



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE DISASTER SITUATION  
IN THE COUNTRY**

**BY**

**HON. ANYAKUN ESTHER DAVINIA**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS  
AND REFUGEES**

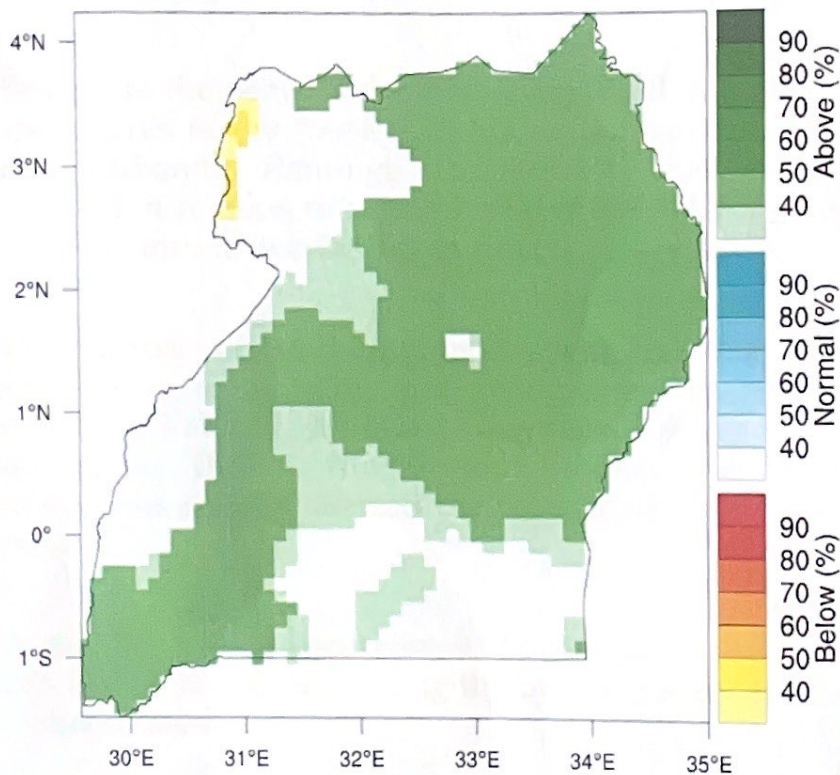
**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

**1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2022**

## DISASTER SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

According to Uganda National Meteorological Authority, the first major rain season of March April May (MAM) is getting established in the southern sector (south western, western and Lake Victoria basin) of the Country. Currently, the prediction is of average to enhanced rainfall with high probability in the Eastern and North Eastern regions. (Fig 1 below)

- 1.0 These first season rains are characterised by severe isolated thunderstorms associated with lightning and hailstorms and always result into destructive flooding in several districts, landslides in the mountainous areas, destructive wind and hailstorms that ravage plantations and houses the whole country (see photos attached).



**Figure 1: Seasonal Climate outlook for March to May (MAM), UNMA, 2022**



- 1.1 Over 48 Districts Lango, Teso, Karamoja, Bugisu, Sebei Bukedi, Busoga, Kigezi and parts of Ankole and Bunyoro sub regions are at high risk of waterlogging, windstorms and landslides during the period of MAM 2022.
- 1.2 Many gardens and houses are likely to be affected by water logging and wind storms. This will create the need for emergency relief food and non-food items to support the high risk / exposed communities.
- 1.3 The widening long crack on the ground running several kilometres from Manafwa to Sironko Districts in the Elgon sub region is a situation that should be taken into keen interest. This crack represents a significant point of weakness on the slope surface that may easily result into catastrophic slope failure.
- 1.4 Related to the above is the increasing trend and frequency of slope failures in the fragile mountainous regions of Rwenzori, Kigezi (Rubanda, Kanungu and Kisoro). This needs to be monitored in relation to the evolution of the MAM weather and at risk communities informed in time.
- 1.5 Many districts have been grappling with internally displaced persons due to flooding and rising water levels, namely; Kampala, Wakiso, Masaka, Kayunga, Amolatar, Apac, Nakasongola, Bullisa, Ntoroko and Kasese since 2019/2020 and this has equally affected the road infrastructure in those localities.
- 1.6 A number of infrastructure in flood and windstorm prone areas that were affected during the previous seasons are yet to be rehabilitated.

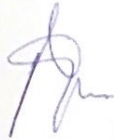
## **GOVERNMENT PLANNED RESPONSE ACTIONS:**

- 1.7 The Ministry of Works and Transport shall continuously assess the state of the roads and bridges and provide regular update to users to minimize weather related accidents on the roads during the MAM season.
- 1.8 The OPM Disaster Preparedness and Management Department together with District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) shall carry out assessments and issue advisories to the communities in high risk areas for temporary relocation. Priority one in this respect will be to support families in safer areas to provide refuge for the relatives/ neighbours in the high risk zones, mobilize short to medium term support from Government and Development Partners
- 1.9 The OPM Disaster Department has embarked on the process of resettlement of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), mainly victims of rising water levels in Ntoroko district.
- 1.10 Government will mobilize funds to ensure adequate and essential medicines are stocked in the high risk districts where roads are always being affected to ensure steady flow of medical services.
- 1.11 District Local Governments should mobilize communities to embrace the culture and practice of community based disaster risk management, such as community involvement in desilting streams and drainage channels within their localities. This will minimize on flood impacts.
- 1.12 Farmers are advised to make the best use of the season to ensure adequate and quality food production



1.13 My Ministry in collaboration with UNMA, will intensify the dissemination of early warning messages and provide updates through early warning bulletins, talk shows, social media platforms and press statements that will be issued from time to time.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY



Anyakun Esther Davinia (MP)

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