Meteorological Services Department

Minimizing Risks through Science

WEEKLY RAINFALL BULLETIN

RELEASED: 18 MARCH 2026

SEASON: 2025-2026

VALID: 18 MARCH TO 24 MARCH 2026

WEEKLY RAINFALL BULLETIN

BULLETIN N°21 of rainfall Season 2025/2026

Contents

for more information and weather updates follow us on:

X: https://x.com/MSDZIM

Facebook: **https://www.facebook.com/Meteorological-Services-Department-of-Zimbabwe-1466334176961651/**

Website: https://www.weatherzw.org.zw

+263778125911

SUMMARY OF PAST WEEK: 12 – 17 MARCH 2026

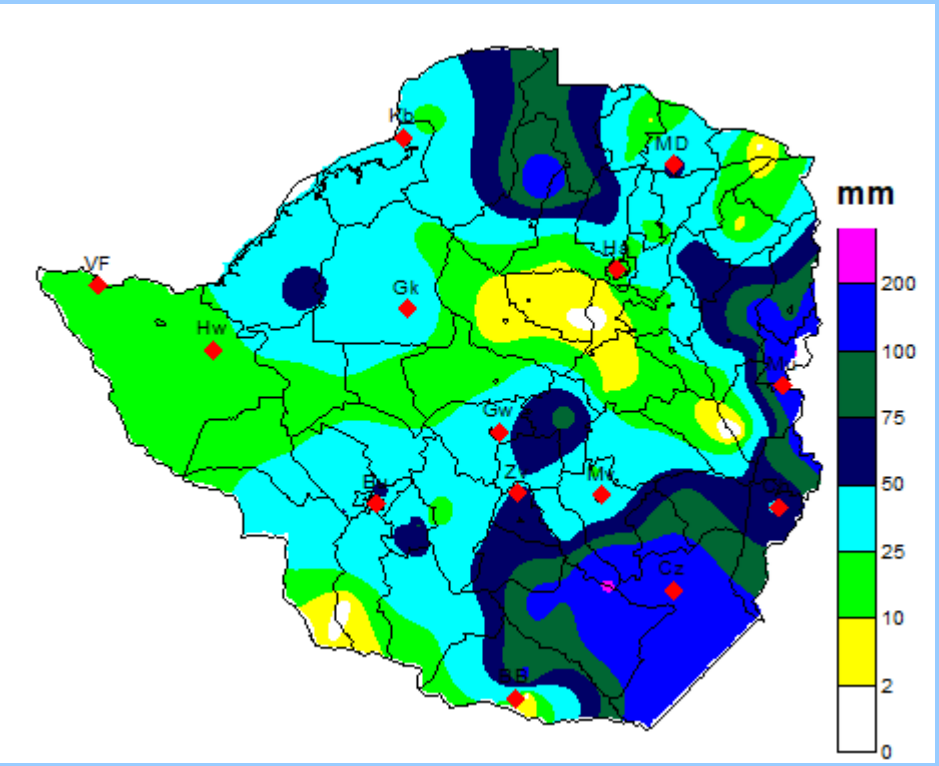

FIGURE 1: WEEKLY RAINFALL TOTALS: 12 MARCH 2026 TO 17 MARCH 2026

The week under review was mostly cloudy and warm, with scattered thundershowers across the country. The greater part of the country recorded rainfall above 25mm with the highest totals exceeding 100mm due to the wet conditions that prevailed during the reporting period. Notable falls were in the eastern and far northern areas; 218mm (Petronella), 216mm (Mukandi), 147mm (Hauna), 127mm (Rutenga), (Buffalo) 127mm and 126mm (Maranda). Lower rainfall amounts of less than 10mm were recorded in parts of Mashonaland West and Matabeleland South Provinces as shown by the yellow color in Figure 1.

