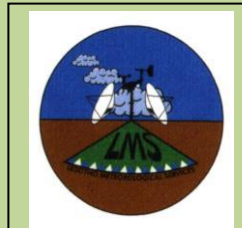




**LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES**  
(LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



**Agrometeorological Update**

Period: 01 - 10 January 2015

**Issue No.:**7/18

**Release Date:** 16/01/2015

**Season:** 2014/15

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**Highlights**

- Above normal rainfall in the lowlands, below normal in the mountains
- Above average temperatures experienced
- Rangelands fully fledged
- Maize at vegetative and tasseling stages

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## MOISTURE AND HEAT STATUS

### RAINFALL SITUATION

The first dekad of January recorded above normal rainfall which was approximately the same as last season's total dekadal rainfall (Figure 1 below).

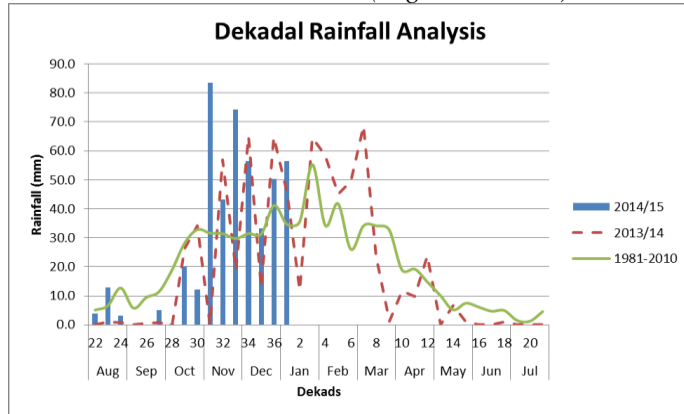


Figure 1: Seasonal rainfall distribution for the 1st dekad of January 2015

Leribe, Mokhotlong, Moshoeshoe-I, Oxbow, Semonkong and Thaba-Tseka had 5 days of rainfall followed by Butha-Buthe, Mafeteng, Mejametalana, Mohale's Hoek and Quthing which had 4 days of rainfall while Qacha's Nek had 3 days (Figure 2 below).

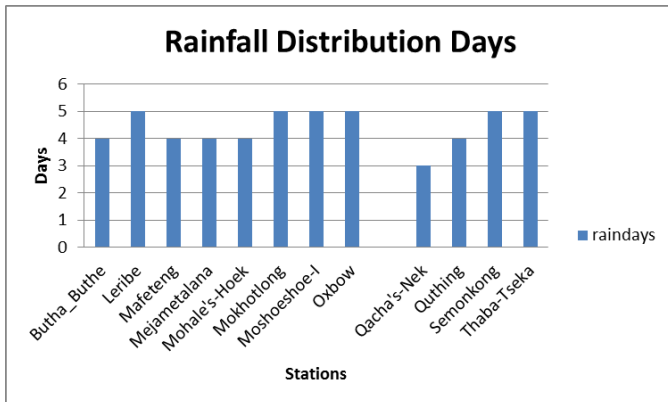
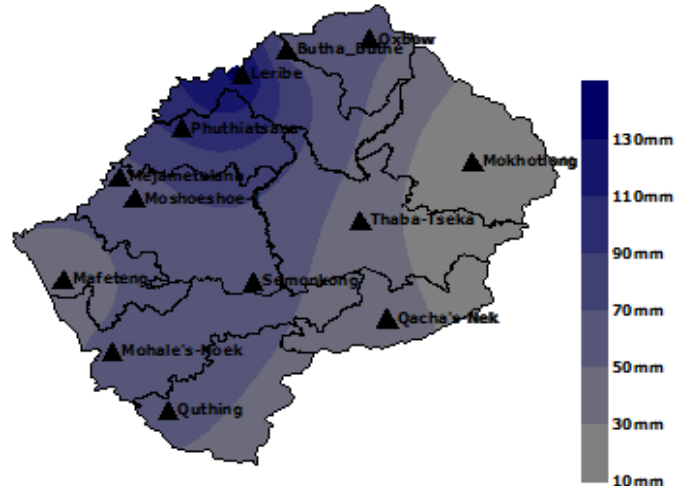


Figure 2: Rainy days during 01 - 10 January 2015

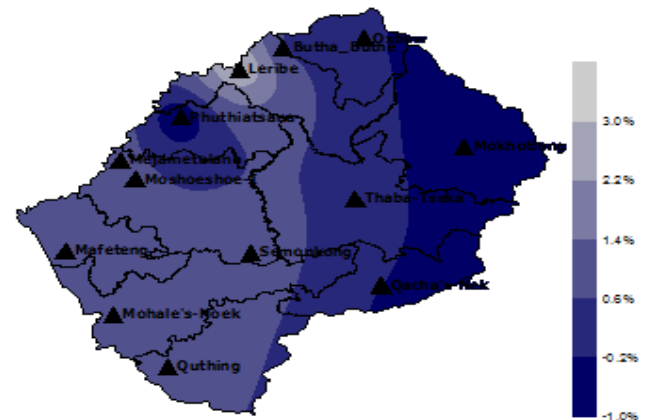
Leribe recorded the highest rainfall amount of 136mm followed by Mejametalana which recorded 70mm of rainfall. Butha-Buthe, Moshoeshoe-I, Oxbow, Semonkong, Quthing and Mohale's Hoek recorded rainfall amounts ranging between 50mm – 60mm. Mafeteng, Thaba-Tseka and Qacha's Nek received between 35mm – 45mm while Mokhotlong observed lowest rainfall of 11mm (See Map 1. Below).



