

Temperatures

Mean monthly temperatures were slightly above normal during the month of February 2008. Only few areas experienced below normal monthly temperatures. Mean temperatures had consistently

been above normal during the dekads of the month under review.

Crop Stage and Conditions

Dry and hot weather that was predominant during the month of February put pressure on crops. Crop water requirement was critical since crops were in their delicate flowering to tasselling stages. Signs of water deficits were observed in most crops. Dry weather coupled with poor crop management practices resulted in some crops being

permanently destroyed. However, most crops can recover when weather improves.

Crop stages ranges from flowering to tasselling. Farmers that planted early are starting to get green maize from the fields.

Weather Outlook (January – March 2008)

Much of the Lowlands including central and southern parts have a likelihood of receiving above average rainfall, while the northern parts including parts of the eastern Highlands have a possibility of receiving below normal rainfall.

Temperatures are expected to be slightly above average with occasional cold spells.

REFER TO THE TABLE BELOW FOR A SUMMARY TABLE

Table 1

Station Name	ALT. (M)	Monthly R/Days	Monthly Rainfall (mm)		Cumulative R/Fall since September 07			Temperatures		
			Monthly R/Fall	Normal R/Fall	Actual R/Fall	Normal R/Fall	% Dep. from Normal	Monthly Mean Actual	Monthly Mean Normal	Deviation
Butha-Buthe	1770	12	60.0	96.0	756.1	587.7	29	19.8	19.5	0.3
Leribe	1740	13	64.8	108.2	682.0	519.0	31	20.1	20.1	0.0
Mafeteng	1610	9	39.7	94.5	573.8	460.1	25	20.5	20.2	0.3
Mejametalana	1530	13	53.4	92.6	578.5	467.7	24	20.9	21.0	-0.1
Mohale's Hoek	1600	15	134.3	102.6	714.0	486.4	47	20.3	20.7	-0.4
Mokhotlong	2200	16	96.8	83.2	514.8	455.2	13	17.6	17.1	0.5
Moshoeshoe 1	1628	12	78.4	111.9	612.7	522.2	17	20.3	20.5	-0.2
OxBow	2660	*	*	139.3	*	530.9	26	*	12.3	*
Phuthiatsana	1750	10	98.1	101.0	678.8	576.5	18	20.7	20.4	0.3
Qacha's Nek	1970	9	119.5	120.0	586.6	530.9	10	18.5	17.8	0.7
Quthing	1740	15	101.1	97.0	684.7	450.3	52	20.5	20.4	0.1
Semonkong	2458	16	94.4	82.0	487.2	459.4	6	15.1	15.4	-0.3
Thaba-Tseka	2160	15	46.8	94.0	487.2	459.4	29	17.2	16.7	0.5