



# 10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services



Period: 11 – 20 April 2008

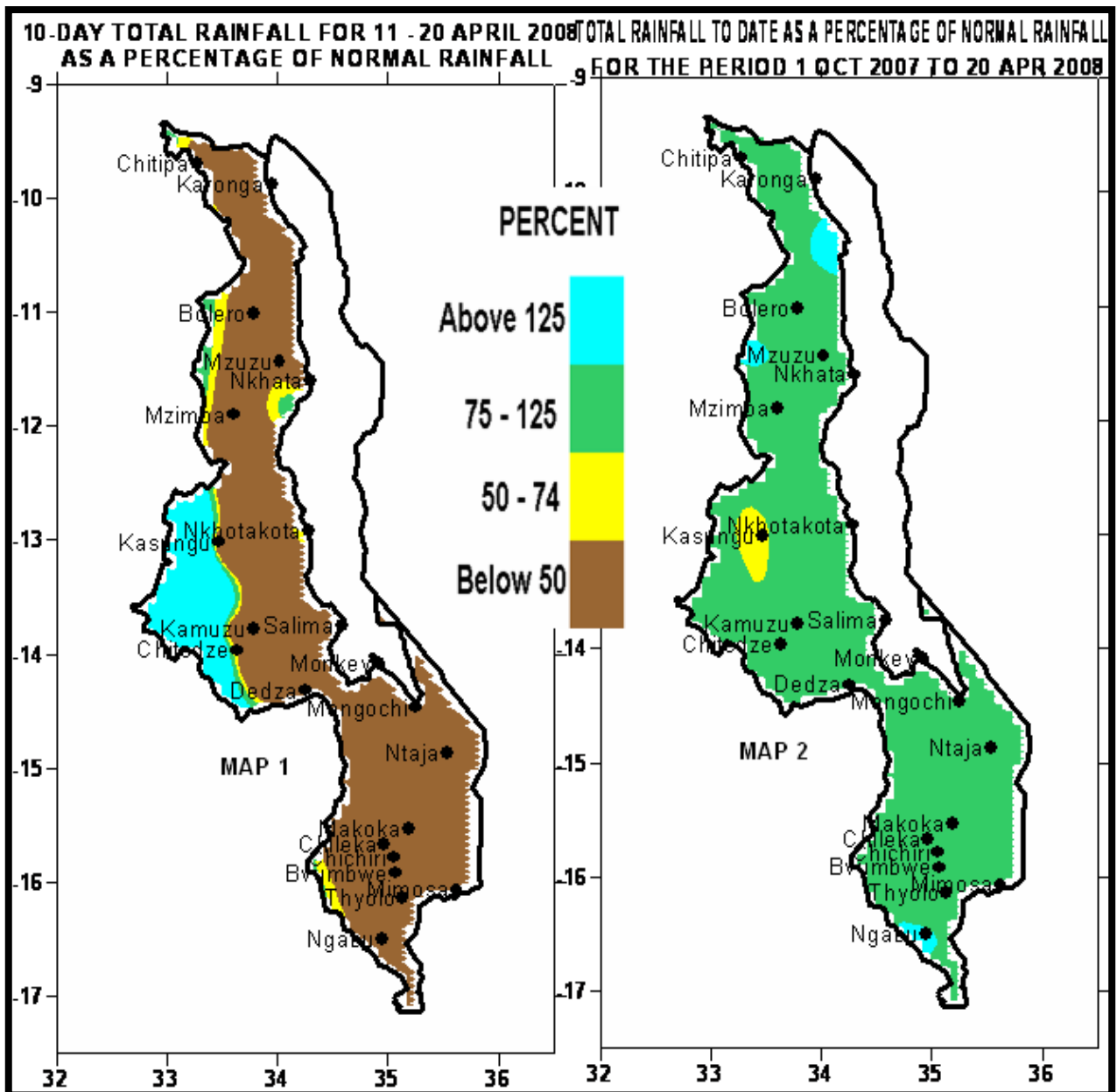
Season: 2007/2008

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Mostly dry weather continued over the country...
- Maize crop was mostly at dying and harvesting stages...
- Mostly dry weather to persist during the period 21 – 30 April, 2008...



