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Friday, 2 February 2024

Expected weather for the IEC voter registration weekend

Saturday, 3 to Sunday, 4 February 2024

During the past week, much of South Africa has experienced afternoon thunderstorms, almost on a daily basis. The favourable conditions for thunderstorms currently arise from the combination of a surface trough over the central interior, assisted by the presence of an upper-air trough over the western parts of the country. In addition, cooler moist air is being introduced to the eastern parts of the country by an anticyclone located over the southern Indian Ocean.

Consequently, all eyes are on the weather expected during the forthcoming Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) voter registration weekend, scheduled for 3 and 4 February 2024. Weather plays a significant role in the preparation and safe operation of the various IEC voter registration sites. Moreover, any inclement weather could potentially affect voter turnout.

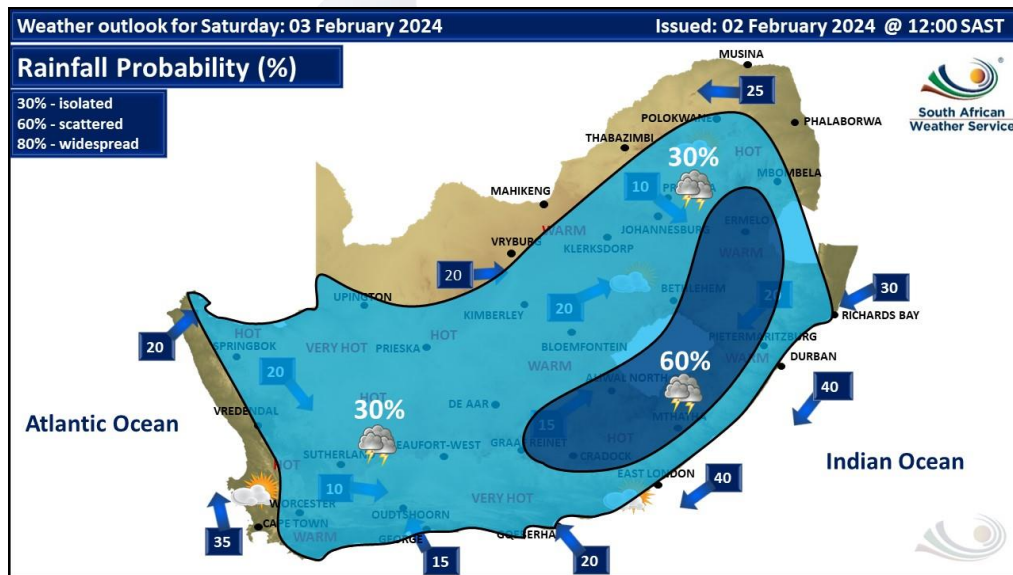


Figure 1: Forecast of the percentage chance of rain for South Africa for Saturday 3 February 2024. Source: SAWS.

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Isolated afternoon showers and thundershowers, with a 30% likelihood are expected across the country on Saturday, 3 February 2024 (refer to Figure 1). However, voters should be aware of a 60% likelihood of scattered thunderstorms which may develop along the Drakensberg mountain range in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga. Moreover, there is also a low likelihood of severe thunderstorms developing over last-mentioned regions. Impact-based early warnings will be issued by SAWS in relation to the risk of severe storms, should the need arise.

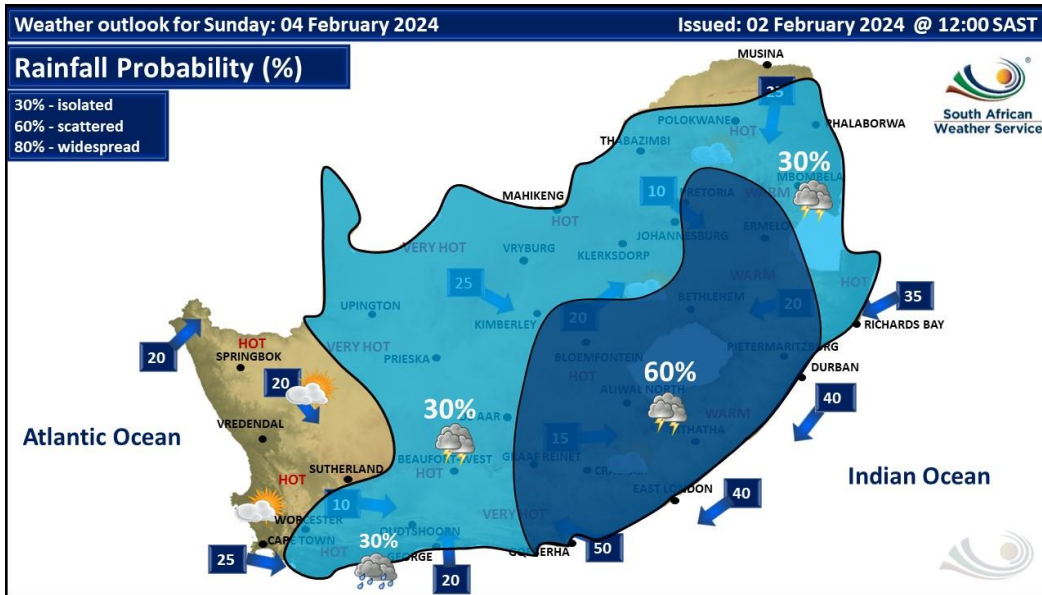


Figure 2: Forecast of the percentage chance of rain for South Africa for Sunday, 4 February 2024. Source: SAWS.

For Sunday, 4 February, similar conditions will prevail (as per Figure 2) as those discussed for Saturday, 3 February. Isolated afternoon showers and thundershowers with a 30% likelihood are expected across much of the country, except over the extreme western and south-western parts, where sunny and hot conditions are expected to persist. Scattered afternoon showers and thundershowers with a 60% likelihood can be expected over the central, eastern and south-eastern parts of the country.

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