SEASONAL ACCUMULATED RAINFALL: 01 OCTOBER 2025 – 17 MARCH 2026

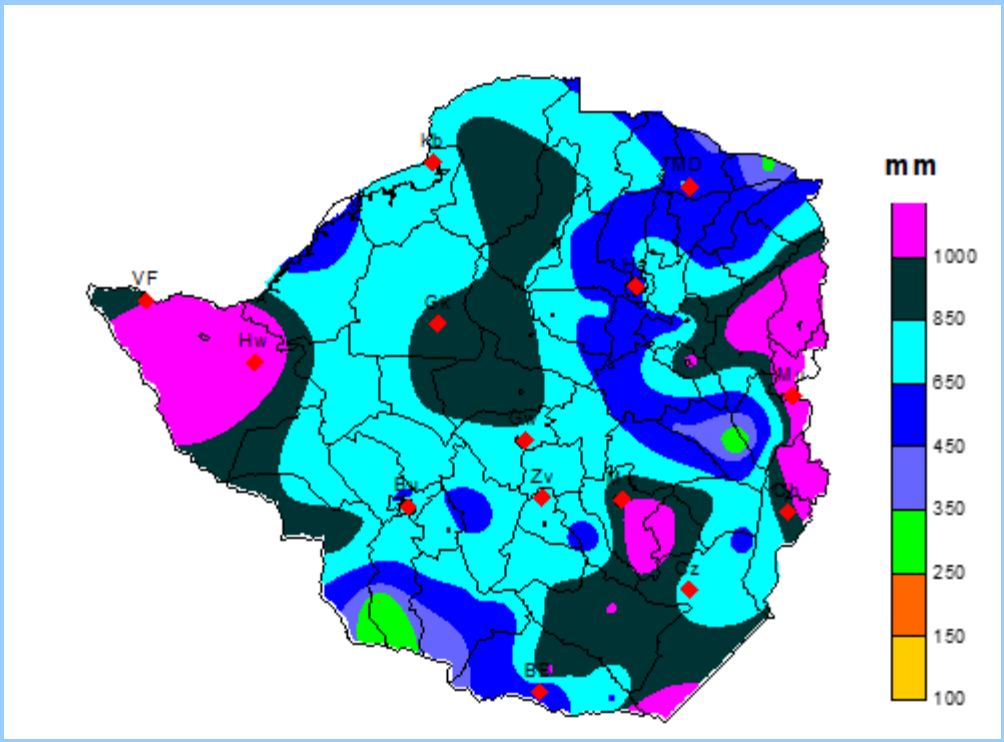

FIGURE 2: SEASONAL RAINFALL TOTALS: 01 OCTOBER 2025 -17 MARCH 2026

Accumulated rainfall totals from 1 October 2025 to 17 March 2026 indicate that the 2025/26 rainfall season has been generally wet across much of Zimbabwe, with significant totals recorded in many areas. Highest figures recorded include 1693mm (Zaka), 1650mm (Mukandi), 1438mm (Hauna), 1251mm (Chatikobo), 1245mm (Hwange) and 1198mm (Chikarudzo). Lowest rainfall amounts were recorded over some parts of Matabeleland South Province.

Overall, the rainfall distribution reflects a favourable season across most of the country, with the bulk of precipitation received from mid-November to most of January and then March. However, most of February was generally dry and this impacted crops in parts of the country.

SEASONAL RAINFALL PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL: 1 OCTOBER 2025 – 17 MARCH 2026

