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Highlights

- **Above Normal rainfall recorded**
- **Below average maximum temperatures**
- **Improved rangelands in the highlands**
- **Maize crop damaged in the highlands**
- **Cloudy weather conditions expected**

The Director
Lesotho Meteorological Services
Applications section
P.O. Box 14515
Maseru100, Lesotho

TEL: (+266)22324374
FAX: (+266) 22325057/22350325
e-mail: lmsappsoffice@gmail.com
<http://www.lesmet.org.ls>

MOISTURE AND HEAT STATUS

Rainfall situation

The first dekad of November received very little rainfall recording below normal rainfall and below 2016/2017 during the same period. Very few fields had been cultivated due to rapid depletion of soil moisture caused by above average maximum temperature and insufficient rainfall.

However the second dekad of November recorded significant rain above normal and above that of 2016/2017 rainfall during the same period. (See *Figure 1 below*).

National Rainfall distribution

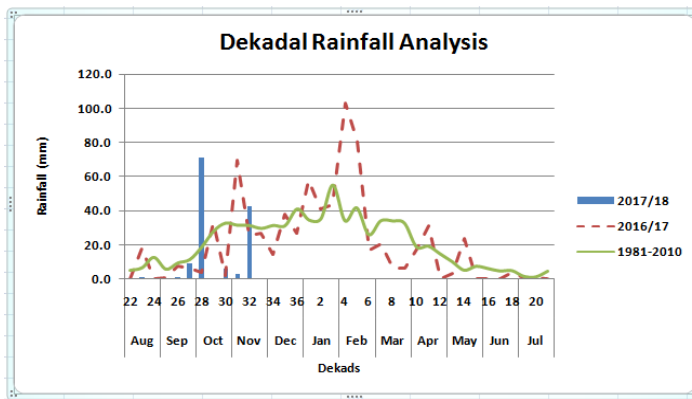
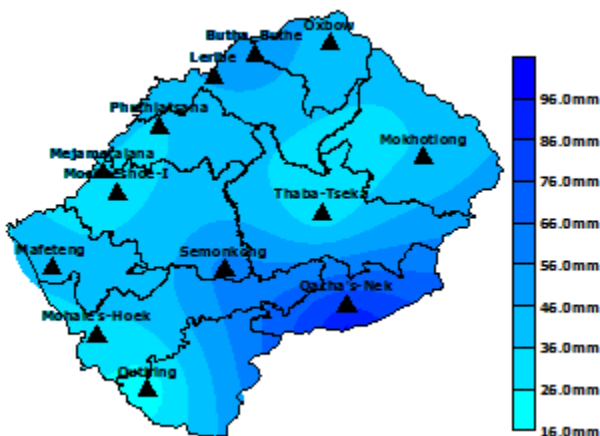


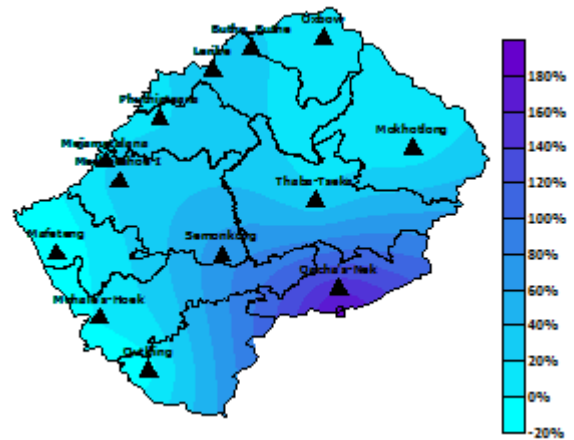
Figure 1: Seasonal rainfall distribution as of 1st dekad August – 2nd dekad of November 2017

The Southern highlands (Qacha’s Nek) recorded highest rainfall of 96.6mm. They were then followed by the Northern lowlands (Leribe & Butha-Buthe), the Central highlands (Semonkong) and the northern highlands (Oxbow) with rainfall ranging from 41.8mm- 59.3mm, while the rest recorded rainfall which below 37.5mm. (See *Map 1 Below*).



