

# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



## Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

21 – 31 December 2008



Issue No.9/2008-09

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

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## Highlights

- ❑ Dry weather experienced at some parts.
- ❑ Consistently low cumulative rainfall at some parts.
- ❑ Normal temperatures experienced during the dekad.
- ❑ Weeding in progress.

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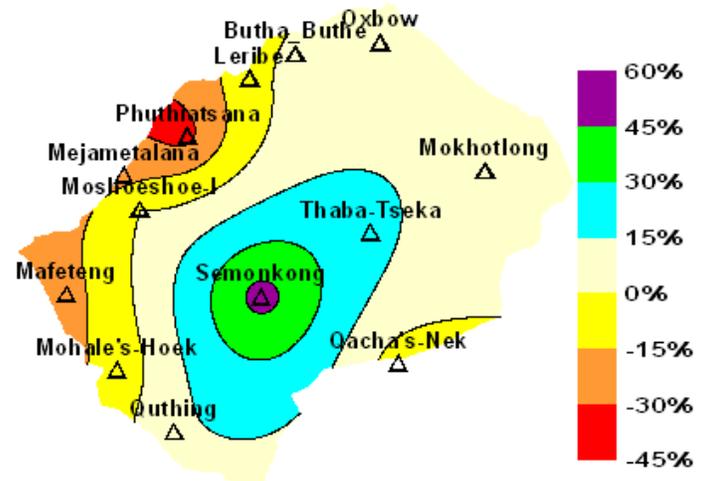
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**DEKADAL WEATHER SUMMARY**

Dry weather conditions were experienced in the last dekad as the rain bearing systems responsible for the influx of moisture into our area remained shallow advecting little moisture. Although the surface interior trough was in place over our area the upper air circulation was pre-dominantly anticyclonic or zonal. Like in the second dekad precipitation was mostly as a result of localized convection and convergence.

**RAINFALL SITUATION**

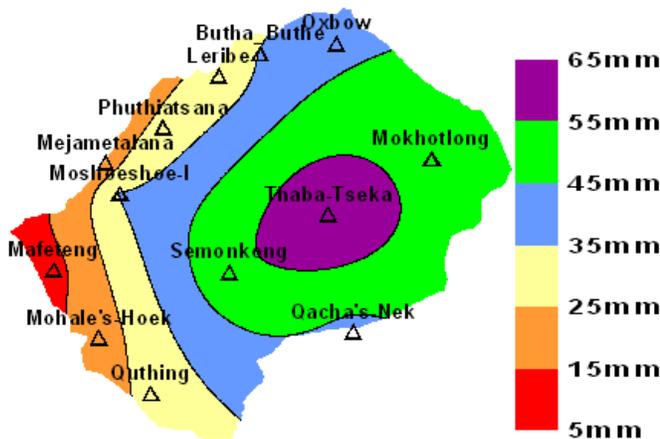
The last dekad of December 2008 was generally dry in most parts of the lowlands including Quthing and wet in the highlands. Central to eastern parts of the country are shown in Map 1 and Fig. 1 that they recorded good rains while western parts that extend from parts of Berea to Quthing had relatively bad rains. Lowest and highest dekadal rainfall was 11.6mm (Mafeteng) and 64.3mm (Thaba-Tseka). Temporal distribution of the rain was uneven as rain days ranged from three days at Mafeteng, Mohale’s Hoek and Quthing to six days at Thaba-Tseka.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall Percentage Departure from Normal

**TEMPERATURE**

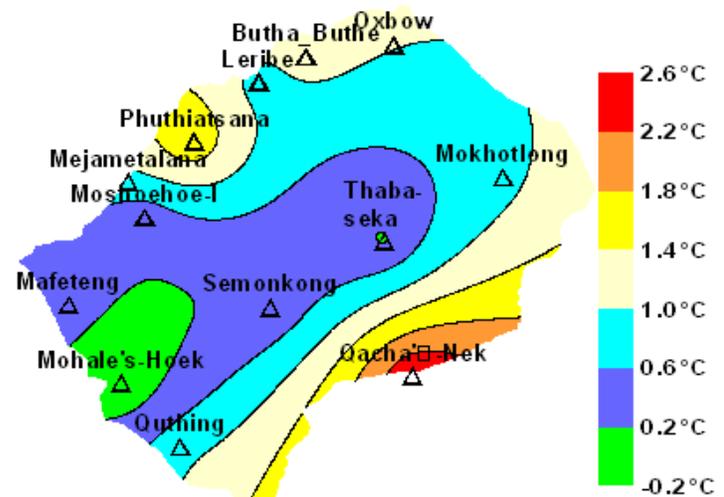
Mean temperatures were generally normal during the period under review. Highest and lowest dekadal mean temperature deviations from normal were 2.6°C (Qacha’s Nek) and -0.1°C (Mohale’s Hoek) respectively. Highest recorded daily maximum temperature of the dekad was 32.2°C (Mejametalana) on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Map 1: Dekadal Rainfall for December Dekad 3, 2008

**Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal**

Cumulative rainfall since first dekad of September 2008 to the last dekad of December 2008 remains low mainly in the western parts of the country. It is still lowest at Phuthiatsana (see Map 2 & Fig. 3). Consistent deficiency in cumulative rainfall especially in some parts of lowlands has resulted in unreliable water resources and has made undertaking certain agricultural activities not easy.