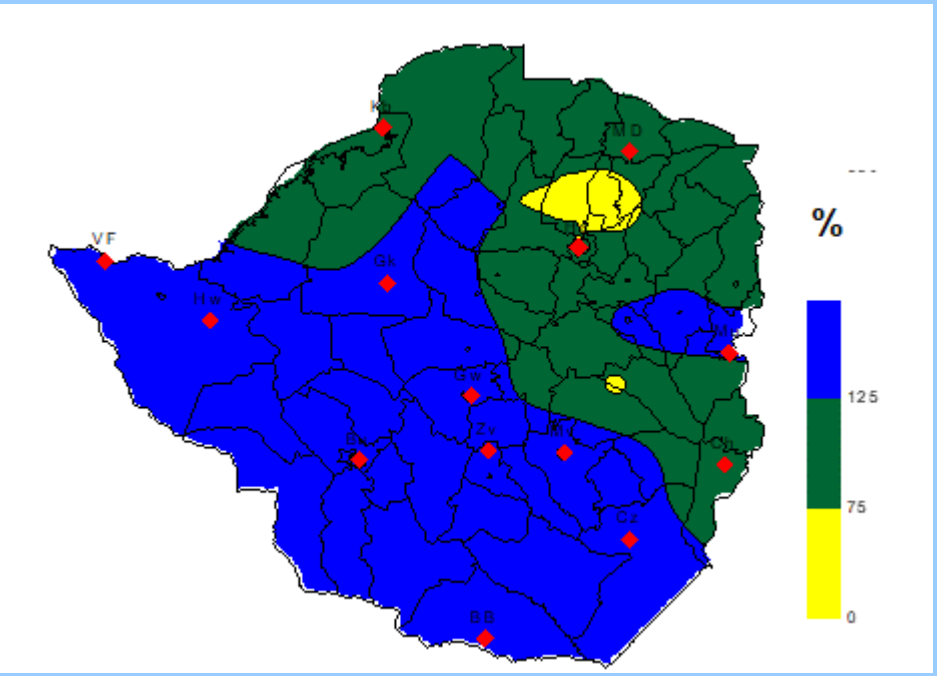

FIGURE 3: ACCUMULATION RAINFALL AS PERCENTAGE OF AVERAGE: 1 OCTOBER 2025 - 17 MARCH 2026

Wetter conditions have been experienced across much of the country so far during the 2025/26 rainfall season resulting in above-normal (blue-coloured regions). In contrast, some parts of the central and eastern regions recorded rainfall within their long-term range normal (green-coloured regions). Drier conditions which led to below-normal rainfall (yellow-coloured regions) was observed in areas in of Mashonaland West (Zvimba district) and Mashonaland Central (Bindura, Shamva and Mazowe districts). Overall, conditions remain favorable for agriculture and water supply, though areas receiving excessive rainfall require continuous monitoring for incidences of flooding.

