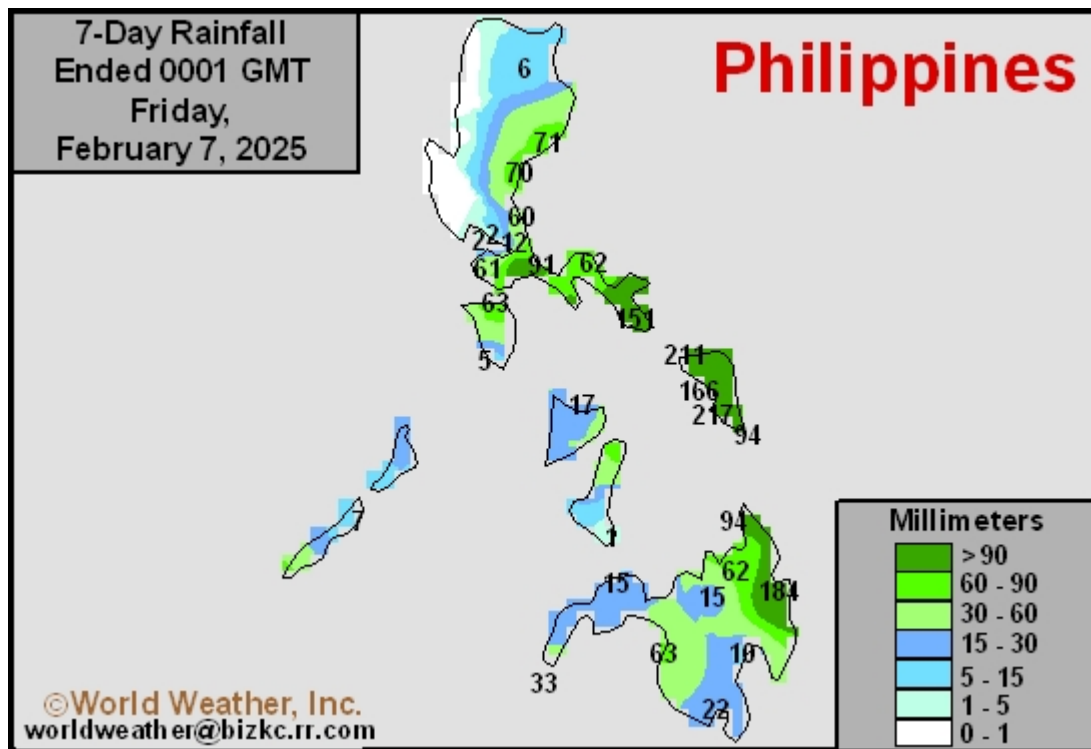


Philippines Can't Shake Off The Heavy Rain, Flood Events

By Andrew Owen

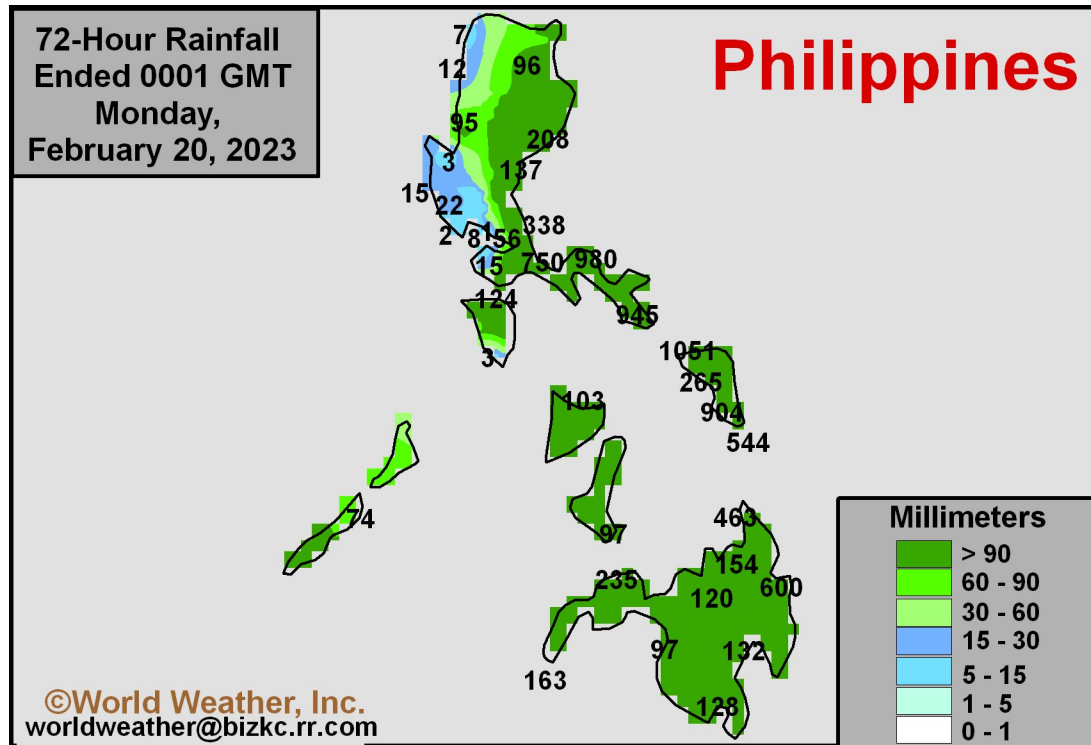
Kansas City, February 7 (World Weather Inc.) – Several areas in southern Luzon Island, Samar Island, and northeastern Mindanao in the Philippines reported heavy to excessive rain during the past week. Waves of rain are slated for these areas through the end of next week that may promote severe flooding and landslides. Several of these locations have already experienced flooding in recent months and the threat for additional flooding could further impact rice, corn, sugarcane, coffee, cocoa and a host of other crops. Production may trend lower or much lower than usual in several locations due to the adverse weather conditions.

