

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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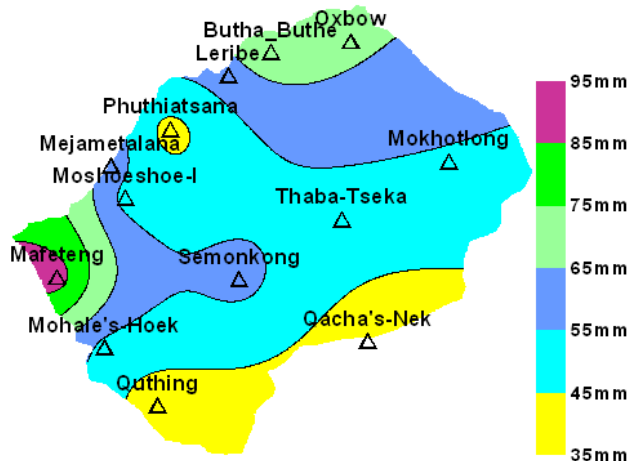
Highlights

- ❑ Wet weather conditions experienced.
- ❑ Normal temperatures recorded.
- ❑ Crops generally satisfactory.

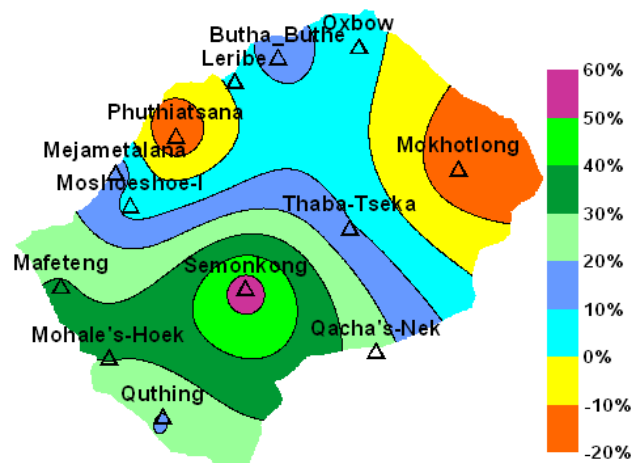
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RAINFALL SITUATION



Map 1: January 2nd Dekad 2010 Rainfall



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

Torrential rains were recorded during the second dekad of January 2010. Normal rainfall was experienced at Phuthiatsana and Qacha's Nek while the rest of the country had above normal dekad rainfall. The lowest and highest dekad rainfall was 38.7mm and 90.2mm at Qacha's Nek and Mafeteng respectively. Map 1 show that southern and eastern parts of the country have the least dekad rainfall.

The highest daily rainfall of the dekad was 58mm at Mafeteng recorded on the 19th. This amount of rainfall is conclusive for flooding and property destructions among others.

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September ranges from normal to above normal. It has improved significantly at Mokhotlong where it has been below normal for large parts of the season. The lowest rainfall percentage departure from normal is still at Mokhotlong and Phuthiatsana (see Map 2).

TEMPERATURES

Mean dekadal temperatures were normal during the period in discussion. The highest and lowest mean temperature deviation from normal is 1.3°C (Semonkong and Quthing) and -0.3°C (Moshoeshoe 1) respectively.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crop stages range from vegetative to tasselling stages and their conditions are satisfactory. Crop water requirements have improved in Mokhotlong. Some fields were water logged due to high rainfall during the dekad. Some field operations including weeding have been hampered with because of wet and muddy conditions.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

21 – 31 January 2010

Wet conditions are generally anticipated during the forecasted period. Temperatures are expected to be generally warm but high at times.