Map 1: Dekadal Rainfall for 2nd dekad of November, 2017

Qacha’s Nek and Semonkong experienced rainfall departure in excess with accumulation of 184% and 72% respectively. The rest of the stations recorded normal to below rainfall departures. (See *Map 2 below*)



Map 2: Percentage of rainfall departure from normal for 11th – 20th November 2017

TEMPERATURES

Maximum Temperature

Butha-Buthe, Leribe and Oxbow observed normal maximum temperatures with the rest experiencing below normal maximum temperatures. (See *Figure 2 below*)

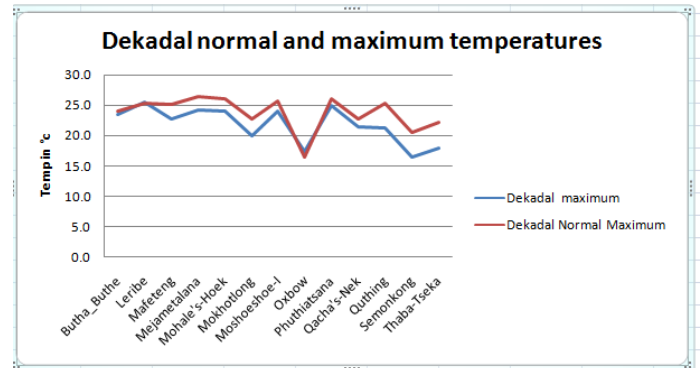


Figure 2: Maximum Temperature 11th - 20th November 2017

Minimum Temperature

All the stations throughout the entire country measured below normal minimum temperatures. (See *figure 3 below*)

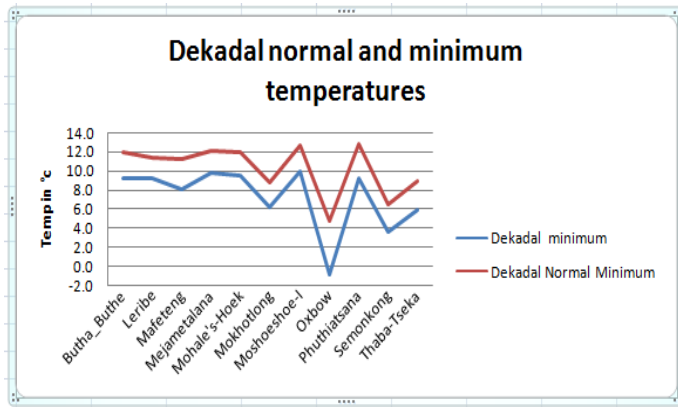


Figure 3: Minimum Temperature 11th – 20th November 2017

CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS

Maize Crop Stage and Condition

Mountains

Maize crops ranged between emergence and on third leave stages in countable planted fields. Some were damaged by frost following moderate to heavy snowfall and cold conditions that occurred during this dekad. In some places farmers will have to re-plant. Otherwise they still continue planting although their planting time is almost at the end.

Lowlands

Farmers are slowly but steadily planting maize.

RANGELANDS CONDITIONS

Rangelands in the high laying areas have improved and almost sufficient for grazing.

Soil moisture improved after the rains that were received during the second dekad of November, 2017.

WEEKLY WEATHER OUTLOOK

24th Nov – 01st Dec 2017

Partly cloudy conditions can be expected for this entire period with temperatures generally mild to warm for the lowlands. The highlands temperatures are however expected to be mild to cool generally. From Monday 27th till the end of the forecast period there is a signal rain showers on daily basis. Maximum temperatures are expected to range between 25°C and 29°C in the lowlands while minimum temperatures are expected to range between 10°C and 15°C. For the highlands, maximum temperatures are expected to range between 20°C and 25°C and minimum temperatures to range between 03°C and 10°C.

SOIL MOISTURE