Rainfall varied across the Philippines during the past week. Samar Island, northeastern Mindanao, and several areas in southern Luzon Island reported 2.44 to 8.54 inches of rain for the seven-day period ending this morning. Other areas in Mindanao and portions of east-central Luzon received 0.59 to 2.80 inches of rain. A few locations in the central Visayan Islands received up to 0.67 inch of moisture while little to no rain was noted elsewhere in Luzon.



Samar Island and southern Luzon Island have often struggled with excess moisture since last autumn. Waves of heavy rain occurred at times and promoted severe flooding and landslides. Damage to personal property and many crops has occurred multiple times and the pattern is not likely to change much for a while longer. The greatest rain recently was centered on areas from eastern Mindanao into southeastern Luzon, but in the past the rain was most impactful on Samar and southeastern Luzon as well as a few other central Visayan Islands.

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“Impressive rainfall” in January is putting it lightly. “Copious” rain may not do it much justice either. One location in northern Samar reported 41.38 inches of rain during the month of January. Another 8.30 inches of rain occurred in just this first week at that location. January rain amounts from eastern Mindanao through eastern Luzon ranged from 13.14 to 38.58 inches most often with a few amounts of 8.00 to 13.00 inches and then the one northern Samar location reporting the greatest amount.

Other areas in the Philippines, outside portions of western Mindanao and northern Luzon, received near to below normal rainfall during the past month. These areas generally received enough rain to support a good environment for crop development, despite the drier biased conditions.

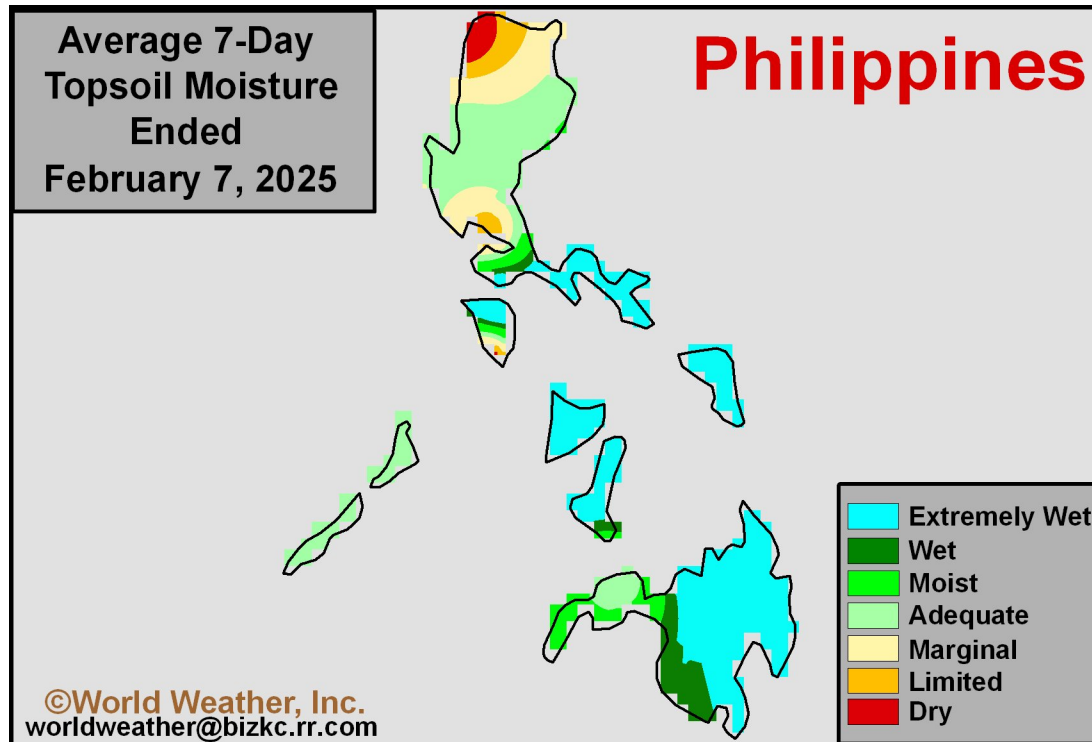
WEATHER OUTLOOK

Waves of rain are slated for the Philippines through the end of next week. The wet weather pattern is partly attributed to the Madden-Julian Oscillation as the pulse advances across the western Pacific Ocean in the coming days. Samar Island into portions of southern and eastern Luzon Island will receive some of the most frequent and significant rainfall during this time. Moisture totals by next Friday morning will range from 5.00 to 10.00 inches and local amounts of 15.00 inches or more. Other locations in the Philippines will receive 1.00 to 4.00 inches of rain with local amounts of 7.00 inches or more in the central Visayan Islands. A few locations in west-central Luzon will also only receive 0.25 to 1.00 inch of moisture.

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Less frequent and less intensive rainfall is expected over the Philippines from Feb. 13-21, although there will still be periodic rain of light intensity. The change should reduce flooding and improve the environment for crops.

Flood potentials will increase greatly for Samar Island, southern Luzon, and neighboring locations in the coming days. The flooding and landslides may result in more crop and structural damage. Crop losses are likely this year because of all the flood events, although the areas impacted may not produce a large enough percentage of the nation's total production to have a huge impact on the bottom line. Nonetheless, drying is needed.



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