Map 1: Rainfall distribution for 01 - 10 January 2015

### RAINFALL DEPARTURE

Rainfall for the first dekad exceeded normal by 60% with Leribe having recorded highest rainfall. Most of the stations accumulated normal to above normal rainfall with the exception of Mokhotlong and Qacha's Nek which recorded below normal rainfall (See Map2 below).



Map 2: percentage departure from normal as of 1st dekad January 2015

## TEMPERATURES

### MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE

Both the Lowlands (represented by Mejametalana) and the Mountains (represented by Mokhotlong) recorded above average temperatures for the first 7 days of the dekad, becoming normal from the 08<sup>th</sup> (See Figure 3 below).

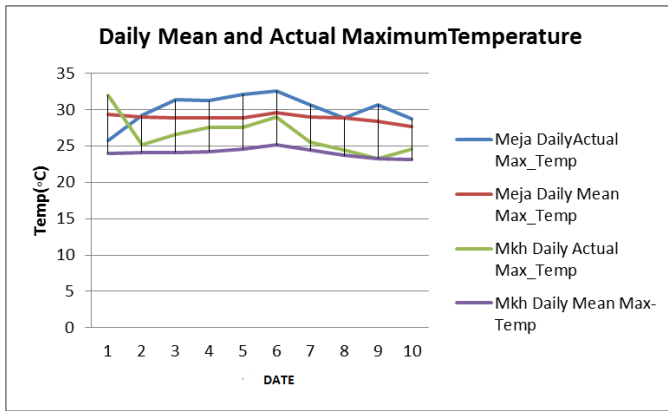


Figure 3: Maximum Temperature during 01 - 10 January 2015

**MINIMUM TEMPERATURE**

Minimum temperatures remained mostly above normal for period for both the mountains and the lowlands except on the 04<sup>th</sup> where there was a drop in temperatures in the mountains. (See Figure 4 below).

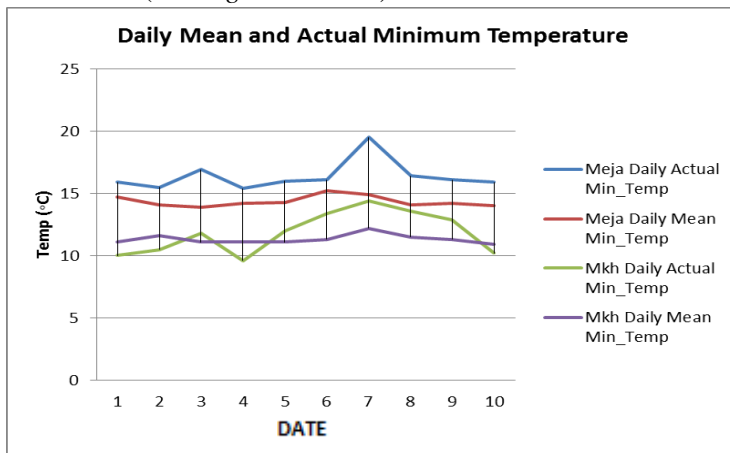


Figure 4: Minimum Temperature during 01 - 10 January 2015

**CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS**

**MAIZE CROP STAGE AND CONDITION Mountains**

Maize is at vegetative stage on most fields and entering tasseling stage at some fields (See Figure 6)



Figure 6: Maize at tasseling stage in Semonkong

**Lowlands**

Maize at third leaf on some fields and at Vegetative stage in most of the fields (See Figure 5)



Figure 5: Maize at vegetative stage in Leribe

**CURRENT FARMING ACTIVITY**

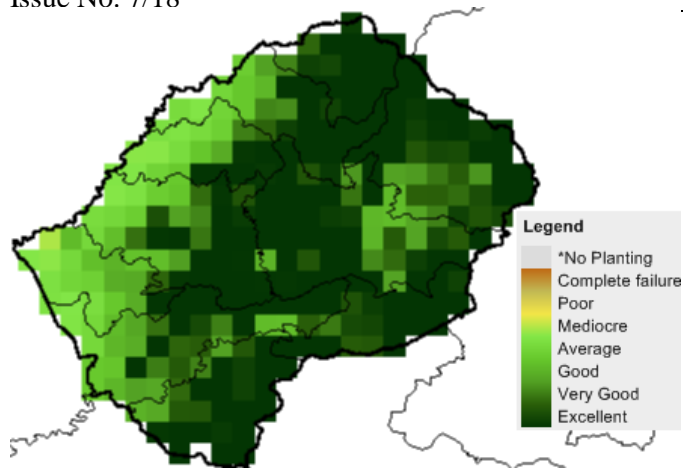
**Lowlands**

Weeding is taking place in the fields where maize is at third leaf, otherwise there is no weeding taking place in the mountains.

**RANGELAND CONDITIONS**

Rangelands are in good conditions due to continuation of good rains. (See Map. 3 below)

## OUTLOOK FOR 17 - 24 JANUARY 2015



*Map.3*

### Rainfall

There is likelihood normal with a possibility of above normal in the eastern parts.

### Temperature

Normal temperature is expected

### Soil Moisture

Stable soil moisture anticipated especially in the eastern parts becoming a bit reduced at other areas.

