

# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



## Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

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

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## Highlights

- ❑ Above normal rainfall recorded.
- ❑ Normal mean temperatures experienced during the dekad.
- ❑ Field operations hampered by rains

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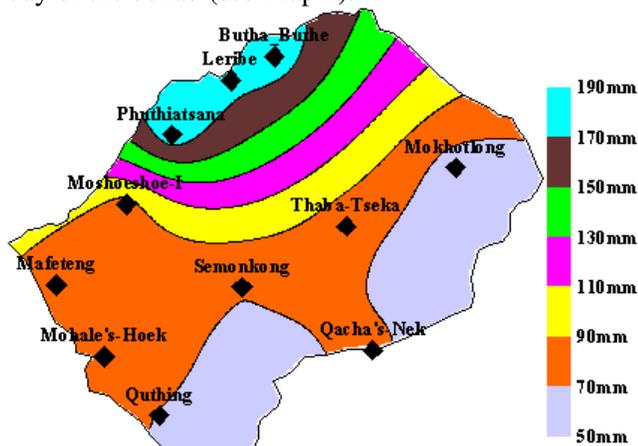
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**DEKADAL WEATHER SUMMARY**

Significant amounts of rainfall were experienced in the past ten days. A typical summer system dominated during the start of the period where there was influx of moist tropical air from the Congo Air basin into the interior of the subcontinent resulting in widespread rain and thundershowers.

**RAINFALL SITUATION**

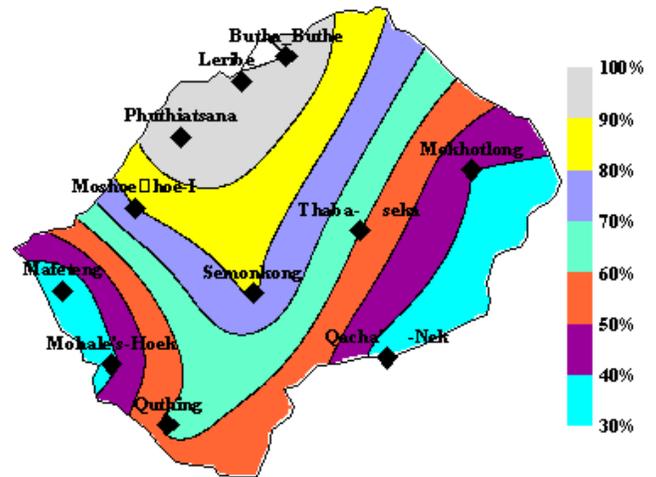
The first dekad of January 2011 recorded normal to above normal rainfall at most places. Widespread rainfall was experienced in most of the days during the dekad. Botha-Buthe and Leribe experienced torrential rains throughout the dekad while Mokhotlong had four rainy days. Highest and lowest dekadal rainfall is 183.0mm (Butha-Buthe) and 59.8mm (Mokhotlong). The highest daily rainfall of the dekad was 59.2mm at Phuthiatsana on the first day of the dekad (see Map 1).



Map 1: Rainfall for January 1st Dekad 2011

**Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal**

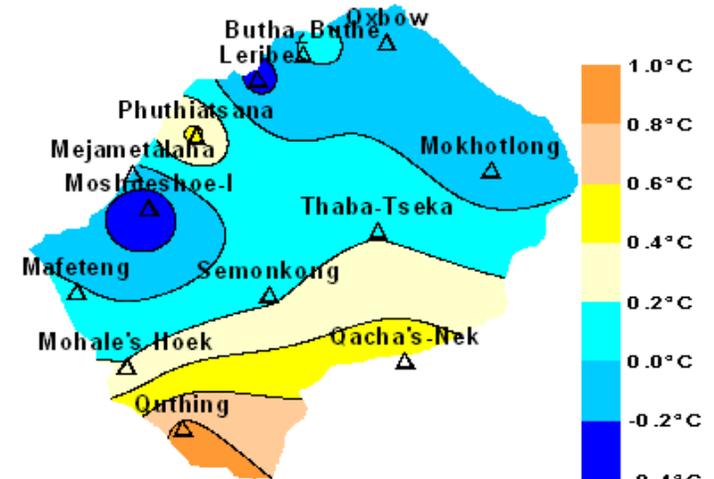
The recent rains that the country experienced have increased cumulative rainfall. Map 2 shows that cumulative rainfall is normal to above normal countrywide. Lowest departures are observed in the southern to southwestern parts of the country. That is because rainfall in the recent dekads had been confined mainly in the northern parts of the country. Figure 1 and 2 below provide a further rainfall pattern over the dekad under discussion.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Dep from Normal Since Sep t 2010

**TEMPERATURE**

Temperatures in the period under discussion were generally normal. Highest mean temperature deviation from normal was in the southern parts of the country while lowest deviations were in the vicinity of Maseru and Leribe (see Map 3).



Map 3: Dekadal Mean Temperature Deviation from Normal

**CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS**

Huge amounts of rainfall that were experienced in most parts of the country improved soil moisture. Field operations could not be done due to water-logging and muddy conditions. Water-logging could be harmful to crops in these flowering stages. Weeding was hampered with at most places due to rain. Crop stages range from vegetative to early flowering stages. Crops are generally in fair to good conditions at most places.

Fig.1

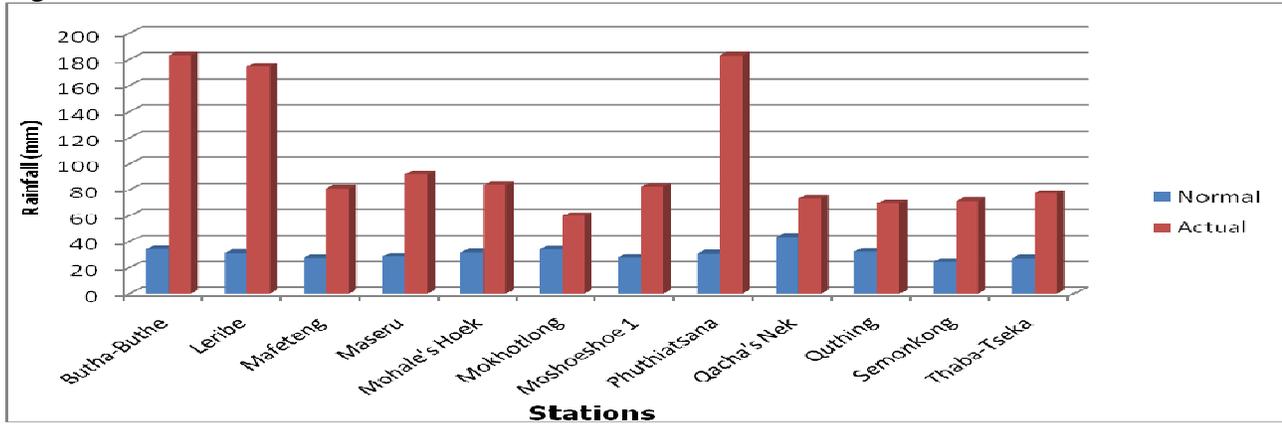


Fig.2

