



10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services



Period: 1 – 10 October 2006

Season: 2006/2007

Issue No.1

Release date: 17 October 2006

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Mostly dry conditions persisted over Malawi...**
- **Major agricultural activity was land preparation**
- **Mostly sunny and hot to very conditions expected to persist ...**

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

Dry conditions persisted over Malawi during the first ten days of October 2006 except at very few places where light rainfall was recorded on 10th October, 2006. For instance Dwangwa reported 23.2mm, Malingunde Dam 11.3mm, Mzuzu 4.5mm and Emfeni Agric 2.5mm.

Rains are likely to continue being erratic until major rain bearing systems get established over the country.

1.2 MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Mean maximum air temperatures were mostly hot during the dekad under review. However, at Ngabu in lower Shire Valley mean maximum temperatures reached very hot category (36.8°C) Overall, mean maximum temperatures ranged from 27°C at Dedza to 36.8°C at Ngabu while mean minimum temperatures ranged between 12°C at Makoka to 23°C at Monkey Bay and Ngabu. For more details see attached Table.

1.4 MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Wind speeds observed across the country ranged from 1 and 6 metres per second or 3.6 – 21.6 Km/hr (see table). The highest wind speeds were reported at Chitipa (6.0 m/s).

1.5 MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

During the first ten days of October 2006, a fairly dry atmosphere was observed over

Malawi. Daily average relative humidity values ranged from 43% at Mzimba to 61% at Bvumbwe.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The main agricultural activity was land preparation in readiness for the main rains.

3. PROSPECTS OF 2006/07 RAINFALL SEASON

Most climate models indicate that during the period October to December 2006, the northern half of Malawi has 25% chance of rainfall total being above normal, 40% chance of being normal and 35% chance of being below normal. The southern half has 35% chance of rainfall total being above normal, 40% chance of being normal and 25% chance of being below normal. During the period January to March 2007, the country as a whole has 35% chance of above normal rainfall, 40% of normal rainfall and 25% chance of below normal rainfall.

In summary, a greater part of Malawi is expected to experience normal total rainfall amounts during 2006/07 rainfall season. However, localized dry spells and flush floods are also expected to occur during the season.

4. OUTLOOK 11 – 20 OCTOBER 2006

Mostly sunny and hot to very hot weather with a chance of isolated thunderstorms are expected over Malawi during 11 - 20 October 2006.

**TABLE FOR AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR THE PERIOD
01 – 10 OCTOBER 2006**

STATION	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN TEMP (°C)	ABS MAX (°C)	ABS MIN (°C)	WIND SPEED m/s	RH %
BVUMBWE	28.6	15.7	32.6	12.5	2.2	61
CHICHIRI	29.6	17.7	33.5	15.0	1.1	54
CHILEKA	32.2	20.1	36.8	16.8	3.9	51
CHITEDZE	31.7	17.2	33.5	15.9	1.6	50
CHITIPA	31.2	18.7	33.5	17.4	6.0	45
DEDZA	26.8	16.2	28.7	14.1	2.1	N/A
K I A	30.0	16.8	32.2	14.4	2.5	50
KARONGA	33.7	21.5	35.0	20.5	2.0	50
MAKOKA	30.7	14.3	33.5	11.7	1.7	60
MALINGUNDE DAM	32.3	16.3	34.3	14.1	2.1	54
MANGOCHI	34.0	22.6	37.5	20.0	2.6	49
MIMOSA	34.0	18.4	37.6	14.6	1.4	54
MONKEY BAY	33.7	23.1	34.8	21.8	2.9	49
MZIMBA	31.0	18.3	33.9	16.6	1.6	43
MZUZU	28.8	13.7	30.6	11.4	2.3	51
NGABU	36.8	23.4	42.2	20.2	3.1	46
NKHATA BAY	33.6	16.7	34.8	14.9	1.0	53
NTAJA	33.2	21.2	36.5	19.0	2.9	49
SALIMA	33.1	22.3	34.6	20.5	2.8	50

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