprise downpour or scorching heat, you'll be prepared with instant alerts and detailed forecasts right at your fingertips.

From daily commutes to weekend adventures, Zanyengo helps you make smarter decisions, backed by reliable data from Malawi's official meteorological experts.



Download Zanyengo now on Google Play

Take control of your weather experience like never before! Follow this link to download today! https://rb.gy/xbi2qh

Why Zanyengo stands out-

Location-specific updates for your area

Instant weather alerts to keep you safe

Daily and extended forecasts to plan ahead

Check weather anywhere across Malawi

Easy-to-use interface and low data consumption

Compatible with most Android devices



As We March Forward

By Robert Namakhwa

In recent years, names like Idai, Ana, ▲ Freddy, Chido and Jude have become popular names in Malawi particularly when associated with cyclones, one of the impactful weather events the nation is becoming accustomed to, which calls for stakeholders involved in Early Warning System (EWS) for All in Malawi like Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS), Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), United Programme Nations Development (UNDP) amongst others to continue their partnership strengthening collaboratively in through working EWS for All to combat these effects of extreme weather events by 2027.

Closing the Early Warning Gap Together Amidst Extreme Weather Events'

This is also the vision and goal of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and a fundamental right to all people for a resilient nation and communities. According to a WMO report on supplement to extreme weather events, globally 86 cyclones where experienced in 2024 but from the start of our season (October 2024) to April 2025, at least 12 cyclones have been experienced in our zone of forecasting for tropical cyclones, the South-Western Indian Ocean. Out of the 12, only 2 cyclones did reach Malawi, CHIDO and JUDE, one in December and the other in the month of March.

JUDE brought significant rains mainly in the southern part of the country for three consecutive days (11th -13th March), consequently causing some notable damages and losses in the process compared to CHIDO, though CHIDO had significant impacts in other areas where it passed before reaching Malawi like Mozambique, as it resulted in about 172 deaths in total, and the French territory of Mayotte was the one heavily impacted.



Cyclone Freddy, which struck Malawi in March 2023, remains the most severe cyclone in terms of intensity and duration compared to recent cyclones.

The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report by DoDMA estimates that Freddy inflicted losses amounting to \$50.6 million in damages and \$60.4 million in recovery costs. Of the 14 districts affected, Phalombe suffered the most, with 62% of its population impacted.

The devastation caused by Freddy underscores the need for continued investment in disaster preparedness and early warning systems.

Globally, these kind of extreme weather events are becoming increasingly catastrophic. Over the Atlantic Ocean, these cyclones are called Hurricanes. Hurricane Helene, which struck Florida's Big Beng, which is within the Northern, Central and the Caribbean region of America, reached the largest economic loss globally of \$78.7 billion in 2024.

Over the Pacific Ocean waters cyclones are referred to as Typhoons, Typhoon Yagi was the most destructive storm in Asia, causing record-breaking landfalls in China and Vietnam and claiming over 700 lives. These events serve as stark reminders that climate change is intensifying the

frequency and impact of natural disasters.

Scientific projections suggest that Malawi will experience rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, and fewer cold days (indicating warming up) in the coming decades. Under the worstcase scenario of Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSP), models climate indicate that by the near century (2040) and mid-(2060),climatecentury related hazards such as

cyclones, cyclone-induced floods, droughts, and heatwaves will become more frequent and intense. This presents a significant challenge for Malawi, as these events threaten food security, infrastructure, and people's livelihoods.

To build resilience against these extreme weather events, Malawi needs a multi-faceted strategy, which includes improving the capacity of institutions such as DCCMS, DoDMA and others, integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies into

BWENDU AGRI
EKWENDENI

12°S

CHINGALE EPA

KATHONGELA

MSULIFA

90

110

130

150

170

MANGOCHI

16°S

33°E

34°E

Longitude

35°E

36°E

Highest Rainfall Reported on 11th-13th March2025

national and local policies and plans and other climate-smart strategies.

This is essential for enhancing preparedness and response efforts. Effective coordination among stakeholders will also enable swift action during crises and facilitate better recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts.

A crucial aspect of disaster preparedness is ensuring that vulnerable communities have access to real-time, multi-hazard warning early information. Sectors like agriculture, energy, and water which are key pillars of the economy. They must be equipped with climate-smart strategies to withstand extreme weather. The integration of DRR into these sectors will significantly vulnerabilities reduce promote sustainable development.

DCCMS is already playing a vital role in advancing climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives, through projects such as the Modernized Climate Information and Early Warning System (M-CLIMES), Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA), and E-PICSA.

These and other related projects are providing farmers and other end-users with timely, tailored weather and climate information.

These initiatives are crucial in helping communities make informed decisions and better prepare for extreme weather events. Let's therefore stay alert, and be climatesmart as we commemorate

World Meteorological Day here in Malawi (which comes on 23rd March every year globally) amidst these extreme weather events.







