

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*

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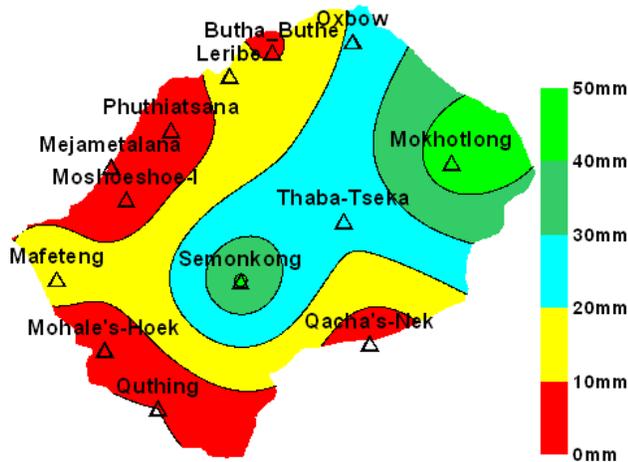
Highlights

- ❑ Dry weather conditions experienced.
- ❑ Warm mean temperatures recorded.
- ❑ Crops generally satisfactory.

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RAINFALL SITUATION

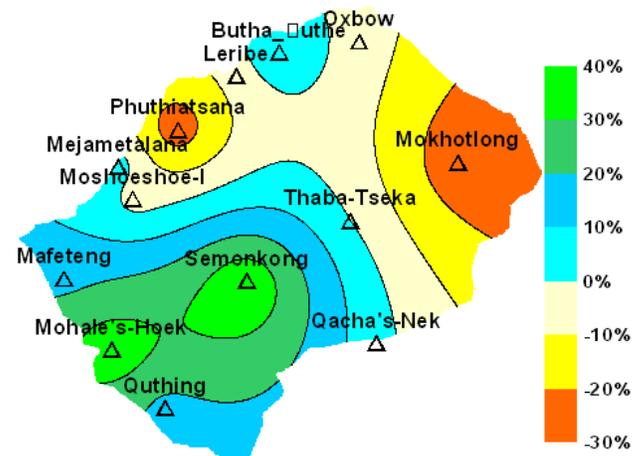


Map 1: Rainfall for December 3rd dekad 2009

The last dekad of December 2009 recorded below normal rainfall countrywide except at Semonkong and Mokhotlong where dekad rainfall was above normal. The highest dekad rainfall was 46.9mm (Mokhotlong) while Quthing, Qacha's Nek, Butha-Buthe and Phuthiatsana did not experience any rainfall during the dekad (see Map 1).

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September is above normal at most places, but below normal at Phuthiatsana and Mokhotlong, and above normal at Semonkong and Mohale's Hoek (see Map 2). Cumulative rainfall percentage departure from normal has been reducing since the first dekad of November at most places.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Dep from Normal (Sept. - Dec. 09)

TEMPERATURES

Mean temperatures ranged from normal to above normal during the dekad under review. Mean temperature deviation ranged from 1.4°C at Phuthiatsana to 2.8°C at Mohale's Hoek during the dekad. Dry weather conditions were conclusive to warmer temperatures.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crops are at various stages ranging from early vegetative to late vegetative stages countrywide. Weeding and other field operations are in progress. Dry weather for a second consecutive dekad has a huge potential to impact negatively on the water requirements of the crops. However, most of the crops can still recover should the weather improve in the near future. But generally crop's conditions are generally satisfactory.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

1 – 10 January 2010

There are some chances of rainfall during the forecasted period. Temperatures are anticipated to remain high.

Fig.2

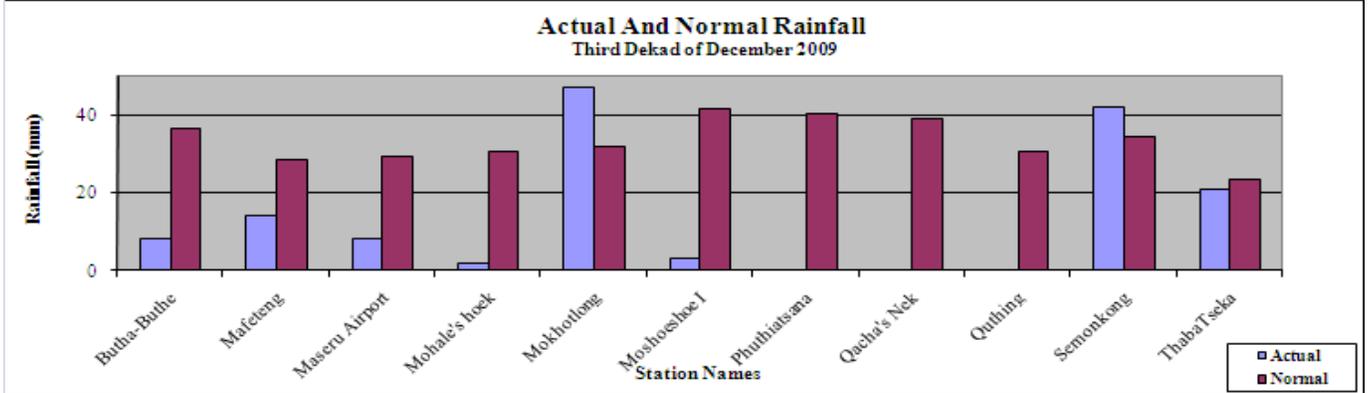


Fig.3

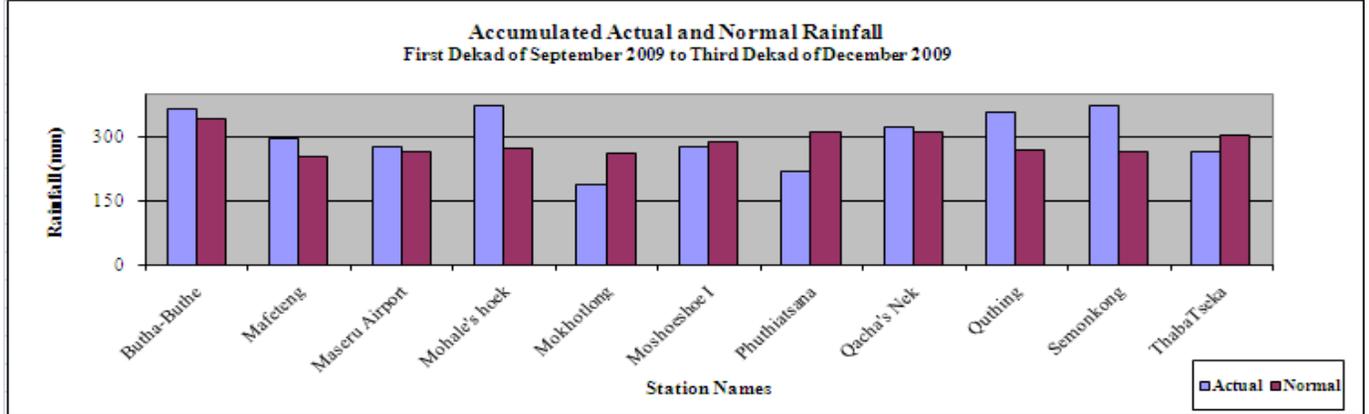


Fig. 1

Rainfall Anomaly (%) for the period Sept. 1 , 2009 - Dec .Dekad 3, 2009

