

# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



## Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

1 – 10 April 2009



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*...dedicated to the agricultural community  
... aimed at harmonizing agricultural activities with weather and climate*

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## Highlights

- ❑ Dry weather prevailed.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall is normal to above normal.
- ❑ Normal to above normal temperatures experienced at most parts.
- ❑ Crops at maturing stage.

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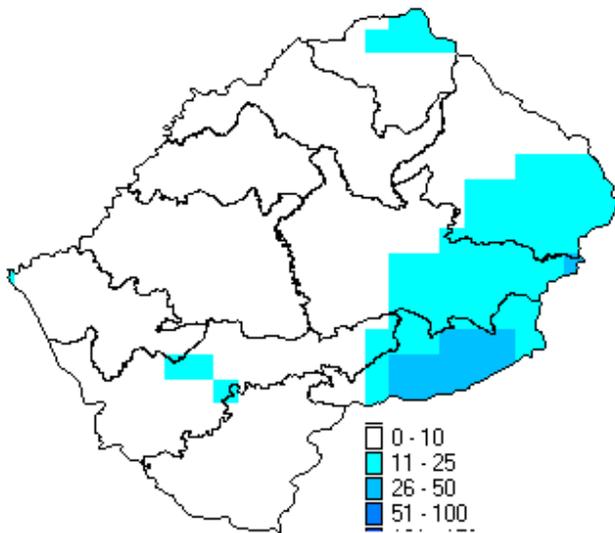
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**DEKADAL WEATHER SUMMARY**

Rainfall experienced in the eastern parts of the country was as a result of the passage of cold fronts over those areas and advection of moist air by the advancing Atlantic Ocean High behind the cold front over the southern interior. Otherwise for the rest parts of the country rainfall that was received was as a result of low-level convergence of winds and little moisture coming from the north with topographical effect enhancing the rainfall formation.

**RAINFALL SITUATION**

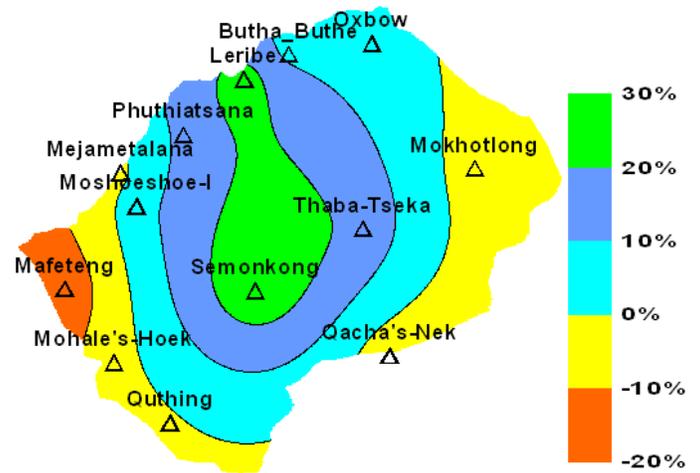
The first dekad of April 2009 recorded below normal rainfall except at Qacha’s Nek where dekad rainfall was above normal, and Mokhotlong where it was normal. Map 1 show that rainfall was mainly concentrated in the eastern parts of the country. Phuthiatsana, Mafeteng Mejametalana and Quthing did not record any rainfall during the period in discussion.



Map 1: April 2009 First Dekad Rainfall

**Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal**

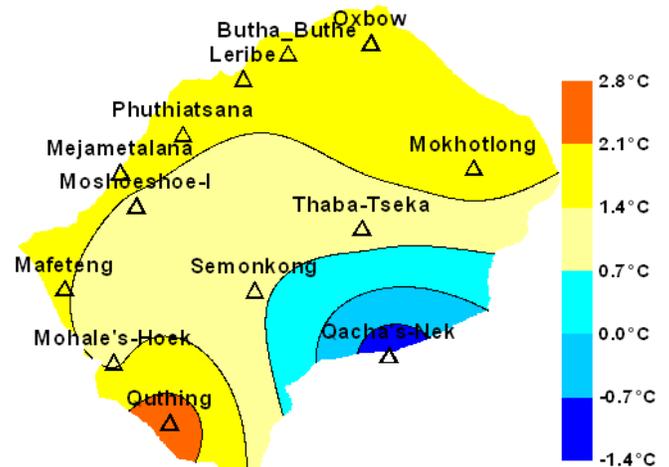
Cumulative rainfall since September 2008 is above normal only at Semonkong and Leribe as well as surrounding areas. It remains normal at other parts of the country. Cumulative rainfall percentage departure from normal is continuously decreasing due to poor rainfall performance especially during the previous four consecutive dekads.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall since September 2008 - April First Dekad 2009

**TEMPERATURE**

Mean temperatures were normal in most parts of the country. It was above normal at Quthing with a temperature deviation of 2.7°C. Qacha’s Nek had lowest mean temperature deviation from normal of -1.3°C. Low temperatures at Qacha’s Nek were mainly due to advection of cold air from the adjoining ocean.



