

WTIO30 FMEE 161312

RSMC / TROPICAL CYCLONE CENTER / LA REUNION
TROPICAL CYCLONE FORECAST WARNING (SOUTH-WEST INDIAN OCEAN)

0.A WARNING NUMBER: 10/7/20172018

1.A SEVERE TROPICAL STORM 7 (ELIAKIM)

2.A POSITION 2018/03/16 AT 1200 UTC:

WITHIN 21 NM RADIUS OF POINT 15.9 S / 50.3 E

(FIFTEEN DECIMAL NINE DEGREES SOUTH AND FIFTY DECIMAL THREE DEGREES EAST)

MOVEMENT : SOUTH-WEST 4 KT

3.A DVORAK ANALYSIS: NIL

4.A CENTRAL PRESSURE: 980 HPA

5.A MAX AVERAGE WIND SPEED (10 MN): 55 KT

RADIUS OF MAXIMUM WINDS (RMW) :37 KM

6.A EXTENSION OF WIND BY QUADRANTS (KM):

28 KT NE: 380 SE: 520 SW: 370 NW: 190

34 KT NE: 300 SE: 290 SW: 190 NW: 130

48 KT NE: 80 SE: 70 SW: 0 NW: 0

7.A FIRST CLOSED ISOBAR (PRESSURE / AVERAGE DIAM): 1006 HPA / 800 KM

8.A VERTICAL EXTENSION OF CYCLONE CIRCULATION : DEEP

1.B FORECASTS:

12H: 2018/03/17 00 UTC: 16.2 S / 48.6 E, MAX WIND=040 KT, OVERLAND DEPRESSION

24H: 2018/03/17 12 UTC: 17.0 S / 47.9 E, MAX WIND=035 KT, OVERLAND DEPRESSION

36H: 2018/03/18 00 UTC: 18.8 S / 48.5 E, MAX WIND=035 KT, OVERLAND DEPRESSION

48H: 2018/03/18 12 UTC: 20.5 S / 48.9 E, MAX WIND=035 KT, MODERATE TROPICAL STORM

60H: 2018/03/19 00 UTC: 22.4 S / 49.3 E, MAX WIND=035 KT, MODERATE TROPICAL STORM

72H: 2018/03/19 12 UTC: 24.8 S / 50.3 E, MAX WIND=040 KT, MODERATE TROPICAL STORM

2.B LONGER-RANGE OUTLOOK :

96H: 2018/03/20 12 UTC: 29.5 S / 53.7 E, MAX WIND=045 KT, POST-TROPICAL DEPRESSION

120H: 2018/03/21 12 UTC: 34.0 S / 56.6 E, MAX WIND=040 KT, POST-TROPICAL DEPRESSION

2.C ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

THE HIGH TERRAIN OVER THE MASAOLA PENINSULA HAS STRONGLY IMPACTED THE FORWARD MOTION OF ELIAKIM WITH A SLOW DOWN OF THE TRACK AND NOW A SOUTHWARDS TURN. IT SEEMS THAT THE THE SYSTEM IS PASSING TO THE SOUTH OF THE PENINSULA. A BURST OF DEEP CONVECTION HAS APPEARED WITHIN THE CENTRAL AREA THIS AFTERNOON AND HAS EVOLVED TOWARDS A BANDING EYE FEATURE ON THE VERY LAST IMAGE. AS THE STRONGEST WINDS LOCATED OVER THE EASTERN PART OF THE CENTER HAS REMAINED MOSTLY OVERSEAS, THE INTENSITY REMAINS AT 55 KT. AT 12 UTC, STRONG WINDS ARE REPORTED AT ANTALAHA ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF CAP MASAOLA.

THE TRACK SHOULD RESUME A MORE WESTWARDS TRACK OVER THE NEXT FEW HOURS AND IS EXPECTED TO MOVE OVER THE ANTONGIL BAY BEFORE A SECOND LANDFALL LATER THIS EVENING.

SATURDAY, ELIAKIM SHOULD EVOLVE OVERLAND, THE FORECAST POSITIONS ARE THEREFORE UNCERTAIN DUE TO THE POTENTIAL DISAPPEARING OF THE LOW LEVEL CIRCULATION. SUNDAY, THE WEAKENED SYSTEM SHOULD COME BACK OVER SEA AND TRACK GENERALLY SOUTH-EASTWARD, STEERED BY THE RIDGE AT EAST AND THE ARRIVING UPPER TROUGH IN THE SOUTH-WEST. THE AVAILABLE GUIDANCE REMAINS IN RATHER GOOD AGREEMENT OVER THIS SCENARIO, EVEN IF THE LOCALISATION AND TIMING OF THE RETURN OVER SEA REMAIN RELATIVELY UNCERTAIN.

ONCE OVERLAND, THE SYSTEM WILL WEAKEN. SUNDAY EVENING, AS ELIAKIM SHOULD HAVE JUST CAME BACK OVER SEA, THE STRENGTHENING OF A NORTH-WESTERLY SHEAR AHEAD OF AN UPPER TROUGH SHOULD STRONGLY LIMIT THE CHANCES FOR RE-INTENSIFICATION. AT LONG RANGE, ELIAKIM MAY BEGIN ITS EXTRATROPICALISATION UNDER A GROWING BAROCLINIC INFLUENCE.

ELIAKIM REMAINS A DANGEROUS SYSTEM. THE STRONGEST WINDS (WITH ASSOCIATED GUSTS UP TO 130-150 KM/H) ARE OCCURRING OVER THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MASAOLA PENINSULA. THE STORM SURGE THREAT IN THE BOTTOM OF THE ANTONGIL BAY SHOULD GRADUALLY AND FINALLY EASE IN THE NEXT HOURS AS WINDS SHIFT NORTHERLY AFTER THE CENTER WILL CROSS THE BAY. THE STORM SURGE COULD STILL REACH 1M ON THE COAST LATER TONIGHT SOUTH OF THE ANTONGIL BAY. BEWARE THAT THIS VALUE DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE WAVE SET-UP.