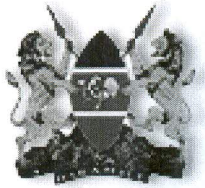


WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY 2018



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

World Meteorological Day was established in 1960 to make the work of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services better known and appreciated by the public of all countries. The date of 23 March was chosen to celebrate the entry into force, in 1950, of the Convention of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

WMO provides a fundamental contribution to the protection of life and property, through its Programmes and the network of 191 National Meteorological and Hydrological Services. Weather forecasts and early warnings to governments, various economic sectors and individuals help prevent and mitigate disasters.

The growing impact of weather extremes cannot be ignored. Over the last 30 years natural disasters took the lives of over 2 million people and produced economic losses estimated at over 1.5 trillion US dollars. Almost 90 percent of such disasters, more than 70 percent of the casualties and almost 80 percent of the economic losses were caused by weather-, climate- or water-related hazards such as tropical cyclones, storm surges, heat waves, droughts, floods or related disease epidemics.

Improved climate services are emerging today as one of the most crucial tools to address and adapt to climate change and climate variability. The assumption that climatic and socio-economic conditions of the past are indicative of current and future conditions is no longer sufficient. It is imperative to further improve our understanding of climate and make better use of climate information to address societal needs, in a world characterized by population growth, changes in land use, urbanization, and challenges in ensuring food security and managing water resources and energy.

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Over the last three years, WMD celebrations have been held in various counties; namely; Vihiga County (2015); Murang'a County (2016); and Kitui County (2017). This year's World Meteorological Day (WMD) will be celebrated in Nairobi County at the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) Headquarters on 23rd March 2018 from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

The theme of World Meteorological Day 2018 is "***Weather-ready, Climate-smart***".

The theme has been selected in recognition of the fact that an early warning as a major element of disaster risk reduction. Multi-hazard early warnings simultaneously address flooding, storms and other major hazards. Long before such hazards arise, early warning projects prepare those at risk as well as those who may be involved in providing assistance so that they will be *weather-ready* when warnings sound.

