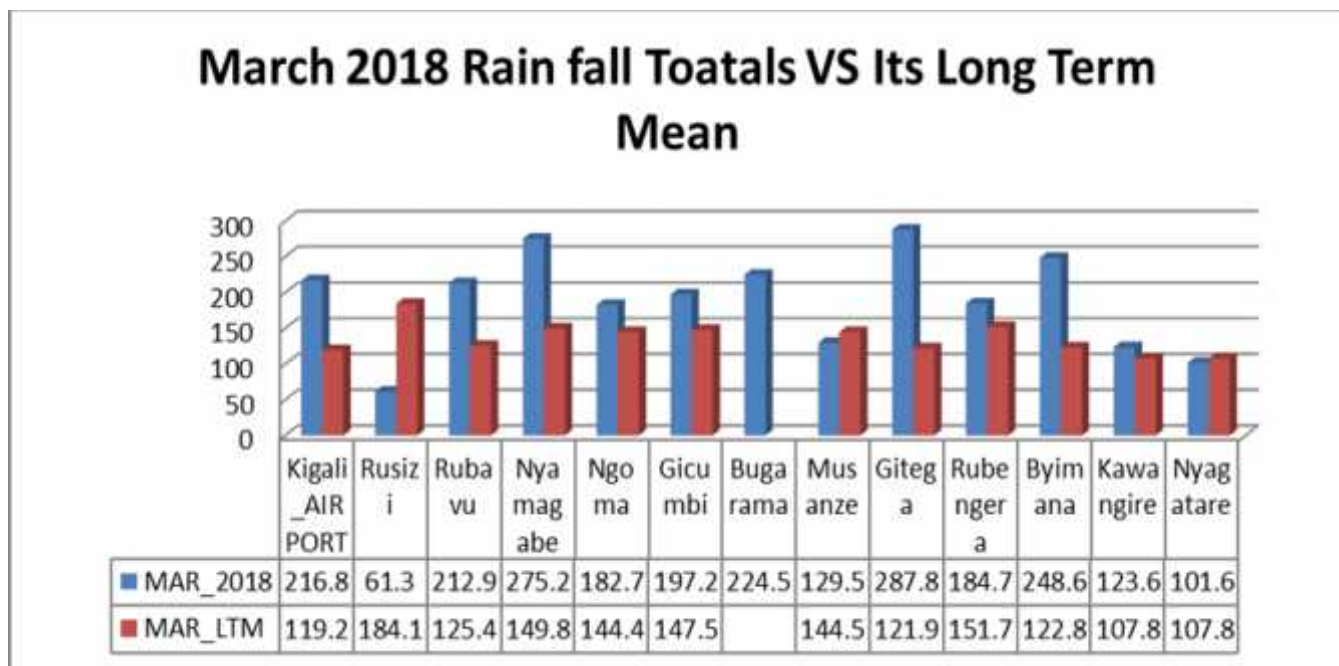




Comparison of Rainfall performance during March 2018 with its Long term mean over the country



- REVIEW OF THE WEATHER DURING MARCH 2018**

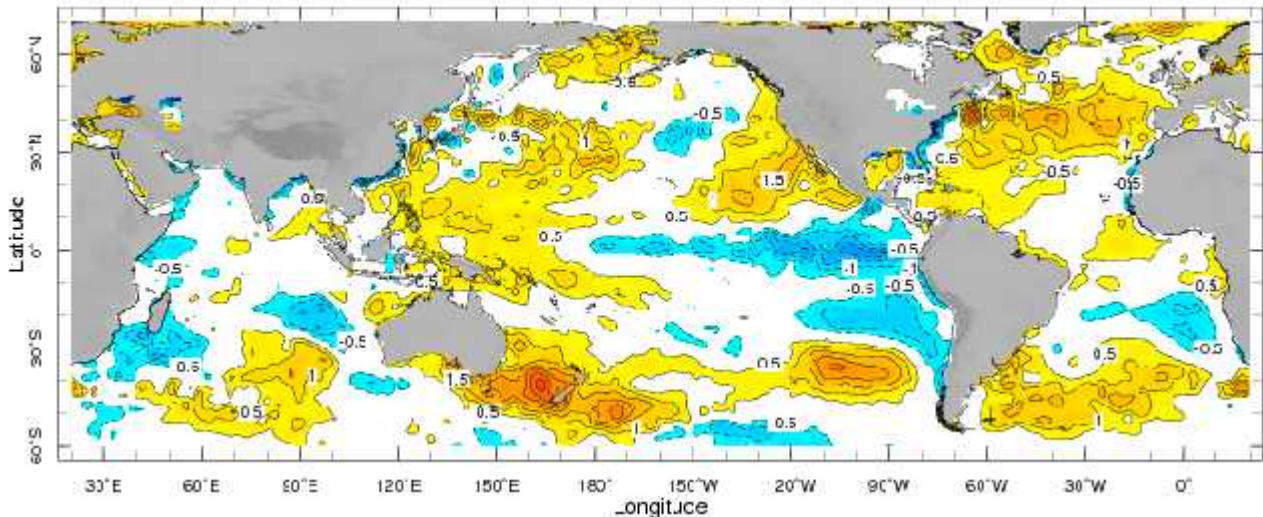
Most parts of the country were wet during the month of March 2018 and almost 92% of the country recorded normal to above average rainfall compared to March cumulative Long-Term Means (LTMs) while 8% recorded below normal rainfall during the month but generally the country recorded widespread enough rainfall.

- PREVAILING SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY 2018- FEBRUARY 2018**

The Sea Surface Temperature (SST) anomaly during the month of January 2018 showed that over central equatorial Pacific Ocean stretching towards the eastern equatorial Pacific region (Niño 4 to Niño 1&2 areas), cooler than average SST anomaly was observed, with the area stretching from central towards western equatorial Pacific Ocean recording warmer than average SST, this situation presents a weak La Niña phase however models show an increased likelihood of persistence of a negative El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phase through the first quarter of the year 2018. Near average to cooler than average SST conditions dominated western and the eastern sides of equatorial Indian Ocean (Figure 5) This pattern has presented a weak but positive phase of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) . Models show persistence of a positive phase of the IOD during the initial periods of year 2018.



Jan 2018



Sea Surface Temperature anomalies for the period 10 January 2018 to 08 February 2018
(Source: NOAA/ESRL/PSD)

- **WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR APRIL 2018**

The forecast indicates that most parts of the country are likely to experience near-average to below rains during the April of March 2018.

The month of March 2018, is expected to be within the range of LTM, average with some localized places recording above normal especially in northern eastern and north western parts of the country.

Southern, central and south Eastern we expect normal rains during April

North eastern, North Western and northern we expect normal during April

South Western we expect normal to below average rain fall totals during April 2018

N.B This outlook is supplemented by updates at different timescales (24-hours, 5-days and 10-days forecasts) and advisories issued by Rwanda Meteorology Agency.

Done on 3rd April, 2018