Fig.1

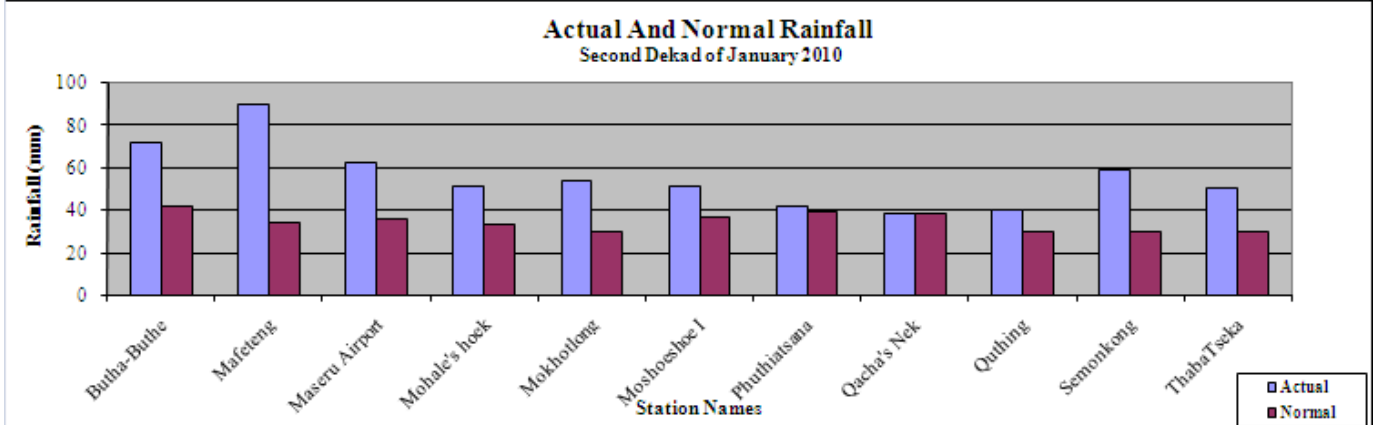


Fig.2

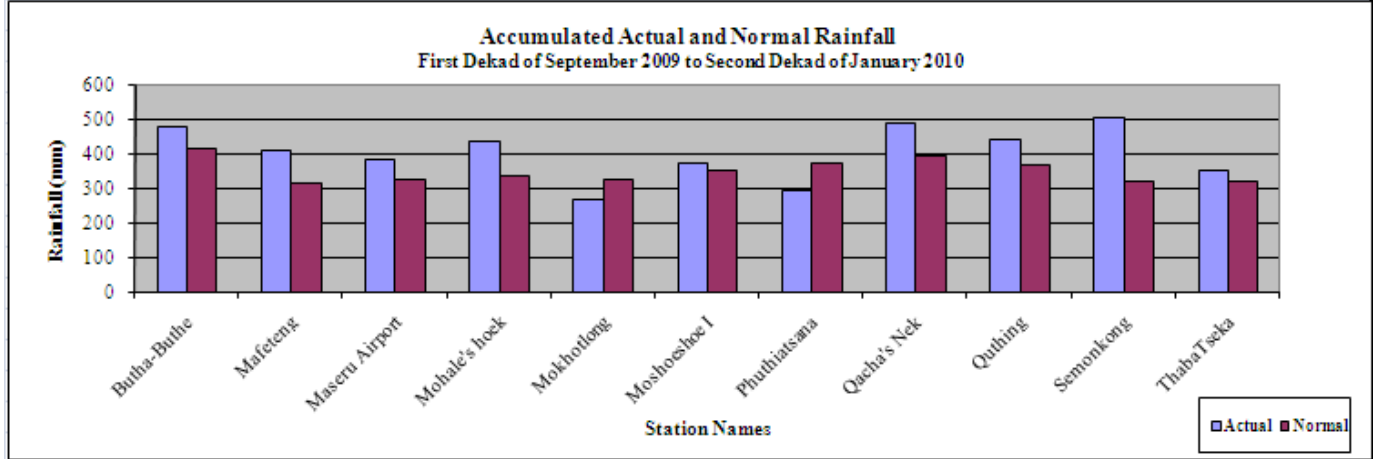


Fig. 3

