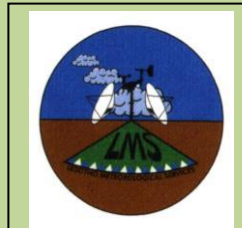




**LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES**  
(LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



**Agrometeorological Update**

Period: 11 -2 0 January 2015

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**Highlights**

- **Below normal rainfall across the country**
- **Above average maximum temperatures in the Mountains and below average maximum temperatures in the Lowlands**
- **Rangelands fully fledged**
- **Maize entering tasseling stage in the Lowlands and at tasseling stage in the Mountains**

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## MOISTURE AND HEAT STATUS

### RAINFALL SITUATION

The second dekad of January recorded below normal rainfall which was much higher than the same dekad of last season's total decadal rainfall (Figure 1).

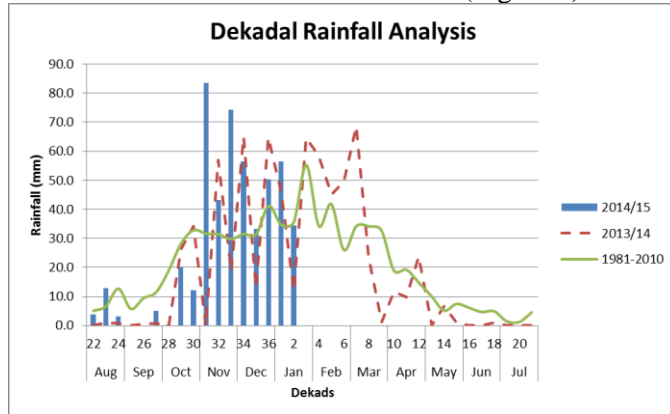


Figure 1: Seasonal rainfall distribution as of 2nd dekad January 2015

Qacha's Nek recorded most rainy days of 7 days, followed by Semonkong which had 5 days of rainfall. Leribe, Mokhotlong, Moshoeshoe-I, Oxbow and Thaba-Tseka all received rainfall for 4 days with Mafeteng, Mejametalana and Mohale's Hoek having 3 days. Butha-Buthe, Phuthiatsana and Quthing had the least rainfall days of 2 days. (Figure 2).

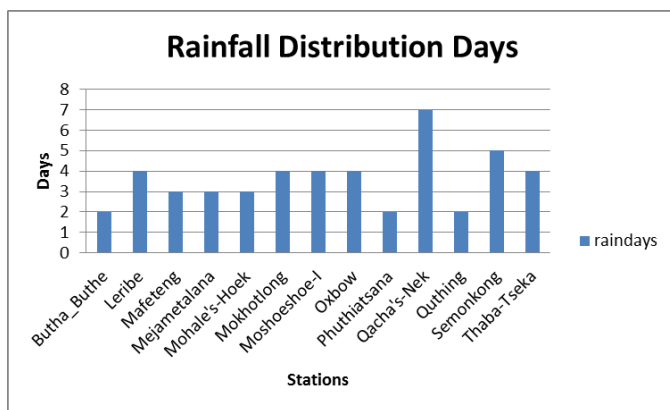
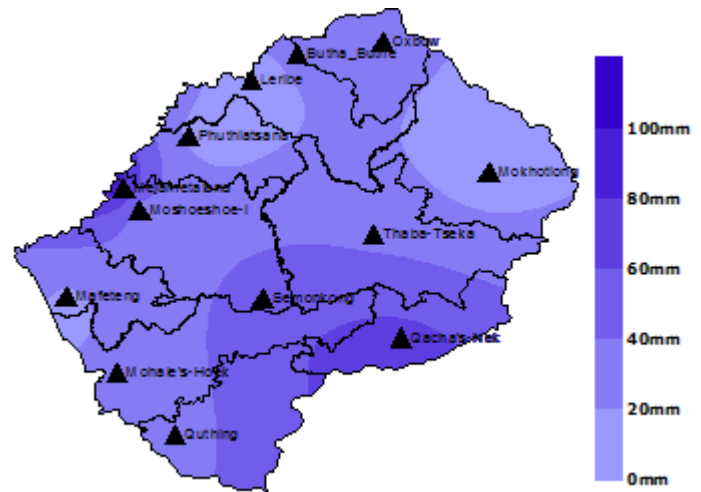


Figure 2: Rainy days during 11 - 20 January 2015

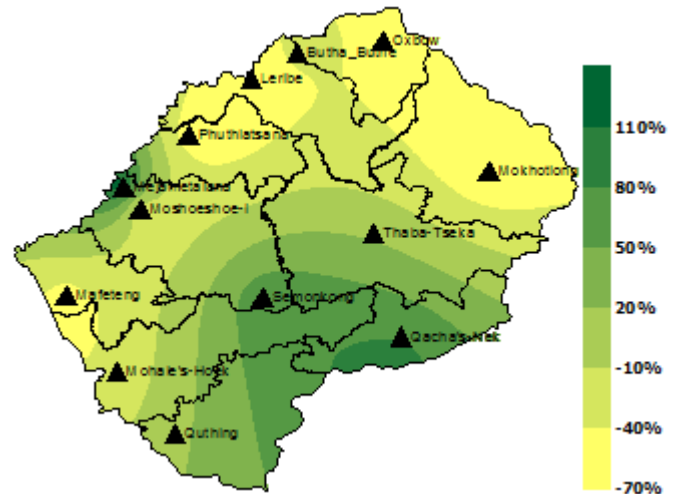
Mejametalana recorded the highest rainfall amount of 127mm followed by Qacha's Nek which recorded 93mm of rainfall. Moshoeshoe-I, Oxbow, Semonkong and Quthing observed rainfall amounts ranging between 30mm – 75mm followed by Butha-Buthe and Mohale's Hoek which recorded rainfall amounts ranging between 20mm and 30mm. Mafeteng,

Phuthiatsana, Leribe and Mokhotlong received the least rainfall ranging under 20mm (see Map 1. Below).



