

# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



## Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

21 - 31 January 2010



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

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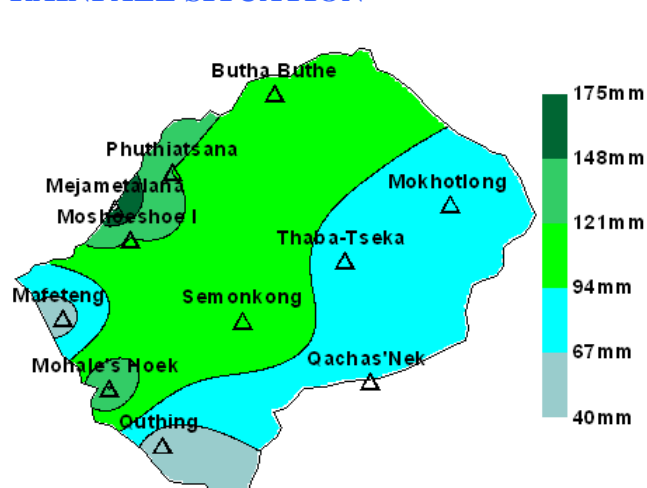
## Highlights

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

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## RAINFALL SITUATION



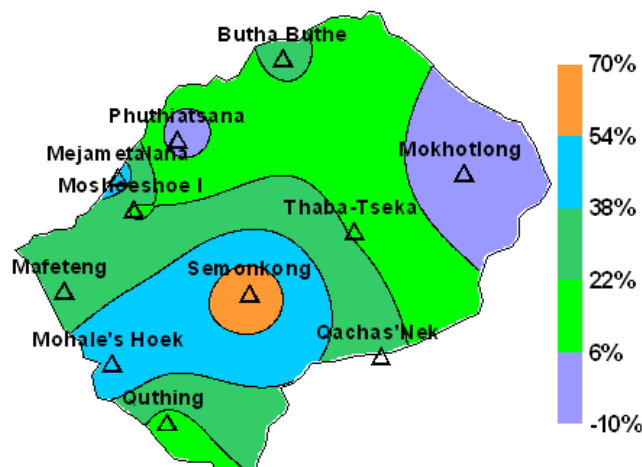
Map 1: January 3rd Dekad 2010 Rainfall

The third dekad of January 2010 experienced lots of torrential rainfall. Only Mafeteng and Quthing recorded normal rainfalls, other places recorded above normal rainfall. Quthing recorded the lowest rainfall amount of 45.1mm while Mejametalana recorded the highest rainfall amount of 177.7mm for the dekad. The dekad rains were least in the southern and eastern parts of the country (see Map 1).

Mejametalana recorded the highest daily rainfall amount of 70.1mm on the 25<sup>th</sup>, resulting in floods that damaged property in other places.

### 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, while the highest is at Semonkong (see Map 2).



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

## TEMPERATURES

Mean dekadal temperatures were below normal in Mafeteng and Moshoeshoe I. All other places recorded normal dekadal mean temperatures.

## CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

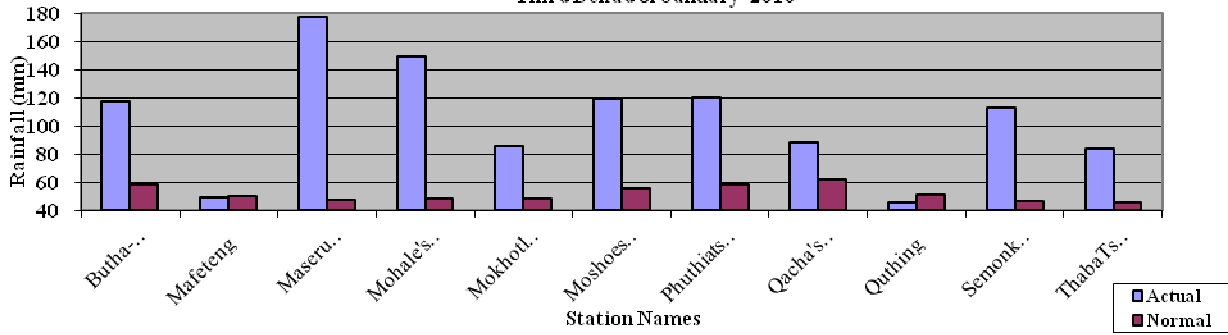
Crop stages range from vegetative to reproductive stages and their conditions are satisfactory. Crop water requirements are adequate in all parts of the country. Some fields were water logged due to high rainfall during the dekad. Some field operations including weeding have been hampered by wet and muddy conditions.

## DEKADAL OUTLOOK

01 – 10 February 2010

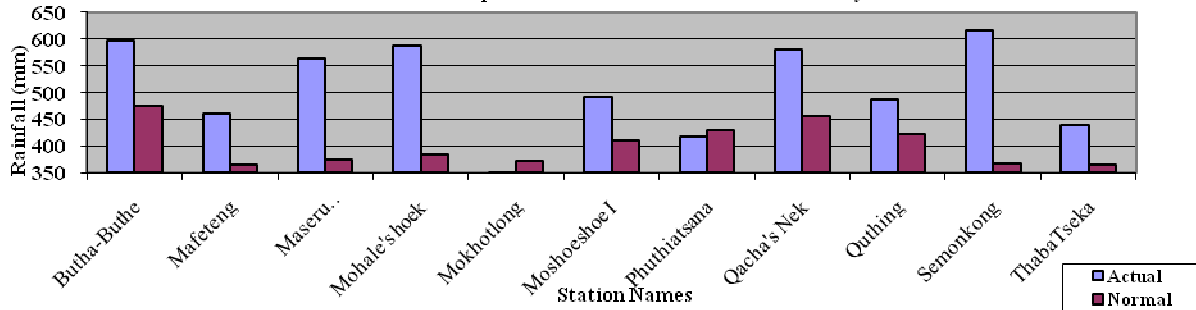
Unlike in the last ten days this coming first ten days of February are likely to experience reduced rainfall activities. Therefore isolated to scattered thundershowers at times are anticipated.

### Actual And Normal Rainfall Third Dekad of January 2010



### Accumulated Actual and Normal Rainfall

First Dekad of September 2009 to Third Dekad of January 2010



### Rainfall Anomaly (%) for the period since September Dekad 1, 2009 - January Dekad 3, 2010

