



# 10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services



Period: 21 – 30 April 2008

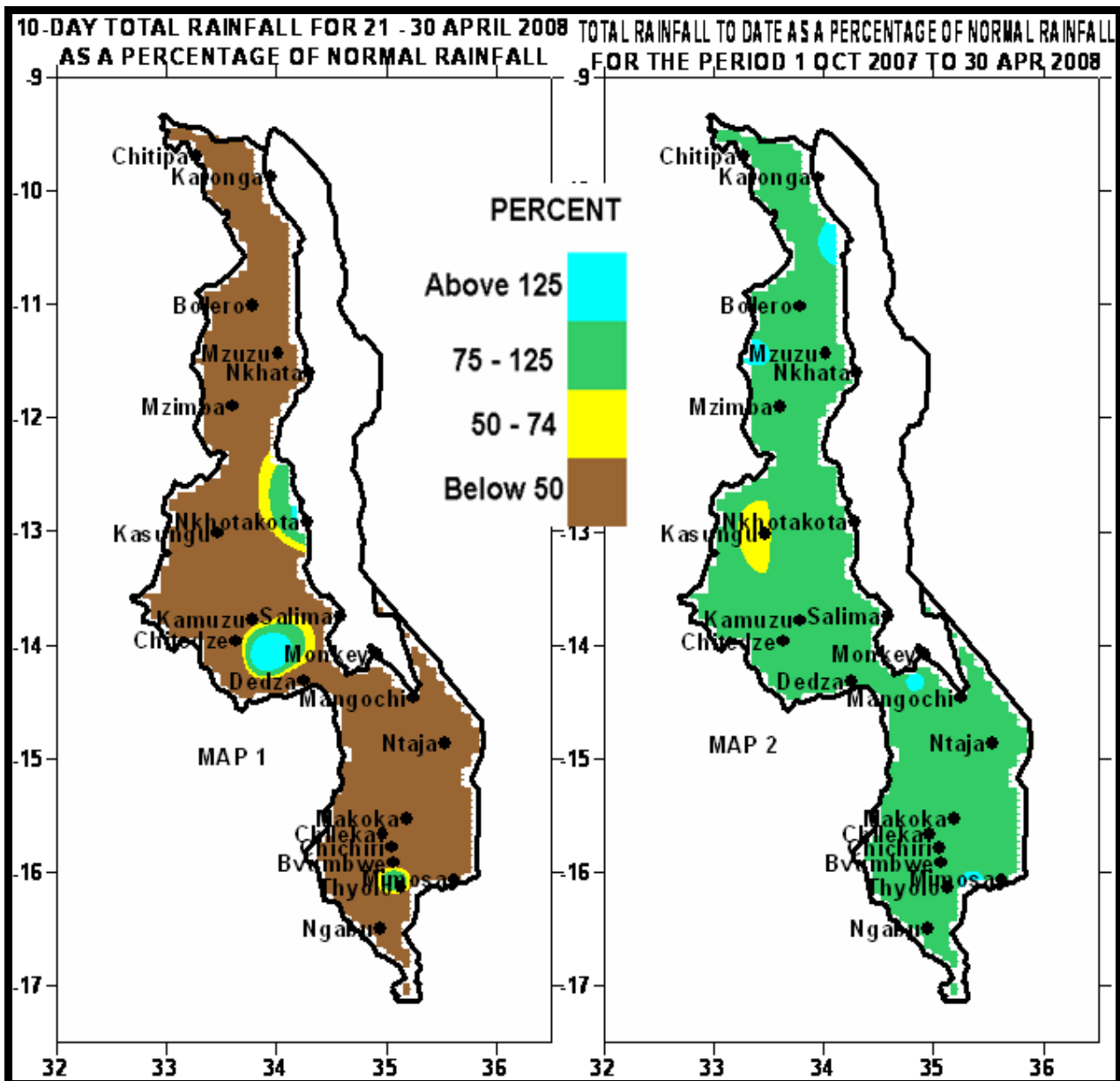
Season: 2007/2008

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Dry weather persisted over most areas in the last ten days of April...
- Good rainfall amounts experienced in 2007-08 season...
- Occasional winter rainfall expected over highlands and along the lakeshore...



