

# 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

- ❑ Wet conditions prevailed at most places.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall has improved.
- ❑ Cool temperatures experienced at most parts.
- ❑ Weeding in progress.

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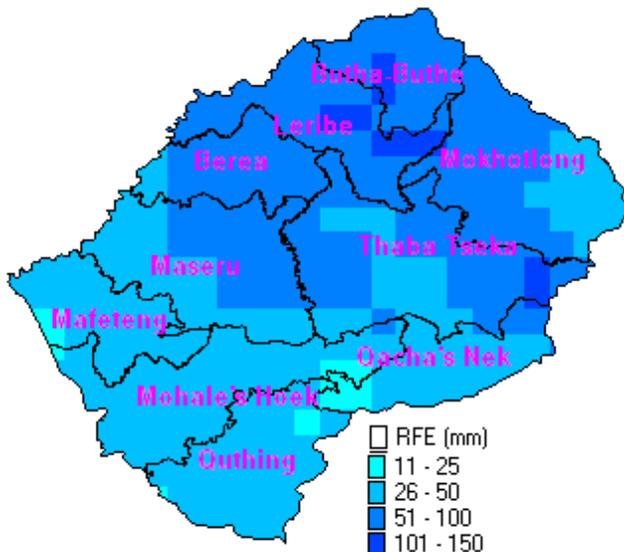
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**DEKADAL WEATHER SUMMARY**

Significant amounts of rainfall were experienced towards the end of the dekad. They were as a result of moist tropical air from the north that traversed into the interior. Cloudiness lowered temperatures during the dekad.

**RAINFALL SITUATION**

The country recorded normal to above normal rainfall during the last dekad of January 2009. It was only the south to southwestern parts of the country that remained relatively dry. Torrential rainfall was experienced on the 28<sup>th</sup> where a daily rainfall exceeded 50mm at most areas of the country, and Mejametalana (96.3mm) recorded highest daily rainfall of the dekad. Phuthiatsana after a lengthy dry spell experienced highest dekadal rainfall with 143.5mm (see Map 1). Good rainfall during the dekad improved soil moisture at most parts of the country.

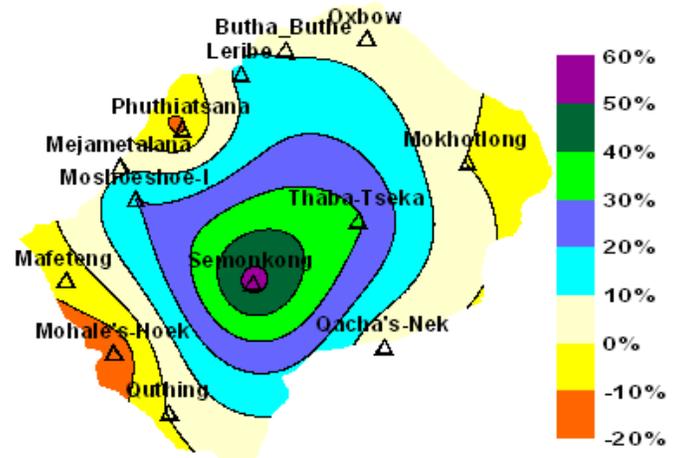


Map 1: Dekadal Rainfall for January Dekad 3, 2009

**Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal**

There has been a significant improvement in cumulative rainfall during the last dekad of January 2009. Cumulative rainfall since September 2008 to the period under review is normal at most parts of the country and remains above normal in the central parts (see Map 2). Although the cumulative rainfall percentage departure from normal is normal in the lowlands, its distribution since the start of the season had been not favourable for different applications that

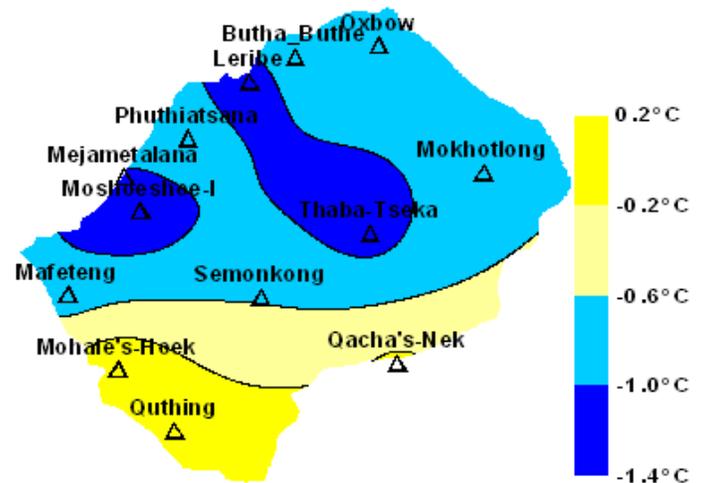
include agriculture and water resources. However, recent rains are expected to improve both the soil moisture and hydrological conditions.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall Percentage Departure from Normal

**TEMPERATURE**

Mean temperatures were mostly normal during the period under review (see Map 3). Highest and lowest dekadal mean temperature deviations from normal are 0.2°C (Mohale’s Hoek) and -1.2°C (Thaba-Tseka) respectively. Highest daily maximum temperature of the dekad was 31.8°C at Phuthiatsana on the 21<sup>st</sup>.



