

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

- ❑ Generally dry weather prevailed.
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall normal to above normal.
- ❑ Normal temperatures experienced at most parts.
- ❑ Crops in good conditions.

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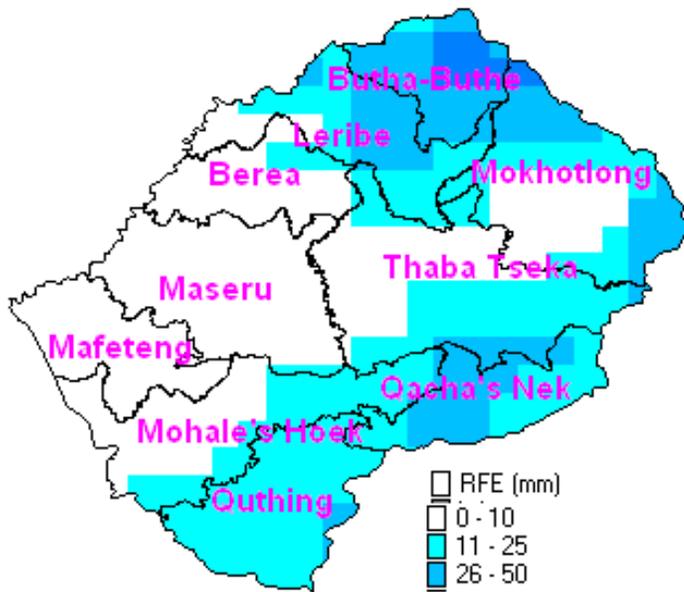
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DEKADAL WEATHER SUMMARY

A quasi-stationary tropical depression formed over the Mozambique Channel in the middle of the first dekad of March 2009. It drew moist tropical air from the north, and at the same time the south-eastern interior experienced dry conditions with the flow easterly. The depression moved further to the south to become an extra-tropical depression in the end of the dekad maintaining dry cool southerly air over our area.

RAINFALL SITUATION

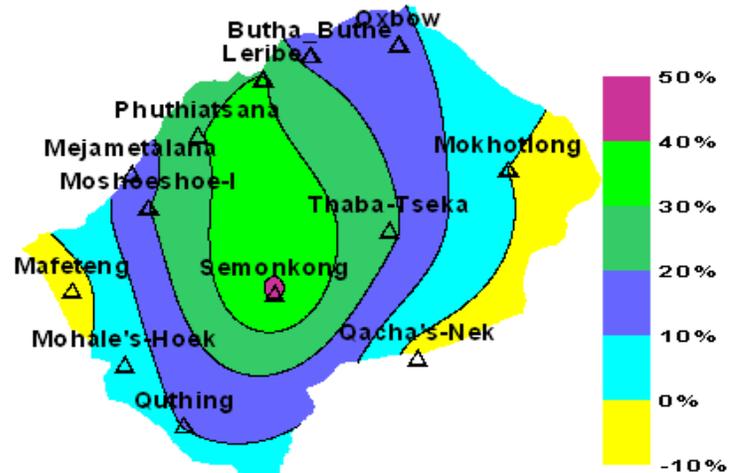
Dry weather prevailed during the first dekad of March 2009. Below normal rainfall was recorded except at Phuthiatsana and Quthing which had above normal and normal rainfall respectively. Poor rainfall performance during the dekad under review brought a stop to a wet spells that started during the last dekad of January. Map 1 shows a spatial distribution of dekadal rainfall.



Map 1: Rainfall Estimates for the 1st Dekad March 2009

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

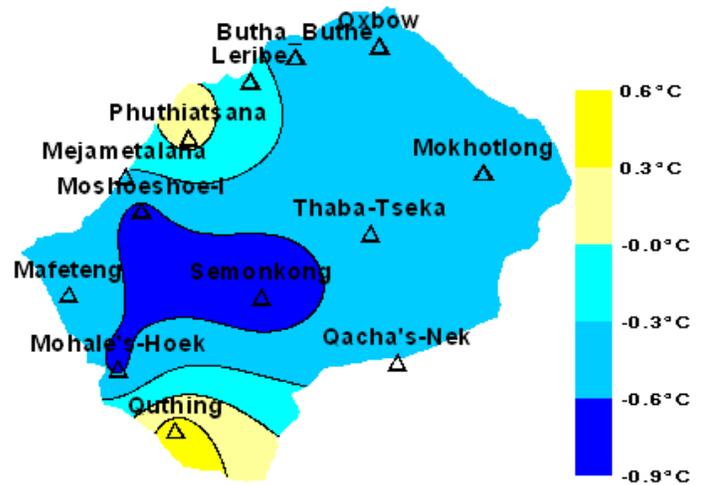
Cumulative rainfall since September 2008 to the first dekad of March 2009 remains normal to above normal. It is largely above normal in the region extending from the central parts to the northern parts. Rainfall percentage departure from normal is highest at Semonkong and lowest in the eastern and western parts of the country (see Map 2).



