

# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



## Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

11 – 20 April 2008



Issue No.20/2007-08

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

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## Highlights

- ❑ Dry conditions persisted during the dekad.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall remains normal.
- ❑ Isolated rain expected.

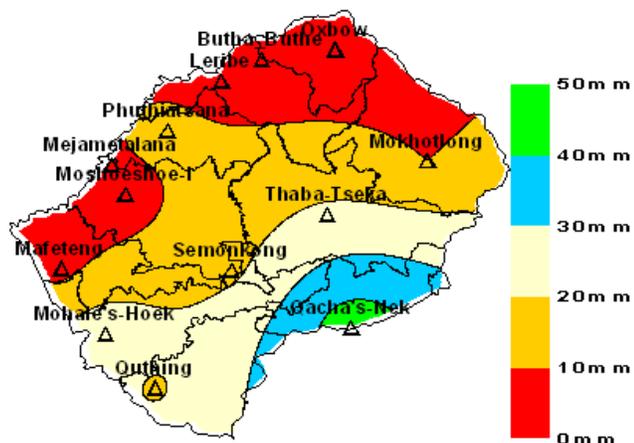
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## WEATHER SUMMARY

Mostly isolated rain showers and thundershowers were observed during the last dekad. They resulted from mainly frequent passage of cold fronts in the southern parts of the country. Scattered rain and thundershowers with light snowfall in the highlands were observed on the last night of the dekad. The interior surface trough remained shallow and inactive. Summer type weather patterns which favor influx of tropical moist air from the north slowly retreated to the north.

## RAINFALL SITUATION



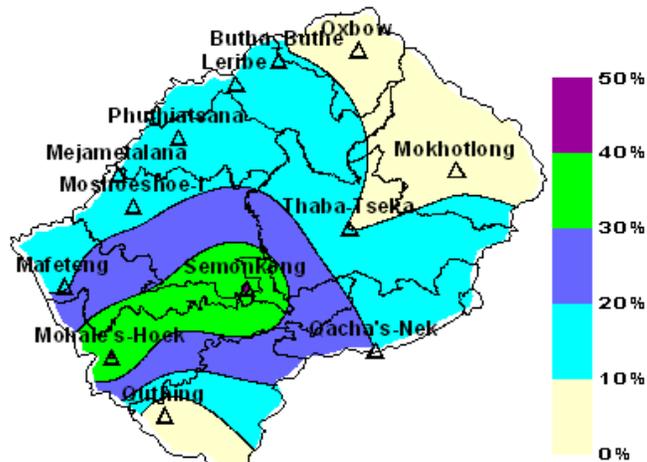
Map 1: April 2008, 2nd Dekad Rainfall

Second dekad of April had varied spatial distribution of rainfall. Highlands recorded above normal dekad rainfall with the exception of Mokhotlong where rainfall was normal. Lowlands experienced below normal rainfall except at Mohale's Hoek. Highest dekad rainfall was recorded at Qacha's Nek (46.7mm). Butha-Buthe (5mm) recorded lowest dekad rainfall (see Map 1, Table 1 & Fig 1).

Rain days ranged from a single day at Butha-Buthe to six days at Qacha's Nek. That poor temporal distribution of rainfall reflects levels of dryness during the dekad under review.

### Cumulative Rainfall Percentage Departure from Normal since September 2007.

Poor spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall at most places of the country have continued into the second dekad of April 2008. However, cumulative rainfall remains normal at most places and above normal in the region extending from Mohale's Hoek to Semonkong (see Map 2, Table 1 & Fig 2). This region has recorded less temporal variation of rainfall when compared to other parts of the country.



Map 2: Rainfall % Dep. from Normal (Sept 07-Apr 2nd Dek 08)

## TEMPERATURE

Mean temperatures during the dekad under review continued to be below normal countrywide for a third dekad in succession. This shows that temperatures have been cooler than normal since the third dekad of March. Lowest mean temperature deviation was at Qacha's Nek with  $-4.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  and highest dekadal mean temperature deviation was  $-0.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Mokhotlong.

## CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Maize and sorghum crop are at ripening stage, and are nearing full maturity. However, there are some few crops which are still at risk of being damaged by frost should it occur.

## DEKADAL OUTLOOK

21– 30 April 2008

Light and isolated rain showers are anticipated mainly over the extreme eastern parts and in the south towards the end of the dekad.

Table 1

Rainfall and Temperature Summaries												
		Rainfall (mm)					Temperature (°C)					
		11 - 20 April 2008			Total From Sept07 to 2nd Dek April 08		11 -20 April 2008					
STATION	ALT.	Actual	Normal	Rain			%Dept. from	Minimum	Maximum	Dekadal	Dekadal	
NAME	(M)	R/Fall	R/Fall	Days	Actual	Normal	Normal	Lowest(Day)	Highest (Day)	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Butha-Buthe	1770	5.0	22.1	1	842.1	763.6	10	3.0 (11)	24.0 (18)	13.5	14.6	-1.1
Leribe	1740	6.5	17.1	4	770.2	658.5	17	3.6 (17)	24.5 (18)	13.6	14.7	-1.2
Mafeteng	1610	*	24.0	*	*	612.1	*	*	*	*	14.9	*
Maseru Airport	1530	9.3	20.3	5	717.1	611.9	17	5.4 (18)	24.8 (18)	13.7	15.4	-1.7
Mohale's hoek	1600	27.9	24.6	5	887.6	630.9	41	4.5 (17)	24.5 (18)	13.7	15.3	-1.6
Mokhotlong	2200	10.0	11.3	2	612.3	558.0	10	1.9 (18)	21.4 (18)	11.4	12.0	-0.6
Moshoeshoe I	1628	5.7	18.0	3	780.5	669.6	17	4.5 (11)	25.0 (18)	13.7	15.4	-1.7
Phuthiatsana	1750	12.5	21.5	2	753.8	679.1	11	*	*	14.5	15.6	-1.1
Qacha's Nek	1970	46.7	12.4	6	847.7	706.5	20	3.2 (20)	24.6 (18)	12.5	16.6	-4.1
Quthing	1740	18.6	24.5	4	704.2	698.0	1	7.0 (17)	24.2 (18)	14.1	15.0	-0.9
Semonkong	2458	17.8	13.5	5	804.2	571.0	41	-1.4 (18)	19.9 (18)	8.5	10.1	-1.6
ThabaTseka	2160	22.2	10.1	5	614.4	560.0	10	3.5 (15)	21.1 (18)	10.7	12.0	-1.3

