

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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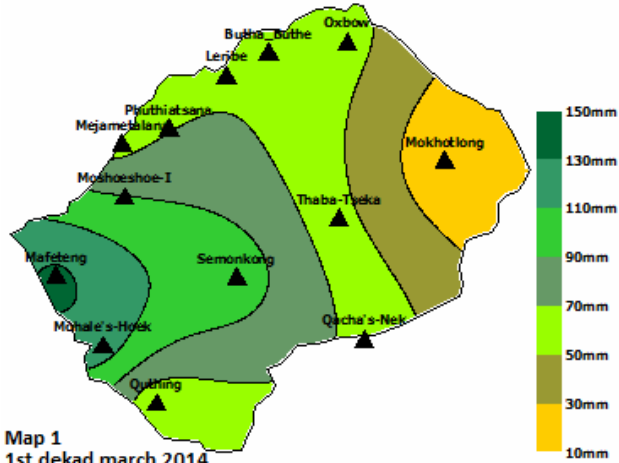
- ❑ Above normal rains countrywide during the dekad
- ❑ Cumulative rainfall improving
- ❑ Below normal mean temperatures experienced in most places.
- ❑ Harvesting of Wheat, staple crops at tasseling/silking stages

The Director
Lesotho Meteorological Services
Applications Section
P.O. Box 14515
Maseru 100, Lesotho

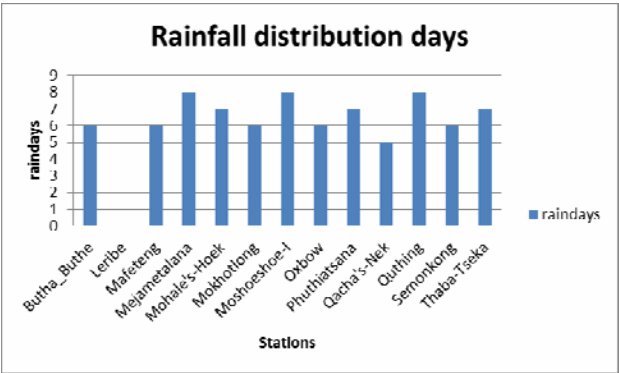
TEL: (+266) 22324374
FAX: (+266) 22325057/22350325
E-mail: agrometeorology@lesmet.org.ls
<http://www.lesmet.org.ls>

RAINFALL SITUATION

High rains from February continued to the 1st dekad of March. The country recorded above normal rainfall with the exception of Mokhotlong which recorded much below normal rainfall of 30mm. The distribution increased from east to west, with Mafeteng recording the highest rainfall of 132mm (See Map 1 and graph 2)



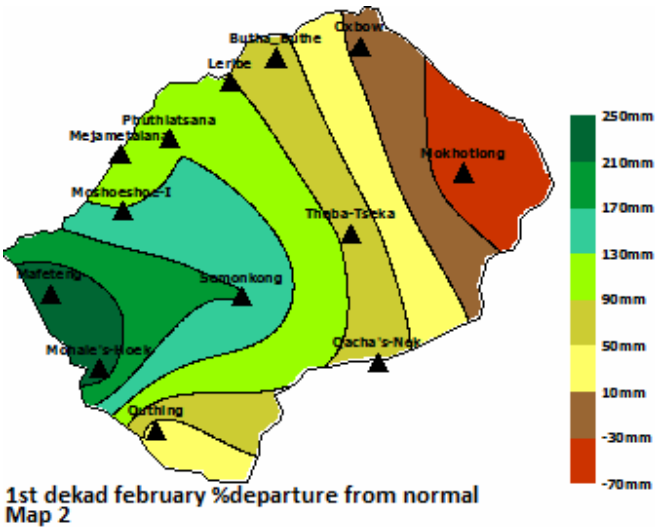
Rain days ranged from five (Qacha's Nek) to eight days (Maseru and Quthing) see graph 1.



