

LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



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

Contents

Rainfall Situation
Page 1

Temperature
Page 1

Crop Stage and Condition
Page 2

Seasonal Forecast
Page 2

Highlights

- ❑ Some places experienced heavy rains during the dekad
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall remains normal
- ❑ Normal to above normal mean temperatures experienced in most places
- ❑ Crops improve

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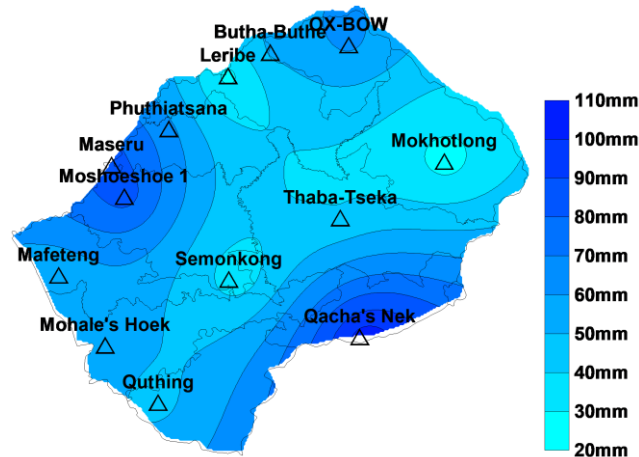
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RAINFALL SITUATION

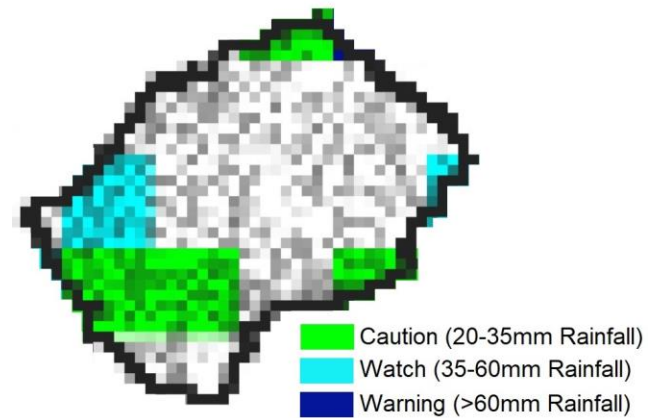
Most parts of the country recorded good to excessive rains during the second dekad of February 2019. A distribution of normal and above normal dekadal rainfall was recorded throughout many parts of the country. The only place which recorded slightly below normal dekadal rainfall was Leribe, with 26.7mm against a 35mm normal. The highest amount of rainfall was recorded by Qacha’s Nek (108.4mm).

Excessive rains were consequently recorded for Qacha’s Nek, Moshoeshoe I, Mejametalana, Quthing and Phuthiatsana, whereas Mohale’s Hoek, Mafeteng, Butha-Buthe, Thaba-Tseka and Ox-bow recorded above-normal rains and only Semonkong and Mokhotlong recorded normal rainfall, as shown in Map 1.

The received rainfall is in line with an alert issued by the SADC Climate Services Centre for the period 14th to 18th February 2019 on heavy rains over the region. Map 2 shows Lesotho’s portion of the regional alert.



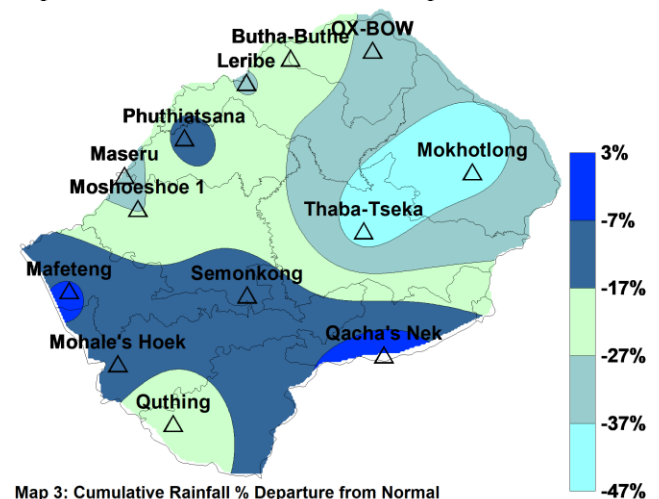
Map 1: Rainfall for Feb 2nd Dekad 2019



Map 2: SADC Heavy Rainfall Alert

Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Despite plenty of rainfall received for the dekad, the cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September remains normal and below normal in most places. None of the parts recorded above normal cumulative rainfall to this dekad. Qacha’s Nek has the highest percentage at 2.6%, which is in the normal range, while Thaba-Tseka has the smallest cumulative departure at 43.2% as shown in Map 3.

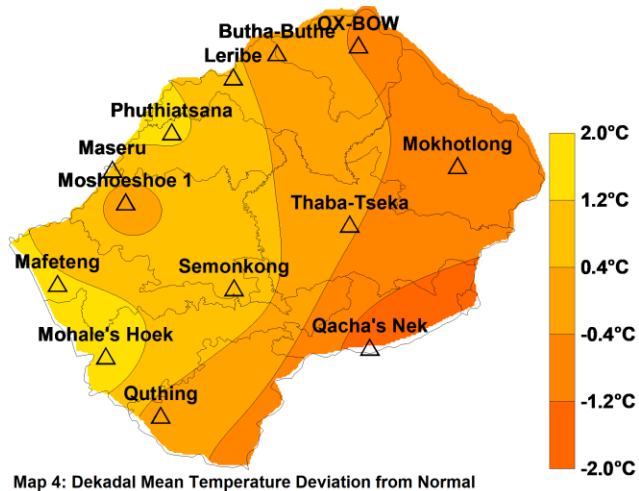


Map 3: Cumulative Rainfall % Departure from Normal

TEMPERATURE

Most parts recorded normal mean temperature deviation from normal for the dekad. These include the northern, western and north-western parts and parts of the south of Lesotho. Some places, mostly in the south-western parts of Lesotho such as Mafeteng and Mohale’s Hoek, recorded above normal . The

only place with a below normal temperature deviation of -1.8°C record is Qacha's Nek, as shown in Map 4.



Map 4: Dekadal Mean Temperature Deviation from Normal

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Crops are at various stages throughout the country due to uneven distribution of rains since September 2018. They are generally improving due to the dekad rains. The northern parts of the country have crops in good conditions and at expected stages at this time of the cropping season. The crops for southern parts of the country, however, are mostly not in good condition due to the dry spells experienced at various periods of the season.

SEASONAL OUTLOOK (Feb-Mar -April 2019)

Rains are expected to be normal to below normal.

Above normal temperatures are still anticipated.