

06 May 2019

Expected weather conditions for 8 May 2019: South African General Elections Day

With South Africa going into general elections in a two days' time, some parts of the country can expect the generally fine and mild weather experienced over the past weekend to persist. However, there are changes in conditions expected as from tomorrow over the western and central parts. This will be in the form of scattered thundershowers over the Northern Cape as well as the eastern parts of Western Cape.

By election day, these thundershowers are expected over the eastern and southern portions of the Northern Cape, far eastern parts of Western Cape, western parts of the North West, Free State, Eastern Cape as well as the extreme southern parts of KwaZulu-Natal. In the south-west corner of the country, a cold front will result in cool and wet conditions for most of the day.

In addition, places in the Northern Cape (especially the eastern parts), western parts of the North West and Free State, as well as the interior of the Eastern Cape can expect **strong and gusty winds** on election day. It is thus recommended that extra caution be taken when erecting temporary structures in these places.

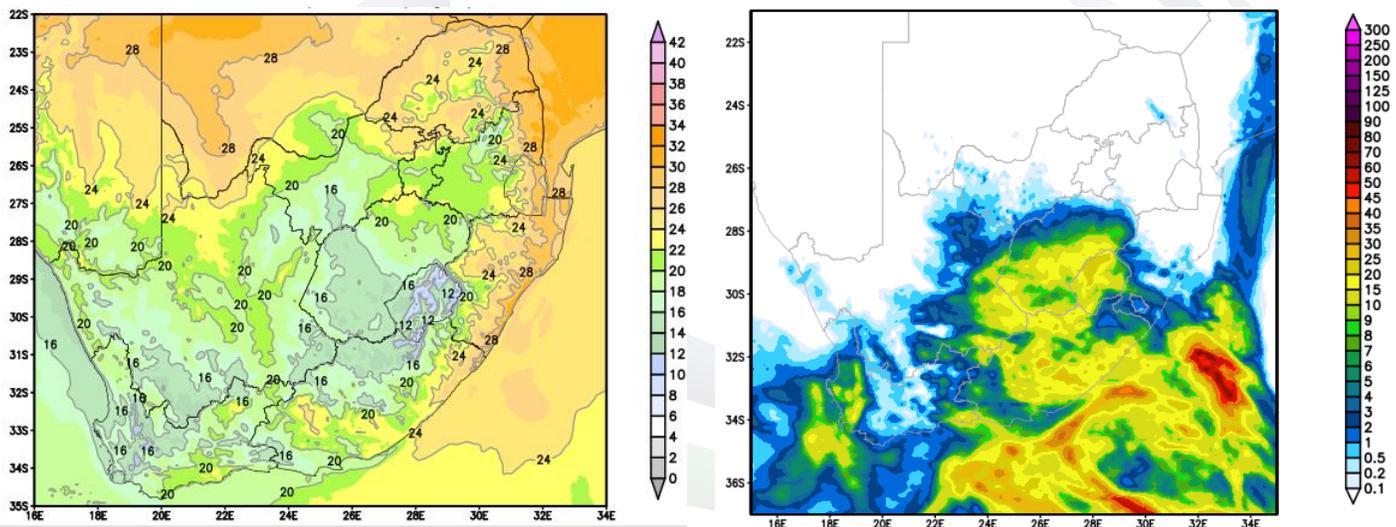


Figure 1: Predicted 24 hour accumulation of rainfall (at left) as generated by the 16km ECMWF Model (©ECMWF) Wednesday, 8 May 2019 and (at right) the expected maximum temperatures on Wednesday 8 May 2019 (©SAWS 2019)

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WEATHER SUMMARY BY PROVINCE

Western Cape

A cold front is expected to move over the south-west coast of the Western Cape, which will lead to cloudy and cool conditions with light rain over the south-western parts for most part of the day. Light rain is also expected to spread along the south coast, to reach the Garden Route district in the evening. Isolated early morning thunderstorms are possible over Prince Albert and Beaufort West municipalities. The rest of the province will experience partly cloudy and cool conditions with **strong interior winds** in the afternoon.

Eastern Cape

Scattered thundershowers are expected over most parts of the province. **Strong winds** are expected over the western and central parts of the province ahead of the approaching cold front.

Northern Cape

Windy and gusty over the interior, otherwise partly cloudy with showers and thundershowers in the east and south.

Free State

Warm in the north, otherwise it will be partly cloudy and warm over the province with thundershowers and **strong winds** in the west where it will be cool.

North-West Province

Partly cloudy and warm with **strong gusty winds** in the west where there will also be a few thundershowers.

KwaZulu- Natal

Fine and warm across the province with **strong gusty winds** over the northern interior. Isolated thunderstorms are possible in the south at night. The wind along the coast will be strong north-easterly becoming south-westerly from the south from evening.

Gauteng

Fine and warm.

Mpumalanga

Cloudy in the east at first with drizzle along the escarpment, otherwise sunny and cool but warm in the Lowveld.

Limpopo

Cloudy in the east at first, otherwise fine and warm.

The South African Weather Service will continue to monitor any further developments relating to this weather system and will issue subsequent updates as required. Furthermore, the public are urged and encouraged to regularly follow weather forecasts on television and radio.

Updated information in this regard will regularly be available at www.weathersa.co.za as well as via the SA Weather Service Twitter account @SAWeatherServic

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