## 1. WEATHER SUMMARY

### 1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

During the second ten days of April 2008, rainfall was confined to a few areas in the centre and north while dry conditions continued over most parts of Malawi as the main rainfall season comes to an end. Areas that registered above average total rainfall amounts during the period included Chintheche (137%) in the north, Mkanda (2591%) in the centre (light blue colours on Map 1). Only Mzuzu Met registered up to six rainfall days (Table 1). According to climatology, the main rainfall season is expected to end during end of April to early May.

Cumulative rainfall performance from October 2007 up to 20 April, 2008 indicated that the 2007/08 rainfall season in Malawi has been generally good (green and blue colours on Map 2) though localised rainfall deficits and surpluses have also been experienced within the season.

### 1.2 MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Between 11 and 20 April 2008, Malawi experienced warm to hot temperature temperatures during the day. Reported average daily maximum temperatures ranged from around 23°C at Dedza to 32°C at Ngabu. The highest absolute maximum temperature was reported at Ngabu (35.8°C) while the lowest absolute minimum temperature was 11.2°C, reported at Bvumbwe and Kamuzu International Airport (Table 2).

### 1.3 MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Mean daily wind speeds measured at a height of two meters above the ground were generally light during the period under review. The highest speed was reported at Chitipa (5.6 m/s or 20.2 Km/hr) while the lowest wind speed was recorded at Chitedze (0.6 m/s or 2.2 Km/hr). See Table 2.

### 1.4 MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Average daily Relative Humidity values reported during the ten day period ranged from 57% at Ngabu to 84% at Mzuzu. See Table 2.

## 2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

During the period under review, the dry weather that continued over most areas facilitated harvesting and drying of matured crops. The main agricultural activity during the period, particularly over the south and some parts of the centre continued to be harvesting of matured crops.

The general crop stand in the fields was generally reported in good condition. Maize crop which is the staple food crop was reported at drying and harvesting stages. However, in some parts of the centre and north the late planted crop was drying prematurely due to early cessation of the rainfall season.

Prospects of a good harvest this season have been compromised by late start of the season in some parts, heavy rains and floods in January and unusually dry conditions in February and March in some areas. In general crop production this season is expected to be less than last season.

## 3. OUTLOOK FOR 21 – 30 April 2008

During the last ten days of April 2008, Malawi will generally be under the influence of fairly moist easterly air mass. Therefore generally light rainfall particularly over some highlands and along the lakeshore is expected during the forecast period.

