

# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



## Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

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

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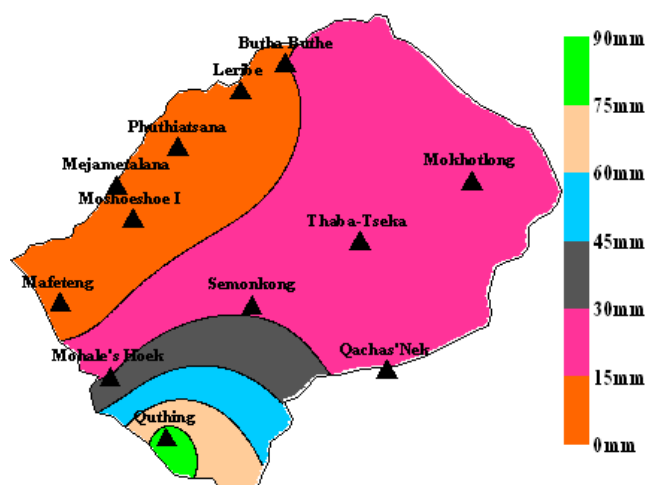
## Highlights

- ❑ Lengthy dry spells are continuing
- ❑ Below normal mean temperatures experienced in most places.
- ❑ Agricultural activities in progress in the highlands.
- ❑ Normal prospects of rain anticipated in the coming season

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## RAINFALL SITUATION



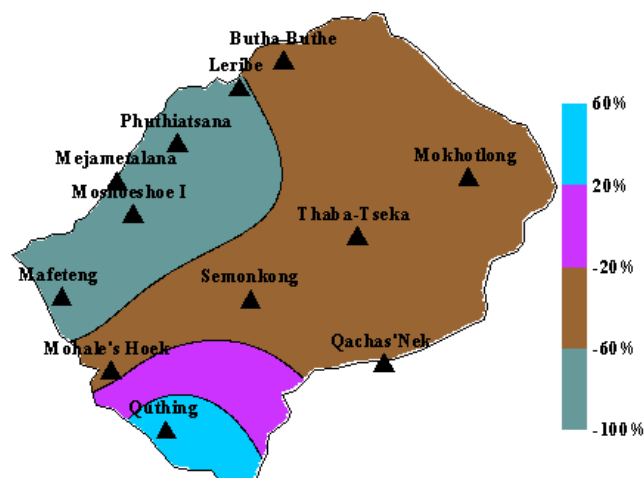
Map 1: Dekadal Rainfall for October 1st Dekad 2011

First dekad of October 2011 was predominantly dry in most places. The highest dekad rainfall recorded was 81.9mm at Quthing while Phuthiatsana recorded the lowest amount of 4.0mm (see Map 1 and fig.1).

Rain days during the dekad under review range from one to three days.

### Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September is below normal in most places in the country (see Map 2 and fig.2). Low cumulative rainfall leaves the soil moisture very poor and presently the land surface is uncultivable.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Dep. from Normal

## TEMPERATURE

Mean temperature had been largely below normal country wide.

## CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Despite low moisture content of the soil, agricultural activities in the highlands are taking place. In the lowlands, a slow progress is observed.

Wheat grown in winter is at vegetative stages and conditions range from bad to fair.

Pastures and livestock in general are in bad state. Water resources are also expected to be fully stretched.

## SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR OCTOBER 2011 – MARCH 2012

The 2010/2011 agricultural rainfall season was wet with above normal rainfall observed throughout the entire country. However, the 2011/2012 season will have dry conditions for the period October to December 2011. The situation will only change for good rains during January to March 2012 where higher rains will occur.

For the period January to March 2011, the region that covers the northern lowlands of Leribe and Butha-Buthe including the highlands of Thaba-Tseka, Mokhotlong, and the eastern parts of Qacha's Nek have increased chances of receiving higher rainfall compared to the rest of the country.

Meanwhile, during the agricultural season October 2011 to March 2012 the entire country is expected to experience high temperatures.

The suppressed rainfall coupled with high temperatures will bring negative impacts to Agriculture and Water Resources, Health and other socio economic sectors especially during the period October to December 2011.

For the period January to March 2012 there is a high likelihood of thunderstorms, flash floods, strong winds, tornadoes and hailstorm occurrence.

Fig.1

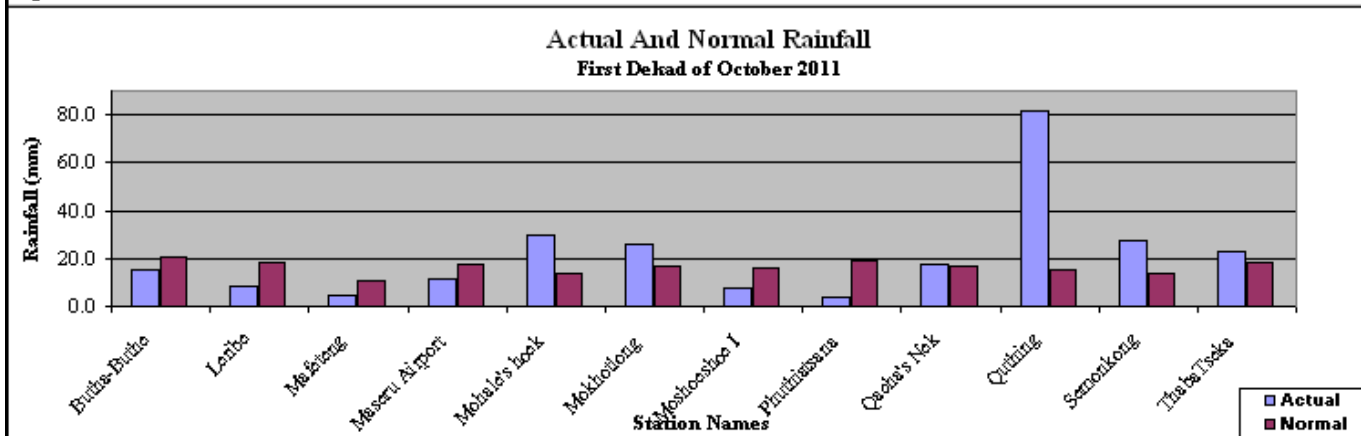


Fig.2

