

# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



## Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

21 – 31 October 2010



Issue No.3/2010-11

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

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## Highlights

- ❑ Rains received in few parts of the country.
- ❑ Normal mean temperatures experienced in most places.
- ❑ Minimal fieldwork in progress.

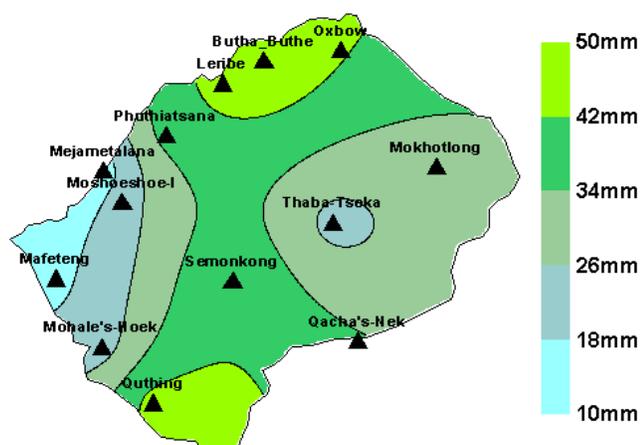
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## WEATHER SUMMARY

Mostly partly cloudy to cloudy conditions were experienced. The surface interior trough was occasionally prominent and established thus advecting significant tropical moisture into the subcontinent. These coupled with the passing cold fronts over the interior of the subcontinent resulted in unsettled weather activities over our region. Strong winds which became very at times and hailstorms were experienced.

## RAINFALL SITUATION



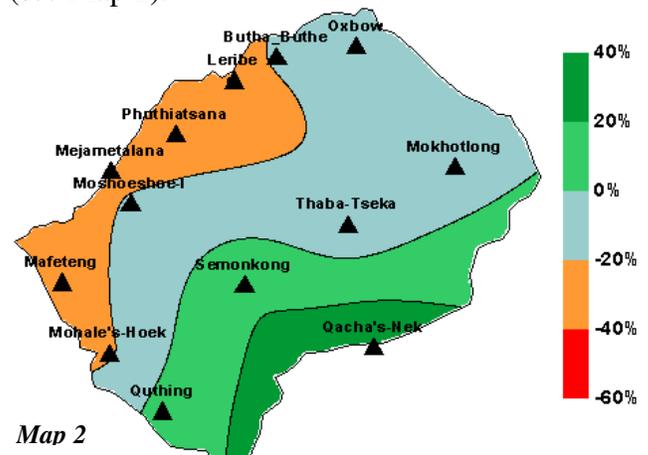
Map 1: October 3rd Dekad Rainfall

The third dekad of October rainfall varied rainfall amounts. The western parts of the country received relatively low amounts compared to the rest of the country (see Map 1). Highest and lowest dekad rainfall was recorded at Butha-Buthe (49.3mm) and Mejametalana (14mm) respectively. Thaba-Tseka, Moshoeshoe 1, Mejametalana and Mafeteng received below normal dekad rainfall, while Qacha's Nek, Mohale's Hoek and Mokhotlong received normal rainfall and the rest of the places recorded above normal rainfall.

### Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure From Normal

Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September ranges from below normal to normal across the country. Most of the lowlands parts of the country have so far recorded below normal rainfall amounts and thus affording very little chance of fieldwork. The foothills and the

mountains have normal to above normal rainfall (see Map 2).



Map 2

Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Departure from Normal

## TEMPERATURE

Mean temperatures were below normal for the entire country, except at Mafeteng where they were below normal, with mean deviation of -1.13°C. There were days with daily temperatures going below freezing point in the highlands. The highest daily maximum temperature of the dekad was recorded at Phuthiatsana (29.6°C) on the 31<sup>st</sup> while the lowest minimum daily temperature of the dekad was observed at Semonkong (-3°C) on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

## CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Due to insufficient rains in the since September, most of the fieldwork has not commenced, especially in the lowlands where most of the places have so far registered below normal cumulative rainfall since September. Farmers in some places in the highlands have however taken advantage of the rains and have started cultivating their field.

## DEKADAL OUTLOOK

01 – 10 November 2010

It is anticipated to be mostly cloudy and warm to hot with a possibility of scattered to widespread rain showers and thundershowers. Thus the next dekad is expected to be slightly wet.

## **Glossary**

**Dekad :** Ten day period

**Normal:** Average figure over a specific time period.

**% Rainfall Departure from Normal:**  $100 \times (\text{Actual Rainfall} - \text{Normal Rainfall}) / \text{Normal Rainfall}$

This Bulletin is issued during the Summer Cropping Season (October – April).

And it is

Produced by the

Lesotho Meteorological Services as a contribution to the

National Early Warning Unit for Food Security.

The Unit is coordinated by the Disaster Management Authority in the

Prime Minister's Office.

Comments and Contributions would be highly appreciated.