Graph 1

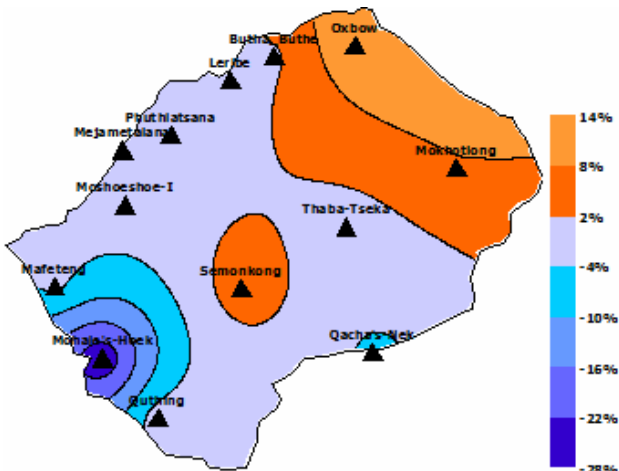
Actual Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

There was a high gain in cumulative rainfall on every district except Mokhotlong. Most of the country had a positive percentage departure from normal which shows that there dekad had above normal rainfall.



TEMPERATURE

There was a drop in temperatures with the districts that received most rains having the lowest temperatures. The west side had the lowest temperatures and they increased to east, with Mokhotlong having the highest deviation from normal (of 13.7%)



CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Wheat harvesting is at its peak in the mountains. Staple foods (maize, sorghum) are at tassling/silking stages. Most of the fields in the mountains are covered with weeds and the crops are not at their best

Pastures have improved and thus the improvement in livestock.

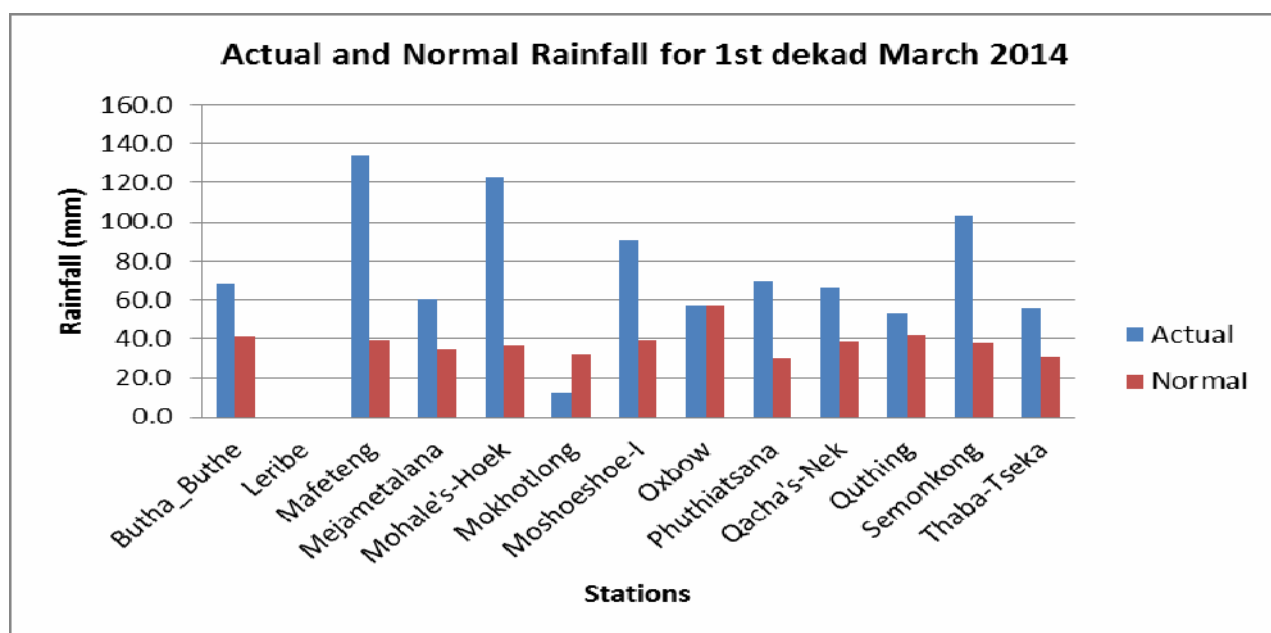


Figure 2