Fig.1

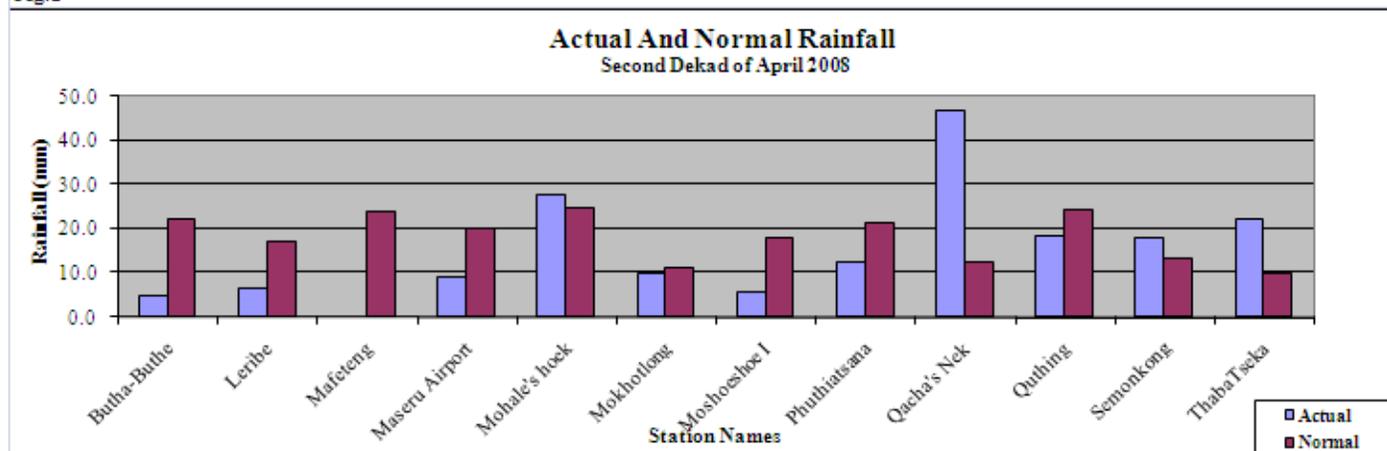
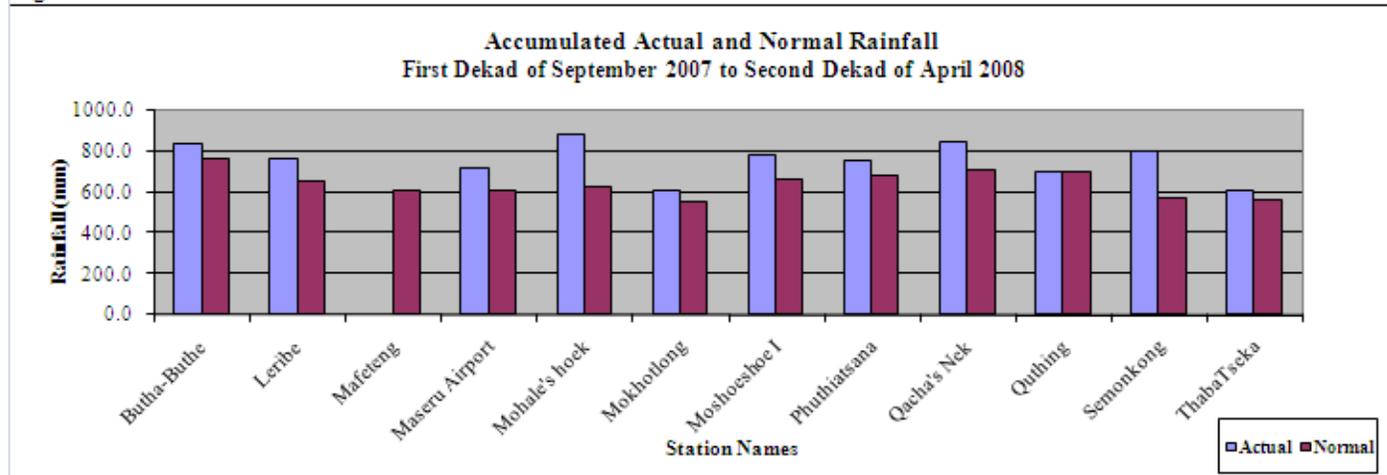


Fig.2



## **Glossary**

**Dekad :** Ten day period

**Normal:** Average figure over a specific time period.

**% Rainfall Departure from Normal:**  $(\text{Actual Rainfall} - \text{Normal Rainfall}) / \text{Normal Rainfall} \times 100$

**NDVI:** Normalized Difference Vegetation Index – simply implies how good or bad the vegetation is for the specific period.

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And it is

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Comments and Contributions would be highly appreciated.