Map 1: Rainfall distribution for 01 - 10 January 2015

Rainfall for the second dekad was approximately normal. Even though Mejametalana station exceeded normal by 110% most of the stations recorded below normal rainfall with a departure between -10% and -70% (See Map2 below).

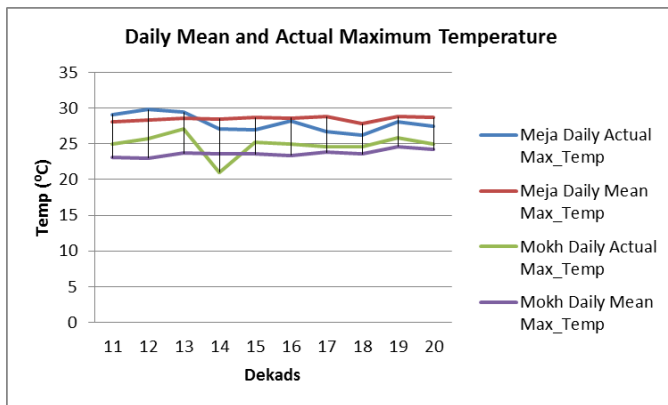


Map 2: percentage departure from normal as of 2nd dekad January 2015

### TEMPERATURES

#### Maximum Temperature

The Lowlands (represented by Mejametalana) recorded below average temperatures for most of the dekad while the Mountains (represented by Mokhotlong) recorded above average temperatures for the entire dekad (See Figure 3 below).



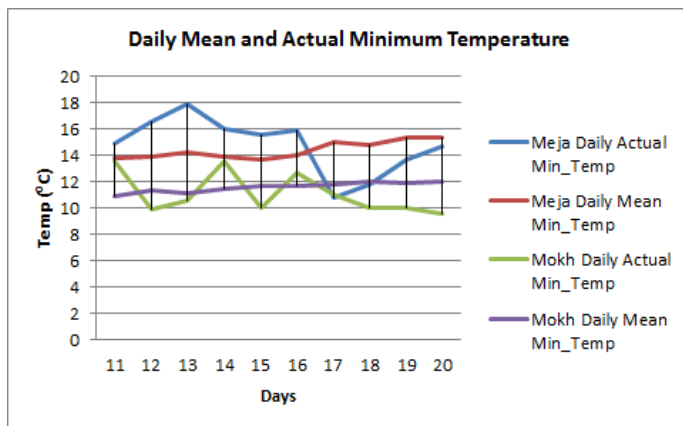
**Figure 3: Maximum Temperature during 11 - 20 January 2015**



**Figure 5: Maize at tasseling stage in Thaba-Tseka**

**Minimum Temperature**

Minimum temperatures were above normal throughout the dekad in the Lowlands from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>. There was a drop in temperature on the 17<sup>th</sup> which was much below normal and it started increasing towards normal for the remaining days of the dekad. The Mountains recorded below average temperature for most of the dekad (See Figure 4 below).



**Figure 4: Minimum Temperature during 01 - 10 January 2015**

**Lowlands**

Maize entering tasseling stage in most of the fields and some at vegetative



**Figure 6:Maize entering tasseling stage in Phuthiatsana**

**CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS**

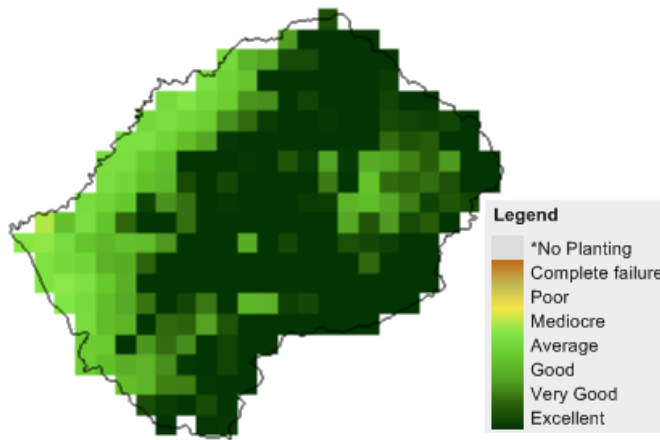
**Mountains**

**Maize Crop Stage and Condition**

Maize is at tasseling stage on most fields (See Figure 5)

### RANGELAND CONDITIONS

Rangelands are in good conditions (*Map. 2*)



*Map.3*

### Outlook for 30<sup>th</sup> Jan – 06<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015

Mostly dry conditions are expected for the forecast period as scattered to widespread rain is expected on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> becoming isolated towards the end of the period. Temperatures are expected to be warm to hot. Wind is expected to be moderate becoming strong at times. Maximum temperatures are expected to range between 22°C and 31°C in the lowlands while minimum temperatures are expected to range between 10°C and 16°C. For the highlands, maximum temperatures are expected to range between 16°C and 26°C and minimum temperatures to range between 04°C and 13°C.

### Soil Moisture

Decline soil moisture anticipated