Map 3: Dekadal Mean Temperature Deviation from Normal

**RAINFALL ANOMALIES**

Dry conditions persisted into the first dekad of April. It was the fourth consecutive dekad of dry weather at most places as shown in Fig. 3. All agroecological zones recorded below normal rainfall during the first dekad of April as shown in the chart.

### **CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS**

Frost was reported at Semonkong during the last dekad of March. There were no indications of frost occurrence during the period in discussion. Cereal crops are at maturing stage at most parts of the country and their conditions range from fair to good. It is now normal time for onset of frost in the mountains and the foothills. And therefore it can be expected at any time from now.

### **DEKADAL OUTLOOK**

**11 – 20 April 2009**

The coming ten days are expected to be dry and warm, and sometimes hot with isolated rain and thundershowers anticipated towards the end of the period.

Fig.1

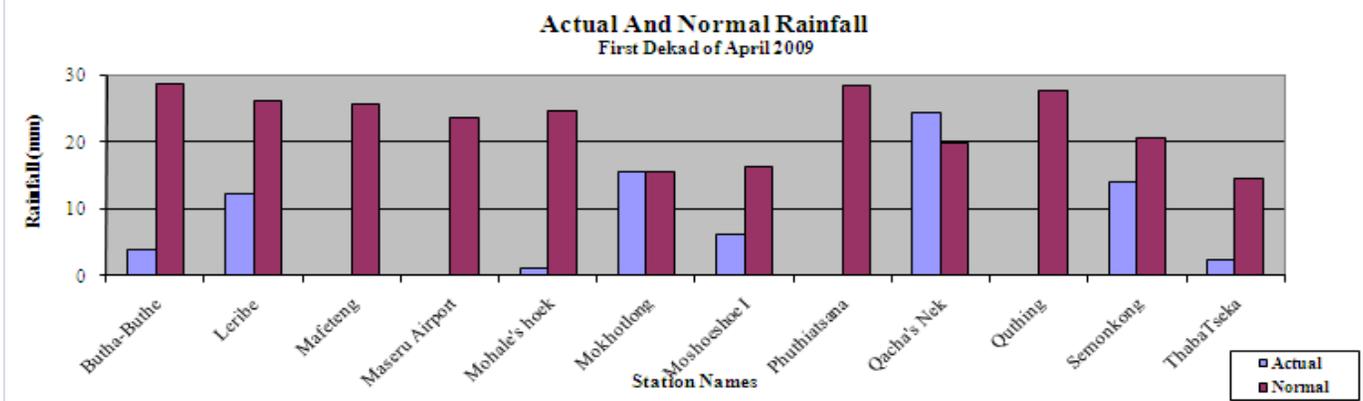


Fig.2

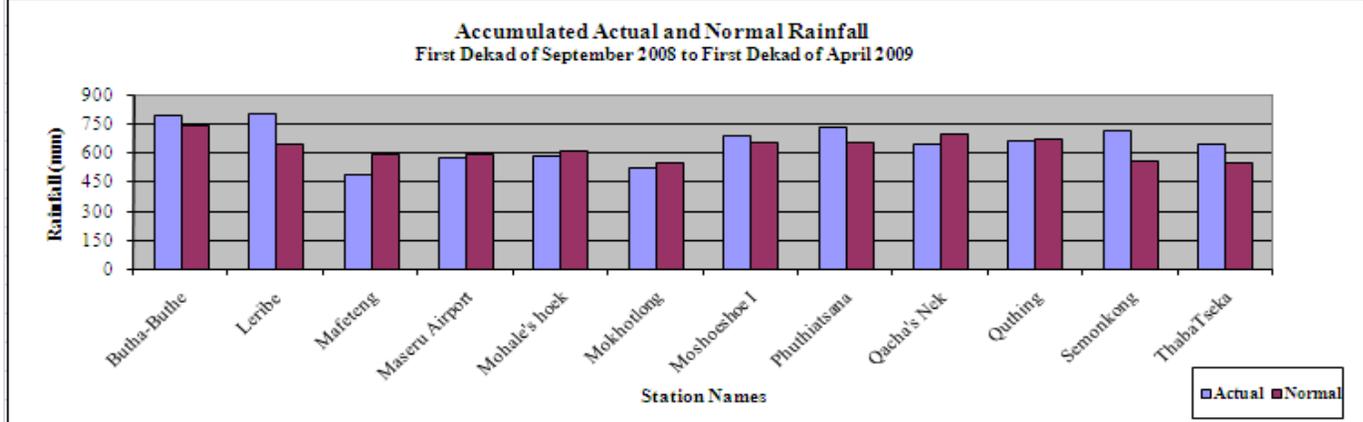


Fig. 3

Rainfall Anomaly (%) for the period September Dekad 1, 2008 to April Dekad 1, 2009

