# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



### **Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin**

 $11^{th}-20^{th}\ January\ 2005$ 



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

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## **Highlights**

- □ Wet weather conditions experienced countrywide.
- □ Cooler temperatures prevailed during the dekad.
- □ Crops conditions expected to improve.
- □ Rainfall situation to decrease in the third dekad of January.

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#### **WEATHER SUMMARY**

11<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2005

The second dekad of January was dominated by both the Indian high pressure system and a deep trough that extended from the north east Namibia down to the southern coast. The combination of these two systems resulted in an influx of moisture from the Indian Ocean and from the Tropics. As a result scattered to widespread rains and mild temperatures occurred throughout the country during this period.

#### RAINFALL SITUATION

The second dekad of January was the wettest since the beginning of the agricultural season. Rainfall for the dekad ranges from 60mm recorded at Qacha's Nek to 192.2mm registered at Leribe (Fig 2 and Table 1). Majority of the stations recorded over 100mm of rainfall. Escessive daily rainfall was experienced in most stations with over 40mm of daily rainfall. The extremely high daily rainfall of 79.4mm was recorded at Maseru Airport on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2005. As compared to the normal, the dekadal rainfall for all the stations is above normal.

### Cumulative percentage rainfall departure from Normal

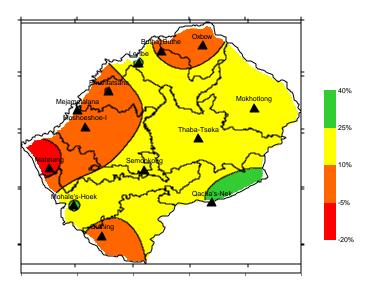


Fig. 1: Cumulative rainfall departure from normal since  $1^{st}$  September to  $20^{th}$  January 2005.

Cumulative rainfall (1<sup>st</sup> September 2004 to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2005) has shifted from being below normal at some places to normal and above normal due to the excessive rainfall experienced over the second dekad of January. Cumulative rainfall ranges from 278.2mm recorded at Mafeteng to 669.6mm recorded at Oxbow station with majority of the stations registering over 350mm of cumulative rainfall (Fig 3 and Table 1).

#### **TEMPERATURE**

As compared to the previous dekads, the second dekad of January is relatively cooler and most stations recorded the highest temperatures of less than 30°C (Table 1). It is only Phuthiatsana station which recorded over 30°C of daily temperature with 32.3 °C recorded on the . 14<sup>th</sup> January 2005.

#### **CROP STAGE AND CONDITION**

Widespread rains were beneficial to the summer crops which are mostly at vegetative to flowering stage, but there were cases of waterlogging at some places which negatively affect the growth of the crops. The crops that were affected by the dry spells over the past months are expected to improve.

#### **DEKADAL OUTLOOK**

21st - 31st January 2005

Partly cloudy weather conditions are generally expected with some isolated to scattered thundershowers. However, rainfall is expected to reduce as compared to the previous dekad. Temperatures are expected to be warm over the next dekad.

Table 1

Table 1					Rainf	all and Tempe	erature Summa	aries				
	Rainfall (mm)						Temperature (°C)				•	
					Total From Sept 04 to 2nd Dek Jan 05			11 - 20 Jan 2005				
STATION	ALT.	Actual	Normal	Rain			%Dept. from	Minimum	Maximum	Dekadal	Dekadal	
NAME	( <b>M</b> )	R/Fall	R/Fall	Days	Actual	Normal	Normal	Lowest(Day)	Highest (Day)	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Butha-Buthe	1770	132.5	41.5	8	434	416.3	4	12.5(16)	26.5(15)	18.9	20.2	-1.3
Leribe	1740	192.2	38.8	8	466.1	360.4	29	13.0(15)	26.4(19)	19.1	20.7	-1.6
Mafeteng	1610	125.2	33.9	7	278.2	315	-12	11.9(15)	26.6(17,19)	18.8	20.6	-1.8
Maseru Airport	1530	167.2	36.1	8	366.9	328	12	10.9(15)	N/A	N/A	21.7	N/A
Mohale's hoek	1600	130.3	33.1	7	432.9	335.9	29	12.0(16)	28.4(19)	19.7	21.3	-1.6
Mokhotlong	2200	61.5	30.1	8	394.6	323.8	22	10.1(16)	24.2(11)	16.7	17.7	-1.0
Moshoeshoe I	1628	83.4	37.0	7	349.7	354.7	-1	12.5(15)	26.6(19)	19.3	21.2	-1.9
Ox-Bow	2600	150.3	57.0	8	669.6	624.6	7	5.2(16)	17.8(17)	12.6	12.7	-0.1
Phuthiatsana	1750	148.9	39.0	5	346.2	371.6	-7	11.4(18)	32.3(14)	20.6	21.3	-0.7
Qacha's Nek	1970	60	38.4	8	495.3	394.2	26	11.0(15)	25.1(19)	17.6	18.4	-0.8
Outhing	1740	67	29.4	4	375.2	371	1	13.0(16)	27.9(17)	19.9	21.2	-1.3
Semonkong	2458	71.5	29.6	8	379.7	321.6	18	8.4(19)	22.5(19)	15.4	16.0	-0.6

Fig.2

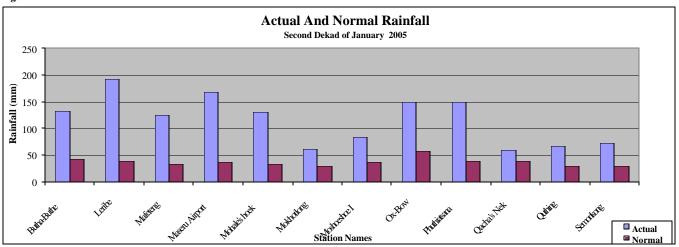
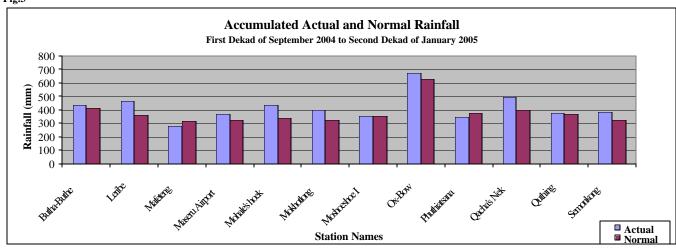


Fig.3



#### GLOSSARY

Dekad: Ten day period

Normal: Average figure over a specific time period.

% Rainfall Departure from Normal: (Actual Rainfall – Normal Rainfall)/ Normal Rainfall x 100

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

#### And it is

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**Comments and Contributions would be highly appreciated.**