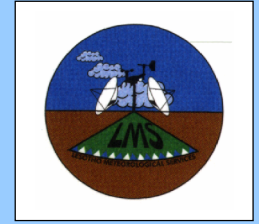


# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



## Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

11 – 20 October 2011



Issue No.2/2011-12

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

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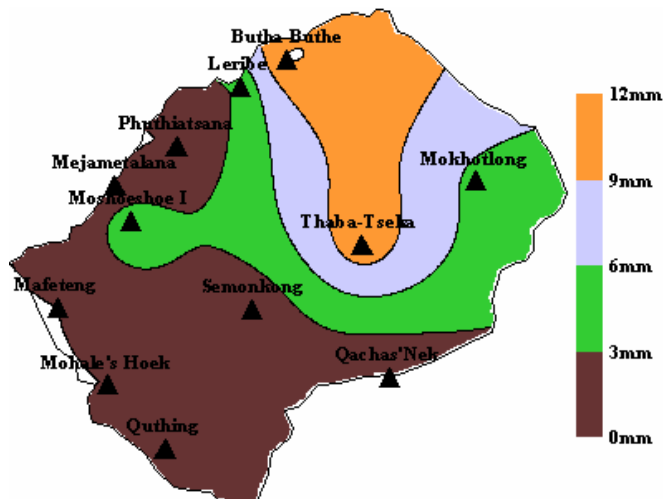
## Highlights

- ❑ Dry conditions continue
- ❑ Normal mean temperatures
- ❑ Little agricultural activities in progress.
- ❑ Hot and dry conditions anticipated in the next dekad
- ❑ Normal prospects of rain anticipated in the coming season

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## RAINFALL SITUATION



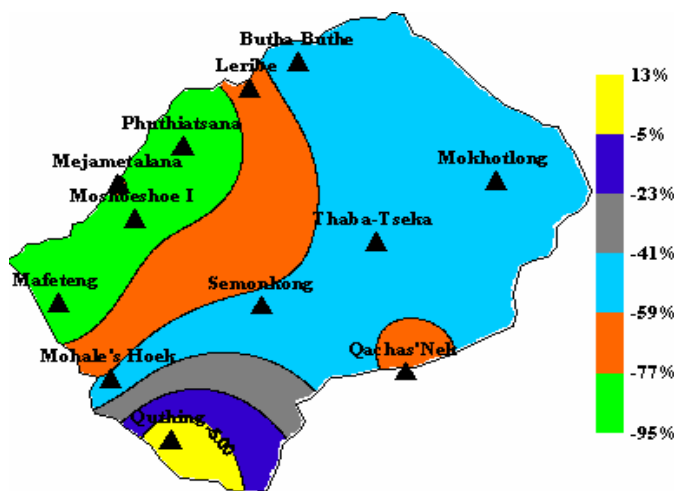
Map 1: Dekadal Rainfall for October 2nd Dekad 2011

The second dekad of October 2011 was mainly dry throughout the country. The highest dekadal rainfall recorded was 12.2mm at Butha-Buthe while some places did not record any rainfall (see Map 1 and fig.1).

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

### Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal

Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September was normal in Quthing and below normal elsewhere (see Map 2 and fig.2). The normal cumulative rainfall in Quthing is due to high amounts of rainfall that was recorded in the previous dekad.



Map 2: Cumulative Rainfall % Dep. from Normal

## TEMPERATURE

Normal mean temperature experienced country wide. The highest dekadal temperature was 29.9 °C and the lowest was 1.6 °C at Thaba-Tseka.

### CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Little agricultural activities are taking place especially in the lowlands due to persisting absence of rainfall activity.

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

### WEAKLY WEATHER FORECAST 21 – 28 OCTOBER

Generally, dry warm to hot and mostly fine weather conditions are anticipated for the forecast period. Wind is expected to be moderate becoming strong at times. Maximum temperatures are expected to range between 22°C and 32°C while Minimum temperatures are expected to range between 07°C and 16°C in the Lowlands. For the Highlands, Maximum temperatures are expected to range between 14°C and 28°C and Minimum temperatures to range between 04°C and 14°C.

### 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.

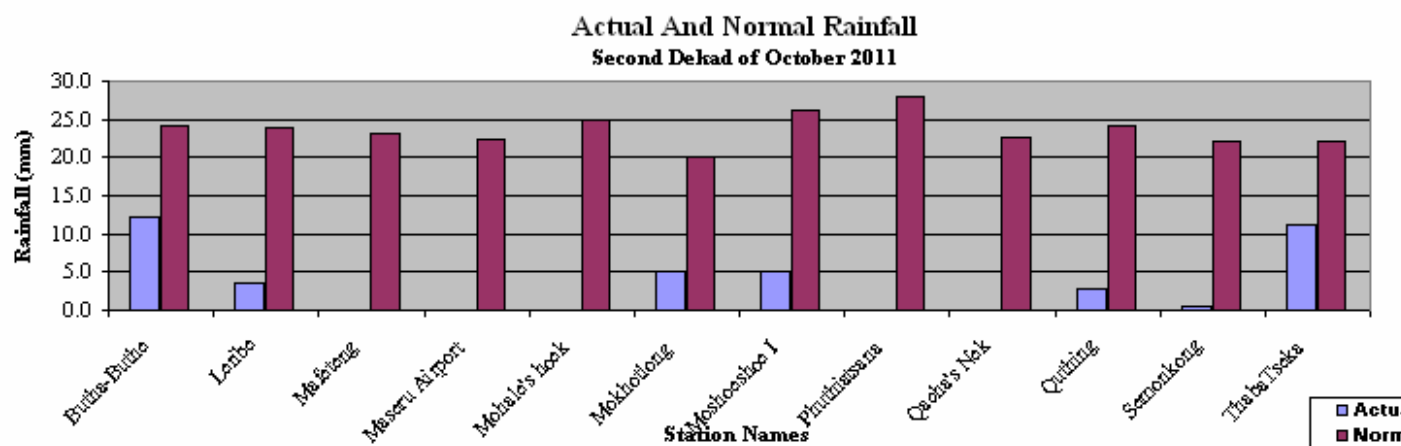
The situation will only change for good rains during January to March 2012 where higher rains will occur. For the period January to March 2011, the region that covers the northern lowlands of Leribe and Butha-Buthe including the highlands of Thaba-Tseka, Mokhotlong, and the eastern parts of Qachas' Nek 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**