WEEKLY EVAPORATION 12-17 MARCH 2026

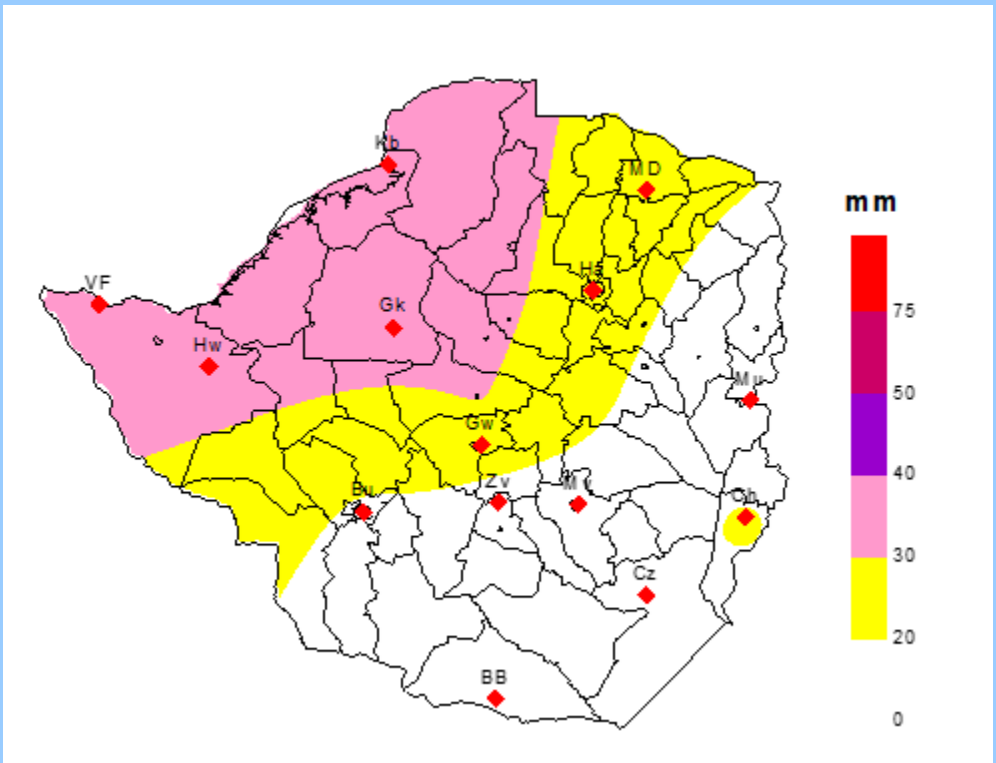

FIGURE 4: WEEKLY EVAPORATION: 12 MARCH - 17 MARCH 2026

Figure 4 illustrates a clear spatial variation in evaporative demand across Zimbabwe during the period 12 March to 17 March 2026. Evaporation rates were mostly above 20mm across the country with the highest recorded in Mashonaland West and Matabeleland North while the lowest was observed over the southern and eastern parts.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR THE PERIOD: 19 MARCH – 27 MARCH 2026.

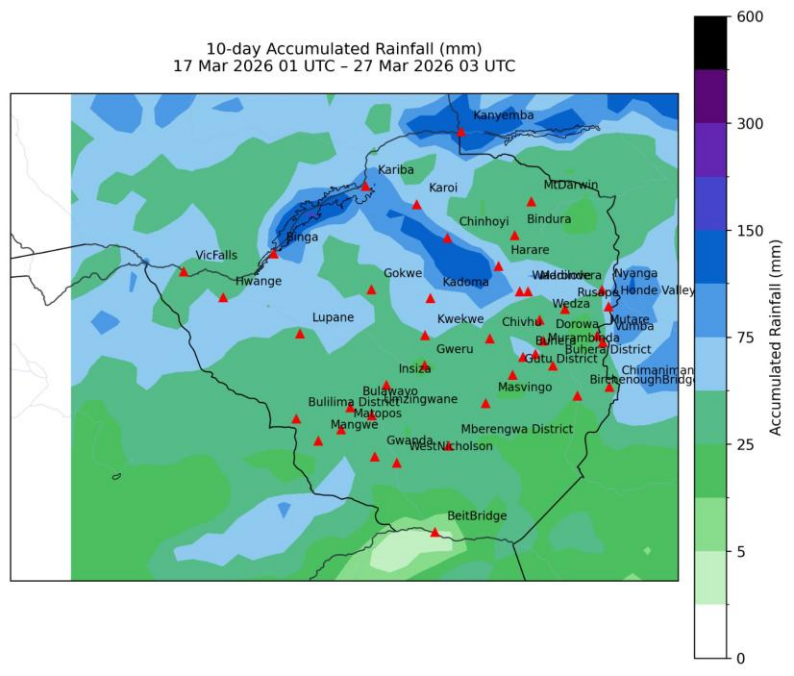

FIGURE 5: ACCUMULATED PRECIPITATION FORECAST: 17 MARCH TO 27 MARCH 2026

Scattered thunderstorms are expected across the country during the forecast period. Localized downpours that may cause flash flooding are possible in the western and northern regions. Warmer conditions and moderate rainfall activity, mainly in the northern districts of the country are likely during the latter part of the forecast period.

Advisory

- Communities are therefore advised to remain alert to possible flooding early in the period, and later to monitor soil moisture conditions, especially in areas experiencing reduced rainfall and warmer conditions.
- Prioritize safety during storms, avoid open fields and ensure adequate shelter for livestock, moving them away from flood-prone areas.
- Monitor livestock health through regular dipping and vaccination schedules.
- In regions prone to localized downpours, keep drainage channels clear to prevent waterlogging and soil erosion.