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Departure from Normal since Sept 08

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures were normal during the period under review. Central parts of the country experienced low mean temperatures. Southern parts and Phuthiatsana in the northwest recorded highest mean deviations (see Map 3).



Map 3: Dekadal Mean Temperature Deviation from Normal

RAINFALL ANOMALIES

Rainfall performance during the first dekad of March 2009 was poor countrywide. Driest weather was in the southern lowlands and highlands (see Fig 3). All agroecological zones collectively recorded below normal rainfall.

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crops were not affected by dry weather as there was some moisture in the soil. Cereal crops are in the flowering to grain filling stages and conditions are fair to good.

The coming ten days are likely to continue to receive reduced rainfall activities. Isolated to scattered rain and thundershowers are anticipated however, towards the middle of the forecast period. on 18th and 19th and again on the 24th.

DEKADAL OUTLOOK

11 – 20 March 2009

Fig.1

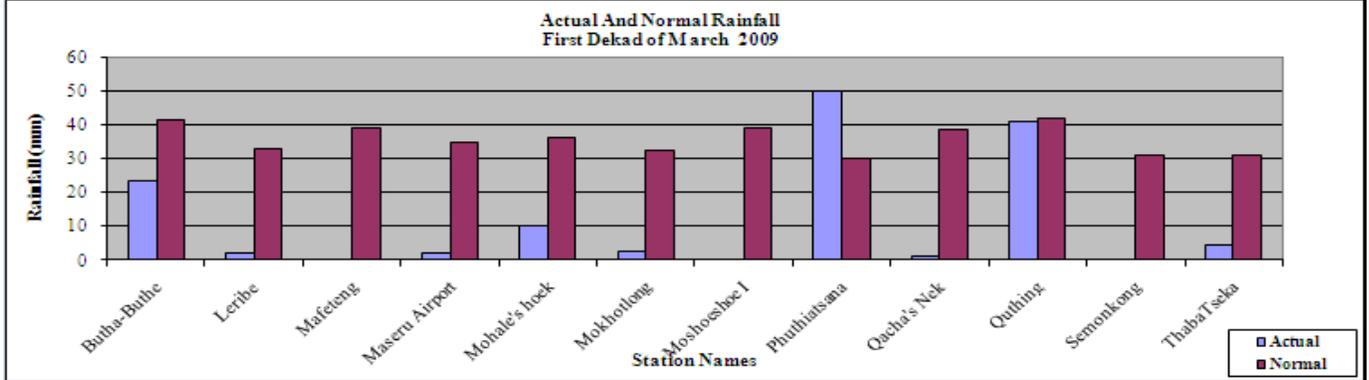


Fig.2

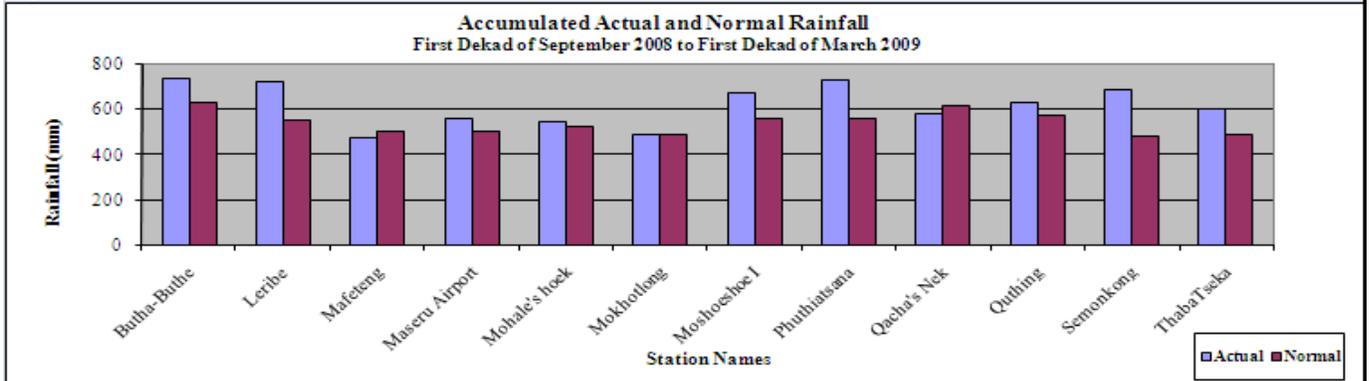


Fig. 3

Rainfall Anomaly (%) for the period September Dekad 1, 2008 to March Dekad 1, 2009