World Meteorological Day 2025

CONCERT

By Alick Chibanthowa

Meteorological Day holds significance in Malawi, serving as a platform to highlight the vital role of meteorology, climate science, and water resources in safeguarding lives, property, and the environment.

This year's celebrations in Machinga District, under the theme "Closing the Gap Together," underscored the importance of early warning systems and inclusive climate action. Engaging the youth—tomorrow's leaders—through dramas, poetry, and music reinforced awareness of climate risks.

The event also provided an opportunity stakeholders showcase innovations and collaborative efforts building a weather-ready nation.

Department of Climate Change Recent advancements, supported by and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) plays a pivotal role in global weather and WMO, have revolutionized prediction by contributing real-time data weather monitoring in the country. to international networks such as the World Investments in lake buoys, a soon-Meteorological Organization

Through participation in global forecasting systems and climate research, DCCMS These tools are critical as Malawi faces enhances early warning capabilities, strengthening disaster



partners like the World Bank, UNDP, (WMO) to-be-installed weather radar, and and the SADC Climate Services Centre. high-precision models like COSMO elevating forecast accuracy.

escalating climate impacts—prolonged preparedness dry spells, intensified cyclones, erratic and climate resilience across Malawi. rainfall, and rising temperatures—all of which threaten food security, water availability, and infrastructure.

To combat these challenges, initiatives like the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) are expanding multi-hazard early warnings to protect lives and livelihoods. Meteorologists are at the forefront of disaster risk reduction, delivering impact-based forecasts that pinpoint vulnerable areas and guide emergency responses. Innovations such as Impact-Based Forecasting and the upcoming weather radar will further refine early warnings for floods, droughts, and cyclones.

Public awareness remains a cornerstone of DCCMS's mission. Through social media campaigns partnerships with organizations like Save the Children, department promotes meteorological literacy.

Programs like 'Weather Kids' engage schoolchildren in climate education, fostering a generation attuned to environmental stewardship.

Local communities are encouraged to participate in by calibrated weather monitoring using instruments gauges and rain sharing real-time observations.

Collaboration is key—NGOs, businesses, and individuals can join DCCMS in commemorating this day by contacting the Director at lmtilatila@metmalawi.gov.mw or metdept@ metmalawi.gov.mw Media partnerships are equally vital to amplify messages on severe weather and collective action.

As Malawi navigates a changing climate, unity in closing gaps between knowledge and action, technology and communities will define the nation's resilience. World Meteorological Day 2025 was a testament to this shared commitment.



Be weather wise! wise!

CCMS IN THE NEWS

Be weather wise! wise!







DCCMS urge lake users to follow precautionary measures

Malawi News Agency

https://www.manaonline.gov. 24 April 2025

By Petro Mkandawire

Mozambique low pressure to trigger flash floods in Malawi

Malawi News Agency

https://www.manaonline.gov. 28 January 2025

By Petro Mkandawire

Heavy rains and strong winds expected to hit Southern & Central Malawi

Malawi News Agency

https://www.manaonline.gov. 10 March 2025

By Miriam Bwanali

Rain forecast offers relief after dry spell

Times News

6 January 2025 https://times.mw/

By Isaac Salima

Heavy rains to increase flash floods likelihood

Malawi News Agency

4 February 2025 https://www.manaonline.gov.

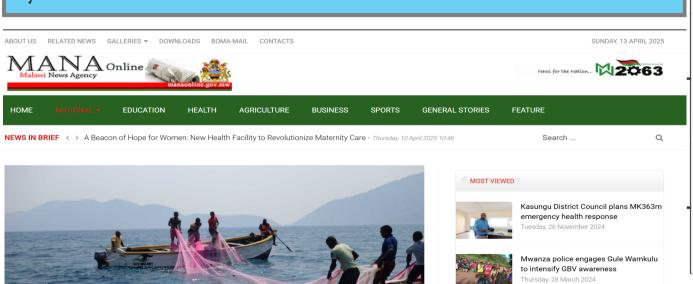
By Petro Mkandawire

Met eyes weather radar for improved forecast

Times News

https://times.mw/ 13 January 2025

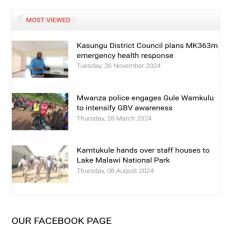
By Wezzie Gausi



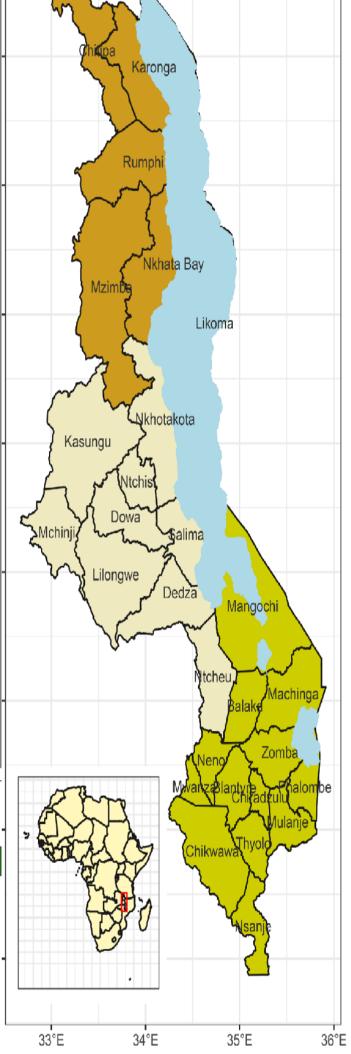
Fishermen urged to adapt precautionary measures

