# Weather tracker: March-May season to bring rains with it

BY MIKE SEBALU

**KAMPALA.** Most parts of Uganda are expected to experience near-normal to above-normal rainfall during the March-May 2026 season, the Ministry of Water and Environment has forecast.

"The onset of rains will vary by region, with most areas experiencing rainfall from early to mid-March. The peak rainfall is expected between April and May and expected to end by early to mid-June in most parts of the country," Dr Alfred Okidi, the ministry's permanent secretary, disclosed on Friday.

Near-normal rainfall typically ranges between 75 percent and 125 percent of the long-term average, supporting agriculture, water supplies, and socio-economic activities without major disruption. Dr Okidi, however, noted that parts of the northwestern region, areas around Lake Victoria, with some eastern districts expected to experience near-normal rainfall during the forecast period.

In the central region and Lake Victoria basin, including Lyantonde, Sembabule, Mubende, Kassanda, Kyankwanzi, Kiboga, Luwero, Nakaseke, and Nakasongola, intermittent rainfall is already occurring, with full seasonal rains expected by early March.

Similarly, in the eastern Lake Victoria and southeastern districts of Jinja, Mayuge, Kamulu, Iganga, Bugiri, Nmayingo, Luuka, Namutumba, Buyende, Kaliro, Busia, and Tororo, rains are expected to be fully established by early March.

In the northeastern districts of the Northern region (Katakwi, Amuria, Kapelebyong, Napak, Moroto, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit, Amudat, Abim, Kotido, Kaabong, and Karenga), light and intermittent rains have been observed. The seasonal rains are expected to set in from early to mid-March, with peak rainfall forecast between late April and early May, tapering by mid-June.

In the western region, southwestern districts including Kisoro, Rubanda, Kabale, Rukiga, Kanungu, Rukungiri, Ntungamo, Rwampara, Mbarara, Isingiro, Kiruhura, Kazo, Ibanda, Kitagwenda, Buhweju, and Kasese have already established the onset of rains, with the peak expected between early and late April and cessation toward late May.

The ministry said the forecast has implications for agriculture, food security, health energy, and water resources.

Areas expecting near-normal rainfall are likely to see conditions supporting standard agricultural production, while localised areas receiving above-normal rainfall may experience uneven distribution.

Dr Bob Ogwang, the commissioner of meteorological services, urged the public to follow the seasonal forecast and associated advisories.

"What we usually do is to monitor weather and climate, to give predictions, and work with our sister ministries to co-develop advisories regarding the implication of the forecast we give," Dr Ogwang said.

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