**1. WEATHER SUMMARY****1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION**

During the last ten days of April 2008, the main rain belt was over East Africa. As a result dry weather conditions continued over most parts of Malawi except at very few places mainly over highlands and along the lakeshore (Green and light blue colours on Map 1). Most areas registered nil rainfall.

Cumulative rainfall performance from October 2007 up to 30 April, 2008 indicated that the 2007/08 rainfall season in Malawi has been generally good (green and blue colours on Map 2) although localised rainfall deficits and surpluses have also been experienced. Notable areas with rainfall deficits included Kasungu (yellow colour on map 1).

**1.2 MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE**

In the last ten days of April 2008, Malawi experienced warm to hot temperatures during the day and cool to mild temperatures during early morning. Reported mean daily maximum temperatures ranged from around 24°C over highlands including Bvumbwe to around 32°C over low altitude areas such as Ngabu in Chikwawa. The highest absolute maximum temperature was registered at Ngabu (38°C) while the lowest absolute minimum temperature was 12°C, reported at Bvumbwe, Kamuzu International Airport and Mzuzu (Table 2).

**1.3 MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS**

Mean daily wind speed at a height of two meters above the ground, were generally light during the period under review. The highest speed was reported at Chitipa (3.4 m/s or 12.2 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**

Mean Relative Humidity values continued to decline over most areas. The mean daily values ranged from 57% at Ngabu to 82% at Mzuzu See Table 2.

**2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

Dry conditions that continued over the country facilitated harvesting and drying of matured crops. In the south most farmers had completed harvesting most of the crops while in the north most crops were at drying stage and harvesting stages. However, in some parts of the north maize that was planted in January particularly over high altitude areas was reported drying prematurely due to dry spell and early cessation of rainfall. Overall crop production this season has been affected by among other factors late start of the season in some parts, heavy rains and floods in January, localised dry spells in February and March and early cessation of rainfall.

**2.1 OVERVIEW OF 2007-08 SEASON**

For agricultural production, the 2007-08 growing season in Malawi has been generally good but not better than last season. Sufficient rainfall to support planting, germination and establishment of various crops started around mid December 2007. The start of season had slightly delayed over some areas compared to last season particularly in the centre and north. Significant rainfall was experienced from start of the season up to January. However, in January heavy rains and floods were experienced resulting in soil water logging conditions and cropped fields being washed away in some parts Malawi. During the months of February and March unusual dry conditions were experienced in some parts of the country. The south and some parts of the lakeshore areas were most affected.

**3. FORECAST FOR MAY & JUNE 2008**

A series of high pressure systems are expected to periodically induce cool and moist air from the Indian Ocean into Malawi during the winter season. Therefore, during the months of May and June 2008 occasional winter rains are expected particularly over highlands and along the Lakeshore.