By Petro Mkandawire

Blantyre, December 2, Mana: The Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) has advised lake to take necessary precautionary measures due to the coming week of strong winds over water bodies and



Malawi News Agency





https://www.metmalawi.gov.mw/

Our Service Areas

Agrometeorology

Our work in Agrometeorology

The Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) in Malawi plays a pivotal role in supporting the agriculture sector, which is a cornerstone of the nation's economy. By integrating agrometeorological services, DCCMS offers invaluable resources for the agricultural community.

These services include the issuance of the 10-day weather and agrometeorological bulletins during the crucial rainy season from October through April, which aids in national early warning systems and food security efforts. Furthermore, DCCMS contributes to crop weather insurance, offering a layer of financial protection against weather-related risks.

The department also provides guidance on crop protection and management, irrigation techniques, and climate risk management, all vital for sustainable agriculture practices. Additionally, DCCMS customizes its offerings with tailored products such as specific forecasts and advisories to meet the unique needs of agricultural users.

Through partnerships with government departments, ministries like the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development, and both local and international NGOs including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), DCCMS ensures its agrometeorological services are comprehensive and impactful, directly supporting the enhancement and expansion of agricultural production in Malawi.



Health

DCCMS offers climate services and information that has a direct and significant influence on human health. Weather and Climate services play a vital role in predicting and monitoring extreme weather events like tropical cyclones, heatwaves, floods, and droughts, which directly impact human well-being by causing injuries, displacement, and fatalities.

Additionally, climate data helps track air quality and pollution levels, which can exacerbate respiratory and cardiovascular conditions. Furthermore, climate variability affects agricultural productivity and water resources, impacting food and water security, and increasing the risk of vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue fever.

By providing early warnings and preparedness information, climate services help communities better anticipate and mitigate the health impacts of climate-related disasters.

Aviation

Explore our Aviation Services

The Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) of Malawi plays a pivotal role in aviation safety by providing critical and timely weather information. Recognizing that weather can be one of the most significant hazards to aviation, the DCCMS ensures the industry is well-informed to safeguard lives and enhance operational efficiency.

Their services, which adhere to the international standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), include meteorological monitoring for the region, detailed reports to Air Traffic Control, comprehensive weather summaries for search and rescue operations, and specific forecasts for terminals and flight paths.

Additionally, the DCCMS conducts briefings for pilots, offers prognostic weather charts, and disseminates significant meteorological information, all essential for navigating the skies safely and efficiently.



Climate Change

The Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), take pride in advanced Climate Change Monitoring and Projection services aimed at addressing the challenges of a changing climate.

The cutting-edge monitoring tools and systems continuously track key climate indicators such as temperature, rainfall patterns and characteristics, providing real-time data to inform decision-making processes. Moreover, climate projection tools utilize the latest scientific research to anticipate long-term climate trends and variability, helping stakeholders develop robust adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Through these integrated services, DCCMS empower Malawians to proactively manage climate risks and build resilience in the face of a rapidly changing environment.



Weather

Explore our weather services

The Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) of Malawi is the nation's trusted authority on weather forecasts, providing indispensable daily and five-day weather forecasts, weekly updates, and crucial weather warnings.

Our services are designed to support a wide array of users, including farmers making planting decisions, pilots navigating the skies, emergency services preparing for disaster response, and families planning their day-to-day activities.

By delivering clear and accurate meteorological information, we empower our community to make well-informed decisions, ensuring the safety and advancement of all Malawians.



Disaster Risk Management

The Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), recognizes the critical importance of robust weather and climate monitoring and forecasting in Disaster Risk Management (DRM).

Our suite of services is designed to support proactive decision-making and risk mitigation strategies in the face of natural disasters. Through our Climate Risk Maps, stakeholders gain localized insights into potential hazards, facilitating informed risk management and emergency preparedness measures.

Our DRM Forecast service provides timely and accurate predictions of extreme weather events, empowering communities, emergency responders, and policymakers to take preemptive action and minimize the impacts of disasters. Moreover, our periodic 'State of Climate in Malawi' reports offer in-depth analyses of current risk profiles and trends, enabling stakeholders to adapt their strategies and enhance resilience in a changing environment.

By leveraging cutting-edge technology and expertise, we strive to equip Malawians at all levels with the tools and knowledge needed to effectively manage disaster risks and build a more resilient future.

Be Be weather wise! wise!