Map 3: Dekadal Mean Temperature Deviation from Normal

**RAINFALL ANOMALIES**

Most parts of the country received good rainfall during the dekad under review. However, the southern parts of the country as well as the parts of the Senqu river valley experienced dry conditions as depicted in Fig. 3 below.

## **CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS**

Soil moisture conditions improved during the dekad under review except in the south, southwest and parts of Senqu river valley. Water logging and muddy conditions prevented some fields operations like weeding towards the end of the dekad. Crops in the south and southwestern parts of the country continued to experience water deficits. Vegetation conditions are good at most parts of the country, especially the highlands. Improvements in vegetation conditions have been noticed at most parts of the country. Crop stages are generally at vegetative and tasselling stages, and crops are in fair to good conditions at most places. Weeding is still in progress.

Increased rainfall during the period under review will also enhance water resources.

## **DEKADAL OUTLOOK**

**1 – 10 February 2009**

The coming ten-days are expected to experience reduced rainfall activities compared to the last dekad. However, isolate to scattered rain and thundershowers are still expected at the beginning and towards the end of the period. Warm to hot temperatures are expected to persist.

Fig.1

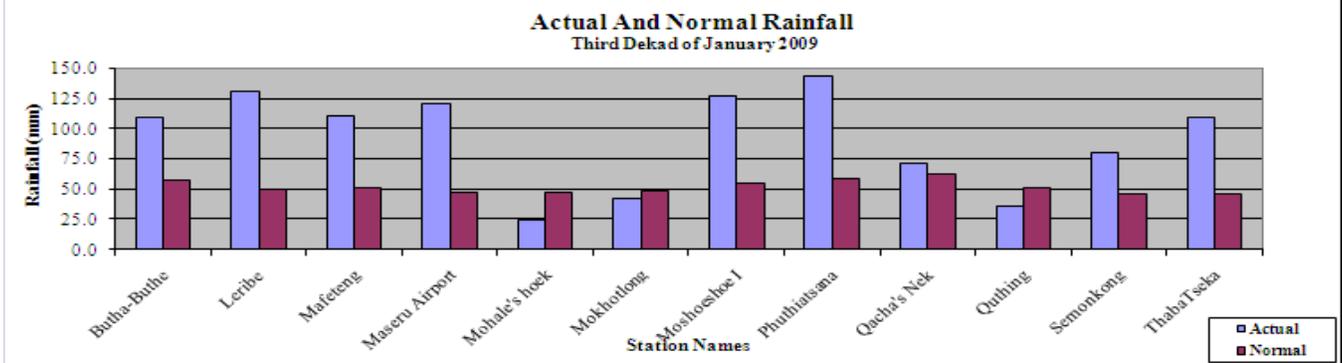


Fig.2

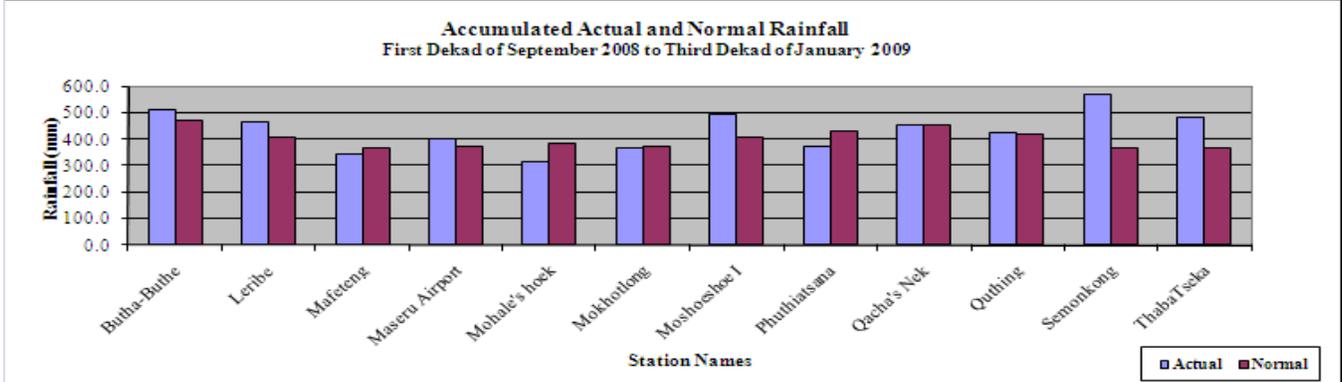


Fig. 3 Rainfall Anomaly (%) for the period September Dekad 1, 2008 to January Dekad 3, 2009

