HIGHLIGHTS

- Heavy rains experienced mainly over the northern half of the country...
- Continued rainfall caused problems for matured crops in some parts...
- Scattered and locally heavy rainfall to continue over the north during 11 – 20 April 2006...
1.1 RAINFALL

The combination of easterly waves and oscillation of the equatorial trough that is currently over East Africa resulted into scattered and heavy rains mainly over some parts in the north, central and Lakeshore. This resulted into above normal rainfall situation. Highest dekadal total rainfall were received at Vinthukutu (287mm), Dwangwa (278mm), Mzuzu (230mm), Nkhata Bay (211mm) and Lifuwu (186mm) during this dekad under review. These rains have caused floods over in Karonga. The south generally received light to moderate rain showers that were basically below expected amounts. See Table 1 and Map 1.

Cumulative rainfall performance since 1st October 2005 up to 10 April 2006 indicates that most parts of the country have received normal rainfall amounts (between 75 and 125. See Table 1 and Map 2.

MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

The observed mean relative humidity values in the period under review were a bit lower than the last dekad of March. They ranged from 53% at Dedza to 85% at Mzuzu. See Table 2.

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Incessant rains continued to cause problems for matured crops particularly in the south and some parts of central region where most crops have reached maturity, drying and harvesting stages. On the other hand, the rains received over most areas maintained soil moisture and supported planting, growth and development of tuber crops. Maize in the north was reported to be performing well at flowering and maturity stages.

FORECAST FOR APRIL

Generally, Malawi will be under the influence of easterly waves. Therefore, light to moderate rainfall is expected over the southern half of Malawi while scattered and locally heavy rainfall will persist over the northern half including lakeshore areas during the period 11 – 20 April 2006.
### TABLE 1: DEKADAL RAINFALL FOR SELECTED STATIONS FOR DEKAD 1 OF APRIL 2006: PERIOD 1-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATION NAME</th>
<th>DEKADAL TOTAL</th>
<th>DEKADAL NORMAL</th>
<th>DEKADAL TOTAL</th>
<th>NORMAL TOTAL</th>
<th>RAINY TOTAL</th>
<th>RAINY AS % OF NORMAL</th>
<th>RAINY AS % OF TOTAL</th>
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### TABLE 2: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR DEKAD 1 OF APRIL 2006

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<th>STATION</th>
<th>MAX TEMP (°C)</th>
<th>MIN TEMP (°C)</th>
<th>ABS MAX (°C)</th>
<th>ABS MIN (°C)</th>
<th>WIND SPEED m/s</th>
<th>RH %</th>
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**Glossary of some terms on this table**

- RH = Relative Humidity
- Mean Temperature of the day = (Max of the day + Min of the same day) / 2
- ABS Max (Min) = Absolute Maximum (minimum) is the highest (lowest) of maximum (minimum) temperatures observed for a given number of days (calendar month) of a specified period of months (years).
- To convert Meters Per Second (mps) to Kilometers per hour (Km/hr) = mps x 3.6

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