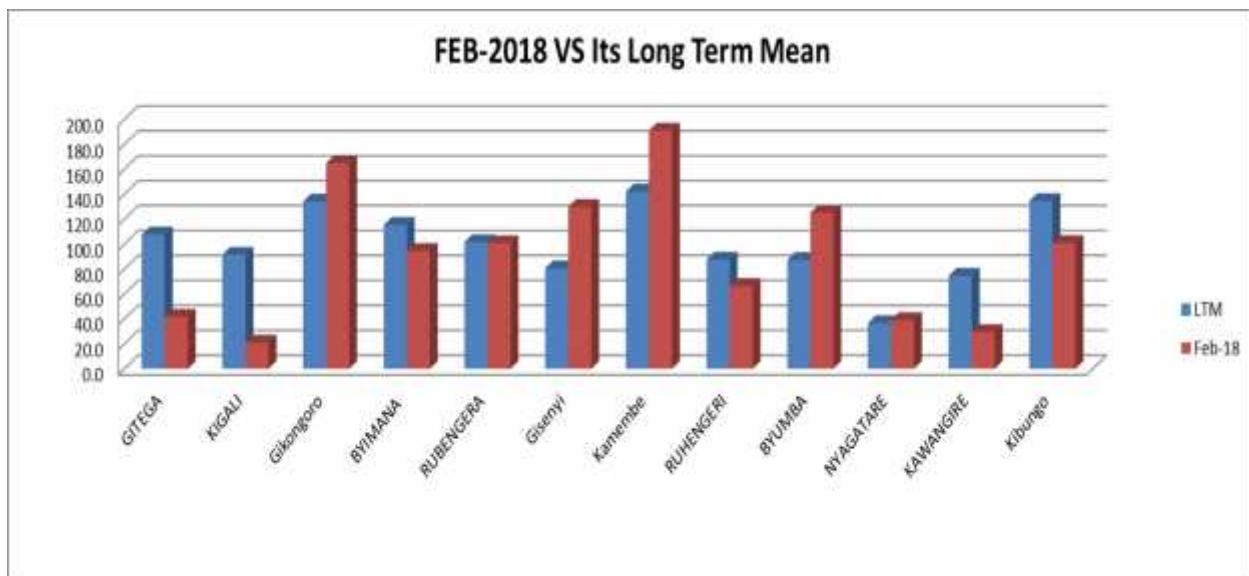




Comparison of Rainfall performance during February 2018 with its Long term mean over the country

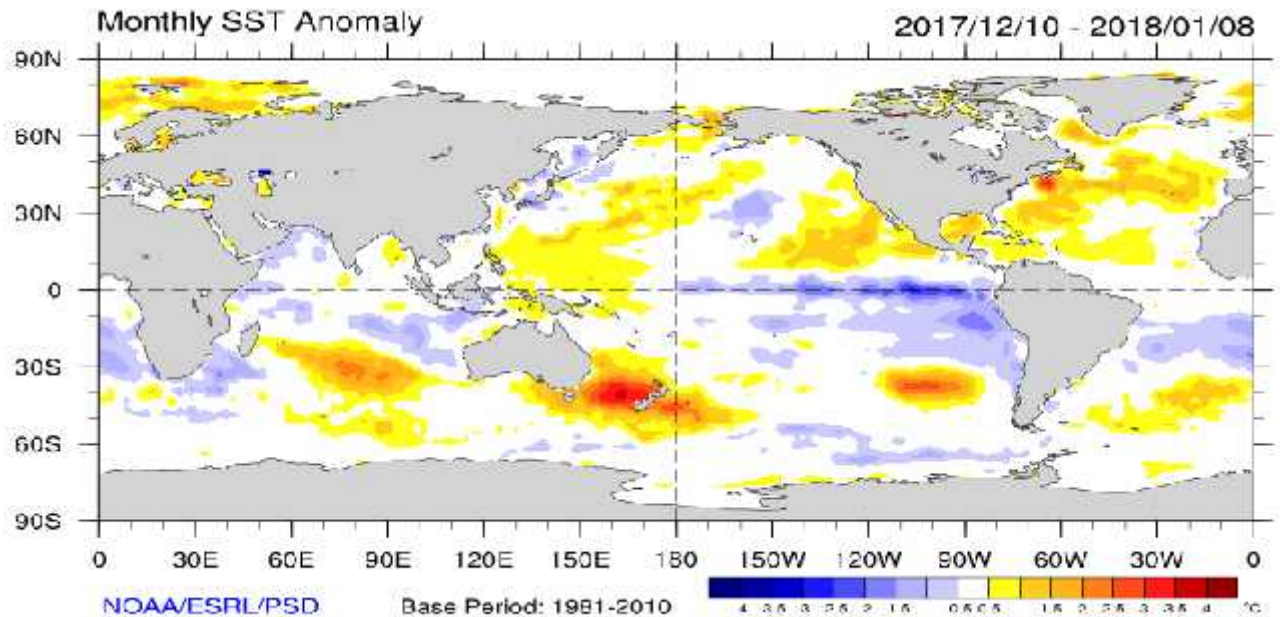


- **REVIEW OF THE WEATHER DURING FEBRUARY 2018**

Most parts of the country were wet during the month of February 2018 and almost 77% of the country recorded normal to above average rainfall compared to February cumulative Long-Term Means (LTMs) while 23% recorded below normal rainfall during the month but generally the country recorded widespread enough rainfall.

- **PREVAILING SYNOPTIC CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER 2017- JANUARY 2018**

The Sea Surface Temperature (SST) anomaly during the period 10 December 2017 – January 08, 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, however this situation presents a weak La Niña phase, however models show an increased likelihood of persistence of a negative El Niño Southern Oscillation phase through the first quarter of the year 2018. Near average to cooler than average SST conditions dominated eastern side of equatorial Indian Ocean with much of the central to western equatorial Indian Ocean experiencing near average to cooler than average SST. This pattern has presented a weak 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.



**Sea Surface Temperature anomalies for the period 10 December 2017 to 08 January 2018
(Source: NOAA/ESRL/PSD)**

- **WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR FEBRUARY 2018**

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

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

The onset of the seasonal rainfall is expected towards the end of February 2018 to early March 2018, though we are still waiting for the season B forecast for the confirmation.

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 5th February, 2018