COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI

PUBLIC ADVISORY ON EL NIÑO PREPAREDNESS

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER (OND) 2026 RAINFALL SEASON

The Kenya Meteorological Services Authority (KMSA) forecasts above-average October-November-December (OND) 2026 rainfall over Kitui. The rainfall is expected to be fairly to well distributed, but characterized by prolonged wet spells and occasional isolated storms. The OND 2026 rainfall season is being influenced by the combined effects of a strengthening El Niño and an evolving positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). El Niño is associated with enhanced rainfall over Kenya during the October-November-December season, while a positive IOD generally reinforces this effect by favouring wetter conditions over East Africa.

The County Government of Kitui wishes to inform residents that the anticipated rains present significant **opportunities** for Kitui County if households and communities prepare early and use the water wisely.

LET US TURN THE RAINS INTO OPPORTUNITIES

1. Harvest and Store Water

Residents are encouraged to harvest and safely store rainwater in household tanks, water pans and other appropriate storage facilities.

2. Increase Crop Production and Food Security

Farmers are encouraged to prepare land early, repair terraces and other soil and water conservation structures, use suitable certified seeds, observe recommended planting windows and conserve harvested produce. Follow **KMSA and County ward-specific agro-weather advisories** and consider appropriate crops for the expected rainfall in your area.

3. Improve Livestock Pasture and Feed Availability

Farmers are encouraged to plant and conserve grasses and fodder crops, make hay and silage, repair hay barns, and protect livestock from cold, flooding, predators and disease.

4. Plant and Protect Trees

During the rainy season Kitui County Residents are encouraged to plant and nurture trees (fruit and forest trees).

BE CALM, ALERT AND STAY SAFE - FLOODS CAN OCCUR SUDDENLY

While the rains bring many benefits, they may also cause flash floods, river flooding, dam and spillway overflow, road and drift wash-outs, landslides, mudslides, erosion, water contamination and disease outbreaks.

All Kitui County Residents are advised to observe the following:

i) DO NOT cross flooded rivers, drifts or waterlogged areas on foot, motorcycle or in a vehicle. Wait until water levels have subsided.

ii) Children and teenagers should be prevented from playing/swimming in moving or stagnant water to avoid drowning.

iii) Families living along riverbanks, downstream of dams, near spillways and in low-lying areas should identify safer higher ground and relocate early.

iv) DO NOT shelter under trees during rains or thunderstorms.

v) Report dam cracks, overtopping, erosion or other signs of danger to the administrative offices immediately.

vi) During the rainy season, drink boiled or treated water since most of the clean water sources may be contaminated because of sewage and damaged toilets/pit latrines.

vii) Clear household drainage and bushes around the homesteads.

viii) Households living in temporary structures or houses prone to damage by heavy rains should relocate to safer places immediately.

ix) Protect livestock by providing permanent or temporary shelters.

x) Secure important documents, food, water containers, emergency lighting e.g torches and other basic supplies.

xi) Sleep under treated mosquito nets and keep warm.

xii) Seek medical care immediately, in case you develop any illness, including and not limited to sudden watery diarrohea and vomiting, severe weakness or inability to drink or eat.

xiii) Act on official warnings early.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Kitui County Emergency Line: **0702 615 888, 0143 610 403**
Kenya Red Cross Society Toll-Free Line: **1199**