Map 3: Dekadal Mean temperature Deviation from Normal

**RAINFALL ANOMALIES**

Rainfall performance in the southern lowlands was below normal during the last dekad of December 2008, but it was above normal in the highlands agroecological zone (see fig. 3). Otherwise, it was generally normal in other agroecological zones.

### **CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS**

Dry weather conditions at some places during the period under review facilitated for good weeding. Crop stages are generally at vegetative stages and crops are in good conditions at most places.

Wheat grown in winter has matured and harvesting is in progress.

Due to low cumulative rainfall in most parts of the lowlands – which is a signal that rains have not been optimum, water resources are stretched at some places where abnormal queues at water resources are still found at some places.

### **DEKADAL OUTLOOK**

**1 – 10 January 2009**

Isolated to scattered rain and thundershowers are anticipated especially in the first few days of the dekad and in the last three days (08<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>) of the dekad. There is also a chance of intense thunderstorms accompanied by strong damaging winds during the period. Temperatures will remain warm to hot.

Fig.1

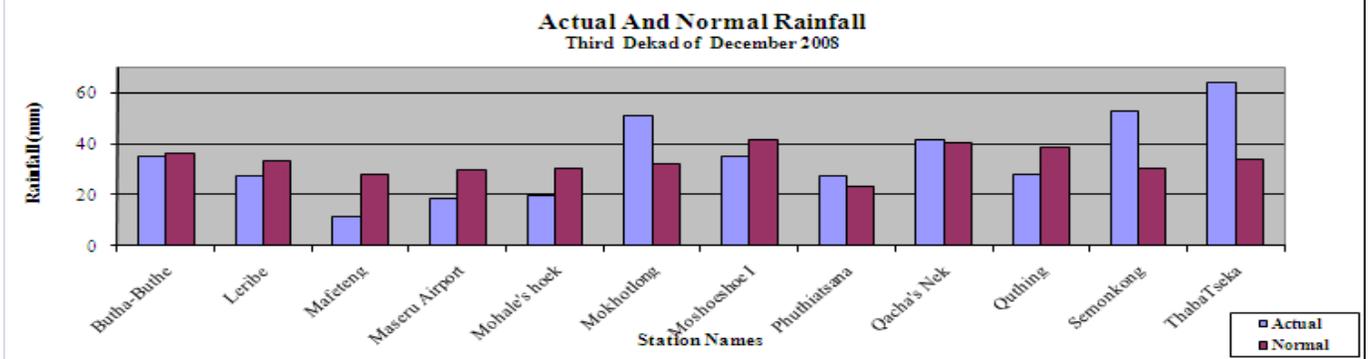


Fig.2

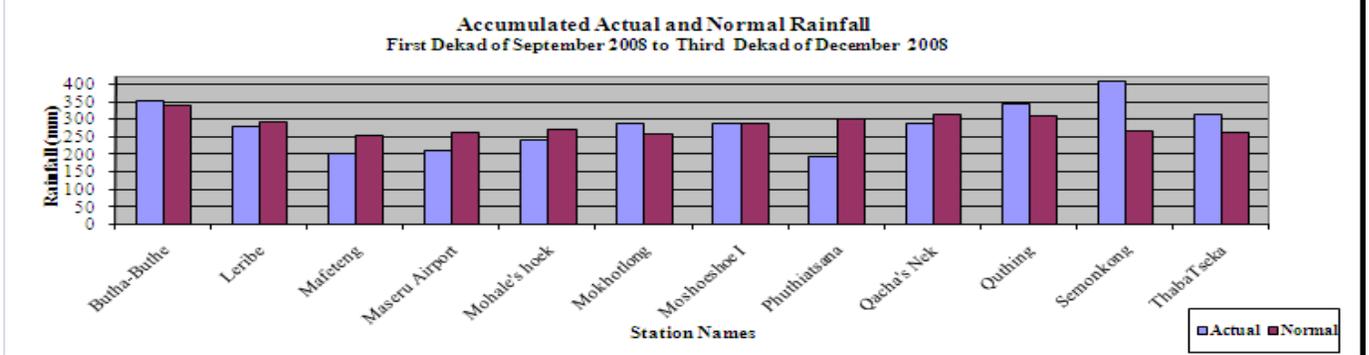


Fig.3