**THIS IS THE LAST 10—DAY BULLETIN FOR 2007-08 RAINFALL SEASON**

**TABLE 1: DEKADAL RAINFALL FOR SELECTED STATIONS FOR  
DEKAD 3 OF APRIL 2008: PERIOD 21 - 30**

STATION NAME	DEKADAL TOTAL RAINFALL	DEKADAL NORMAL	DEKADAL TOTAL AS % OF NORMAL	TOTAL TO DATE	NORMAL TO DATE	TOTAL TODATE AS % OF NORMAL	RAINY DAYS
SOUTHERN REGION	mm	mm		mm	mm		> 0.3
Bvumbwe Met.	1.0	16.9	6	1042.5	1060.4	98	1
Chichiri Met.	0.0	16.7	0	972.6	1070.4	91	0
Chileka Airport	0.0	3.5	0	910.8	878.1	104	0
Kasinthula Res. Stn.	0.0	10.7	0	958.5	708.4	135	0
Liwonde Township	0.0	8.3	0	839.1	830.0	101	0
Lujeri Tea Estate	30.2	63.0	48	2429.3	1983.7	122	4
Mangochi Met.	0.0	8.9	0	803.7	826.2	97	0
Mimosa Met.	5.3	43.8	12	1141.4	1445.7	79	2
Monkey Bay Met.	0.0	4.1	0	1055.0	916.8	115	0
Mulanje Boma	6.5	34.2	19	2043.6	1611.6	127	1
Namiasi Agric	0.0	7.3	0	850.2	796.8	107	0
Nchalo Sucoma	0.0	10.1	0	755.5	678.3	111	0
Ngabu Met.	0.0	11.1	0	971.1	766.4	127	0
Nsanje Boma	0.0	12.3	0	935.9	832.6	112	0
Ntaja Met.	0.0	10.5	0	1053.7	892.1	118	0
Satemwa Tea Est	36.8	22.3	165	1255.1	1284.1	98	2
Thyolo Met	0.0	23.3	0	1205.2	1143.2	105	0
<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>							
Chitedze Met.	6.1	8.4	73	930.4	905.4	103	1
Dwangwa Sugar Corp.	35.7	36.3	98	1409.8	1394.7	101	1
K.I.A Met	0.0	4.0	0	798.3	827.7	96	0
Lisasadzi	0.0	6.4	0	569.9	811.9	70	0
Malomo Agric	0.0	14.9	0	992.6	825.8	120	0
Madisi Agric	0.0	3.4	0	644.5	821.1	78	0
Mchinji Boma	0.0	15.0	0	1137.8	1042.0	109	0
Mkanda Met	0.0	4.7	0	960.4	897.5	107	0
Mponela Agric	0.0	3.9	0	1011.8	806.1	126	0
Nathenje Agric	29.5	9.8	301	1085.3	895.5	121	1
Nkhotakota Met	54.1	31.2	173	1506.1	1460.7	103	4
Ntcheu - Nkhande	4.2	8.1	52	1227.8	1058.5	116	1
Ntchisi Boma	0.0	6.3	0	1033.6	868.5	119	0
Salima Met	0.7	11.1	6	1271.5	1258.3	101	1
Sinyala Agric	0.0	12.1	0	967.5	889.0	109	0
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>							
Bolero Met	0.3	4.7	6	695.1	728.2	95	1
Bwengu Agric.	0.0	8.8	0	715.7	826.1	87	0
Chitipa Met	0.0	9.0	0	789.8	979.2	81	0
Karonga Met.	0.0	33.9	0	969.6	1049.6	92	0
Mzimba Met	0.0	8.7	0	713.1	883.6	81	0
Mzuzu Met.	66.2	59.2	112	1177.1	1184.1	99	4

**TABLE 2: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS  
FOR DEKAD 3 OF APRIL 2008**

STATION	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN TEMP (°C)	ABS MAX (°C)	ABS MIN (°C)	WIND SPEED m/s	RH %
BOLERO	27.8	14.3	29.2	13.0	N/A	64
BVUMBWE	23.6	13.8	29.0	12.0	2.3	65
CHICHIRI	24.6	14.5	30.1	12.5	1.0	70
CHILEKA	26.7	17.2	31.5	15.1	2.8	66
CHITEDZE	26.3	14.2	28.6	12.1	0.6	68
CHITIPA	26.4	16.7	27.6	15.8	3.4	66
K.I.A.	25.2	14.1	27.6	12.0	1.9	72
KARONGA	30.3	21.4	31.4	20.4	2.5	63
MANGOCHI	29.6	17.6	32.2	17.6	2.0	65
MIMOSA	27.0	15.1	33.4	12.7	1.1	74
MONKEY BAY	29.4	20.0	32.0	18.3	1.9	63
MZIMBA	26.1	15.8	28.2	14.7	1.3	66
MZUZU	23.2	14.2	26.0	12.0	1.9	82
NGABU	31.6	17.9	38.3	16.6	1.8	58
NKHOTAKOTA	27.7	19.7	29.8	19.0	N/A	68
NTAJA	26.9	17.9	28.0	17.0	1.9	69
SALIMA	28.4	20.4	31.5	19.0	2.3	64

**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