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UGANDA NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY

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DRYSPELL CONDITIONS OVER MOST PARTS OF UGANDA

The dry spell conditions being experienced in most parts of the country are due to the tropical cyclone (storm) named "IDAI" which has been over the Mozambique Channel (between Mozambique and Madagascar). Tropical cyclones are one of the prominent weather systems that are generated over the tropical oceans. IDAI has been associated with heavy rains and winds of up to 170 km/h (106 mph) and made landfall at the coastal port city of Beira in Mozambique on Thursday evening of 14th March 2019. It has already caused devastating impacts on human life and property in Mozambique and Malawi.

The presence of the Tropical Cyclone, IDAI led to the development of a low pressure system around the Mozambique Channel which resulted into the weakening of south easterly trade winds. These winds became diverted towards the channel, depriving moisture laden winds to reach our country which is why we have experienced the dry spells that have disrupted the onset of March to May Seasonal Rainfall.

The intensity of IDAI is expected to decrease as it continues inland of Mozambique to Zimbabwe and Malawi since the favourable conditions for its formation will not be sustained. It will eventually decay by 22nd March 2019 and thereafter normal rains are expected to resume.

Further outlook: Dry spell conditions are expected to prevail over most parts of the country until late-March 2019 when the normal rains will set in.

UNMA will continue to monitor the evolution of weather systems and provide updates and advisories.

Dr. Festus Luboyera
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR