

# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



## Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

11 – 20 April 2010



Issue No.20/2009-10

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

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## Highlights

- ❑ Wet conditions persisted during the dekad.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall remains largely normal.
- ❑ Above normal temperatures recorded
- ❑ Dry and cooler conditions expected.

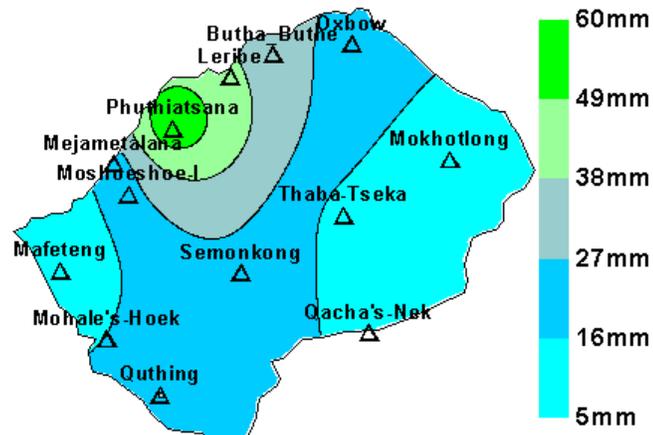
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## WEATHER SUMMARY

Most stations received near normal to above normal rainfall amounts for the dekad. The period was characterized advection of moist tropical air towards the end 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> April induced by a passage of a cold front in the southern interior. Scattered to widespread rain and thundershowers were experienced on that dates.

## RAINFALL SITUATION



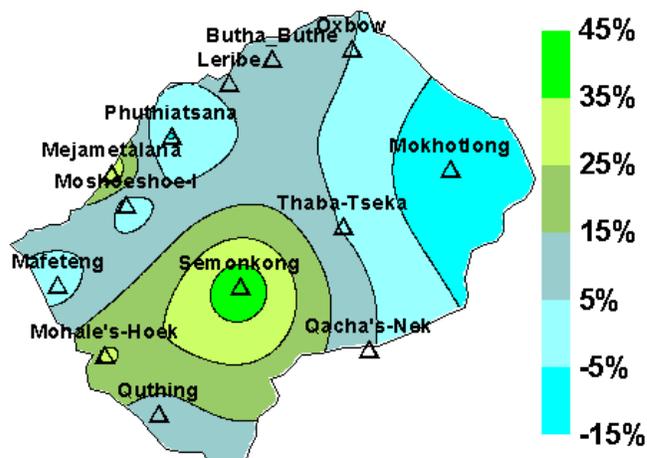
Map 1: Rainfall for April 2nd Dekad 2010

The rainfall during the second dekad of April 2010 was normal to above normal at most places of the country. Very few places recorded below normal rainfall amounts. The highest and lowest dekad rainfall amounts were 58.5mm and 6.5mm at Phuthiatsana and Mafeteng respectively (see Map 1).

### Cumulative Rainfall Percentage Departure from Normal

Cumulative rainfall since September 2009 until second dekad of April 2010 remains normal countrywide. However, Mohale's Hoek, Maseru and Semonkong continue to experience above normal cumulative rainfall amounts. The highest percentage departure from normal is Semonkong

at 45% and the lowest percentage is -14 at Mokhotlong (see Map 2).



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

## TEMPERATURE

Mean temperatures during the dekad under review were above normal countrywide. The lowest and highest dekadal mean temperature deviations were -2.2°C and -1.1°C at Mokhotlong and Qacha's Nek respectively.

## CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Maize and sorghum crop are at ripening stage. Their conditions range from fair to good. The low rainfall recorded in some places is expected to be beneficial to cereal crops since they need low amounts of water at these stages. Above normal rainfall amounts might pose problems for cereals at this stage.

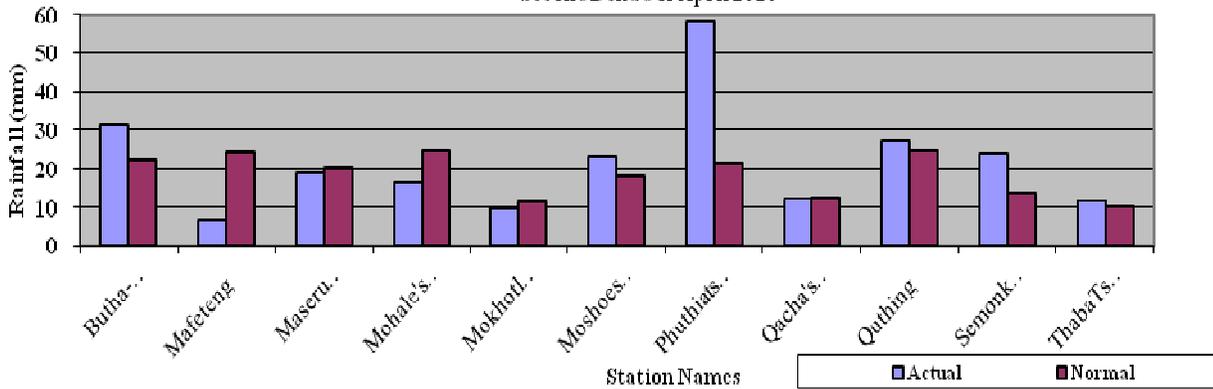
## DEKADAL OUTLOOK

21– 30 April 2010

Mostly dry and cooler conditions are forecast for the period. The first frost occurrence is anticipated on the 20<sup>th</sup> at night.

### Actual And Normal Rainfall

Second Dekad of April 2010



### Accumulated Actual and Normal Rainfall

First Dekad of September 2009 to Second Dekad of April 2010

