

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



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

Contents

Rainfall Situation
Page 1

Temperatures
Page 1

Crop Stage and Condition
Page 1

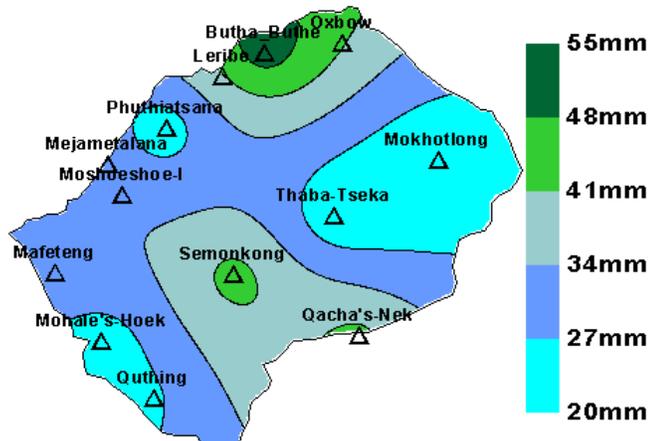
Highlights

- ❑ Wet conditions still persist during the first dekad of April.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall remains normal in most places.
- ❑ Warm temperatures recorded
- ❑ Crops generally in satisfactory conditions.
- ❑ No frost reports yet

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RAINFALL SITUATION



Map 1: Rainfall for April 1st Dekad 2010

The country continued to experience wet conditions, which were observed even in the previous dekad in most regions of the country. The dekad rains were above normal in most parts of the places, with only a few places with normal dekad rainfall. The highest dekad rainfall recorded was at Butha-Buthe (52.5mm) and the lowest was at Mokhotlong with 20mm of rainfall amount. Many places had 2 rainfall days and only a few had 3.

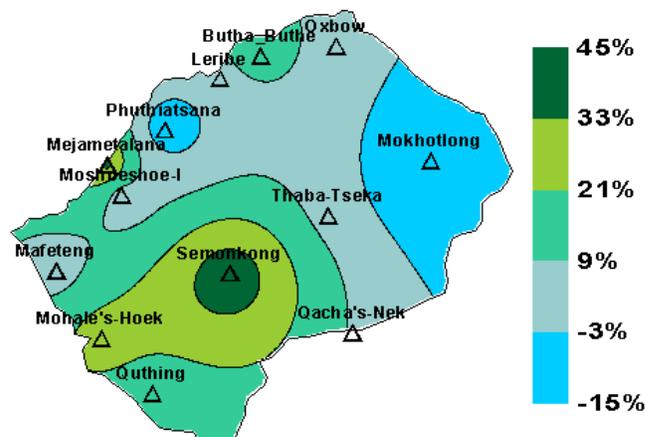
The dekadal rains were inclined towards the northern parts of the country (see Map 1).

Cumulative Rainfall Percentage Departure From Normal Since September 2009.

Cumulative rainfall since September 2009 ending first dekad of April 2010 remains normal countrywide, only a few places like Mohale's Hoek, Maseru and Semonkong, continue to experience above normal rainfall. Semonkong has the highest percentage of 44 while lowest percentage is -14 at Mokhotlong.

Map 2 depicts that from the central parts towards the southern parts, there cumulative rains are

higher than other parts of the country, with the eastern parts having the least cumulative rains.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Dep from Normal since Sept '09

TEMPERATURE

Mean temperatures were warmer than normal during the first dekad of April 2010. High dekadal mean temperature deviations which were experienced during the dekad under review, enhanced high evapotranspiration, which is counter-effective to the rainfall experienced, plants were not affected by this effect though.

Temperature mean deviation was highest at Phuthiatsana with 2.4°C and lowest at lowest at Qacha's Nek with 0°C.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Most of the maize and sorghum crops have filled grains and are in good conditions, with a few frost might set in before they mature. 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.

No frost has been reported however.