**TABLE 1: DEKADAL RAINFALL FOR SELECTED STATIONS FOR  
DEKAD 2 OF APRIL 2008: PERIOD 11 - 20**

<b>STATION NAME</b>	<b>DEKADAL TOTAL RAINFALL</b>	<b>DEKADAL NORMAL</b>	<b>DEKADAL TOTAL AS % OF NORMAL</b>	<b>TOTAL TO DATE mm</b>	<b>NORMAL TO DATE mm</b>	<b>TOTAL TODATE AS % OF NORMAL</b>	<b>RAINY DAYS &gt; 0.3</b>
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>							
Bvumbwe Met.	0.0	26.1	0	1041.5	1043.5	100	0
Chichiri Met.	0.0	21.1	0	972.6	1053.7	92	0
Chikweo Agric.	0.0	14.3	0	1037.3	1052.0	99	0
Chileka Airport	0.0	16.9	0	910.8	874.6	104	0
Chingale Agric	0.0	21.4	0	1070.1	939.3	114	0
Chiradzulu Agric	0.0	24.3	0	821.3	1035.8	79	0
Kasinthula Res. Stn.	0.0	12.4	0	958.5	697.7	137	0
Liwonde Township	0.0	12.5	0	839.1	821.7	102	0
Lujeri Tea Estate	0.0	70.2	0	2399.1	1920.7	125	0
Makoka Met	0.0	13.2	0	1136.0	984.7	115	0
Mangochi Met.	0.0	9.2	0	803.7	817.3	98	0
Mimosa Met.	0.0	51.3	0	1136.1	1401.9	81	0
Monkey Bay Met.	0.0	8.5	0	1055.0	912.7	116	0
Mulanje Boma	0.0	63.0	0	2030.6	1577.4	129	0
Namiasi Agric	0.0	3.3	0	850.2	789.5	108	0
Naminjiwa Agric	0.0	11.5	0	817.5	925.9	88	0
Nchalo Sucoma	0.0	18.0	0	755.5	668.2	113	0
Neno Agric	0.0	20.8	0	1278.9	1106.4	116	0
Ngabu Met.	0.0	17.4	0	971.1	755.3	129	0
Nsanje Boma	0.0	17.1	0	935.9	820.3	114	0
Ntaja Met.	0.0	16.0	0	1053.7	881.6	120	0
Satemwa Tea Est	0.0	43.5	0	1218.3	1261.8	97	0
Thyolo Met	0.0	30.7	0	1205.2	1119.9	108	0
<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>							
Chitedze Met.	0.1	14.9	1	924.3	897.0	103	0
Dedza Met	0.0	18.3	0	1023.0	926.2	110	0
Dowa Agric	0.0	12.5	0	996.8	862.1	116	0
K.I.A Met	0.0	3.5	0	798.3	823.7	97	0
Kasiya Agric	4.5	15.8	28	780.9	942.2	83	3
Lisasadzi	0.0	13.4	0	569.9	805.5	71	0
Mkanda Met	28.5	1.1	2591	960.4	892.8	108	1
Mponela Agric	0.0	6.7	0	1011.8	802.2	126	0
Mwimba Research	0.0	11.0	0	649.2	909.4	71	0
Nathenje Agric	1.0	19.4	5	1055.8	885.7	119	1
Nkhotakota Met	53.8	61.3	88	1446.0	1429.5	101	2
Ntcheu - Nkhande	0.0	19.2	0	1223.6	1050.4	116	0
Salima Met	0.0	38.6	0	1270.8	1247.2	102	0
Sinyala Agric	14.0	17.1	82	967.5	876.9	110	1
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>							
Bolero Met	0.8	12.5	6	694.8	723.5	96	1
Chitipa Met	3.8	16.7	23	789.8	970.2	81	2
Chintheche Agric	180.0	131.7	137	1852.0	1719.9	108	3
Karonga Met.	23.7	69.2	34	969.6	1015.7	95	3
Mzimba Met	0.2	14.8	1	713.1	874.9	82	0
Mzuzu Met.	26.7	67.0	40	1110.9	1124.9	99	6

**TABLE 2: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS  
FOR DEKAD 2 OF APRIL 2008**

STATION	MAX TEMP	MIN TEMP	ABS MAX	ABS MIN	WIND SPEED	RH
	(°C)	(°C)	(°C)	(°C)	m/s	%
BOLERO	28.5	14.4	29.5	18.0	N/A	67
BVUMBWE	25.6	14.3	29.0	11.2	2.0	65
CHICHIRI	26.0	14.5	29.3	N/A	0.9	63
CHILEKA	28.5	16.8	31.1	14.4	2.6	65
CHITEDZE	27.3	13.9	29.2	11.5	0.6	67
CHITIPA	26.3	17.1	27.4	16.6	5.6	68
DEDZA	23.3	13.9	24.9	11.5	1.0	69
K.I.A.	26.3	13.8	27.2	11.2	1.8	68
KARONGA	29.5	21.1	30.5	20.4	1.6	72
MANGOCHI	30.8	19.1	32.1	16.5	1.6	67
MIMOSA	28.8	14.2	30.1	11.6	1.0	65
MONKEY BAY	30.6	20.8	30.2	18.4	1.7	57
MZIMBA	26.1	15.6	27.9	14.2	1.1	70
MZUZU	23.5	15.1	25.0	12.2	1.5	84
NGABU	31.9	19.2	35.8	19.2	1.4	57
NKHOTAKOTA	28.0	20.5	28.8	19.6	N/A	66
NTAJA	28.7	18.2	31.1	16.5	1.7	65
SALIMA	29.4	19.6	30.5	18.6	2.2	63

**Glossary of some terms on this table**

- RH = Relative Humidity
- Mean Temperature of the day =(Max of the day + Min of the same day )/2
- ABS Max (Min) = Absolute Maximum (minimum) is the highest (lowest) of maximum (minimum) temperatures observed for a given number of days (calendar month) of a specified period of months (years).

To convert Meters Per Second (mps) to Kilometers per hour (Km/hr) = mpsx3.6