

# LESOTHO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES (LEKALA LA TSA BOLEPI)



## Ten-Day Agrometeorological Bulletin

21 – 31 December 2010



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

## Contents

Rainfall Situation  
Page 1

Temperature  
Page 1

Crop Stage and Condition  
Page 1

Extremes and Summary of  
Observations  
Page 2

Rainfall and Temperature  
Summaries  
Page 3

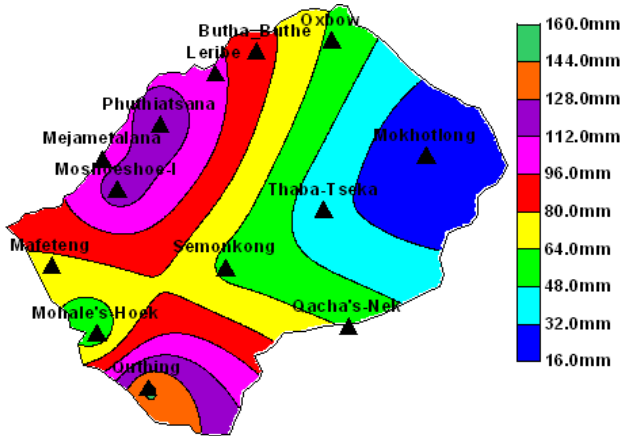
## Highlights

- ❑ Above normal rainfall recorded.
- ❑ Normal to above normal mean temperatures recorded.
- ❑ Crops generally unsatisfactory.

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**RAINFALL SITUATION**

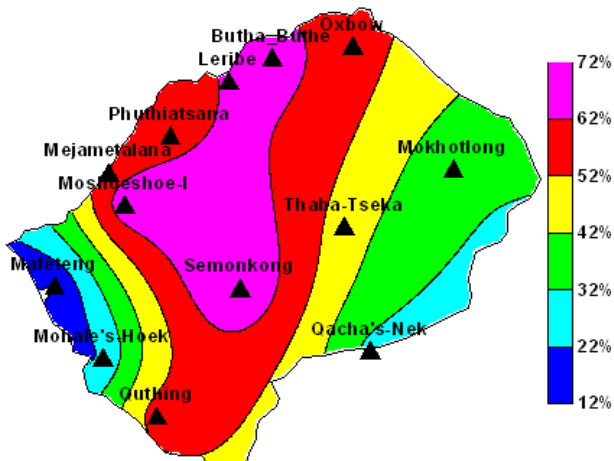


Map 1: Dekadal Rainfall for Dec 3rd Dekad 2010

The third dekad of December 2010 recorded above normal rainfall countrywide, only Mokhotlong is exceptionally below normal. Dekadal rainfall range from lowest sum of 16.1mm at Mokhotlong to highest sum of 147.3mm at Quthing (see map1).

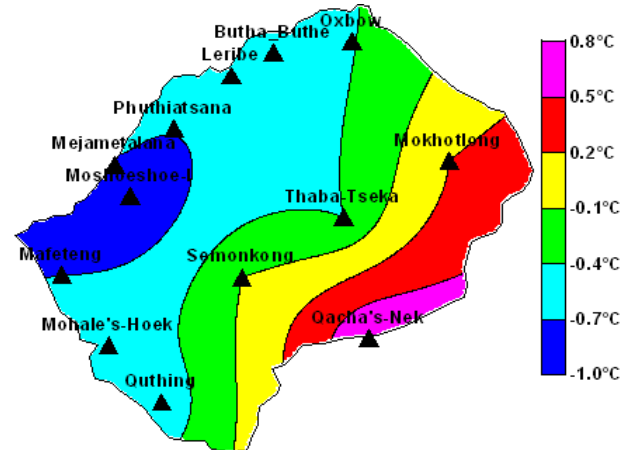
**Cumulative Percentage Rainfall Departure from Normal**

Cumulative rainfall since the first dekad of September remains normal to above normal. The lowest Percentage Rainfall Dep. From normal is 12% at Mafeteng and the highest is 72% at Semonkong (See Map 2).



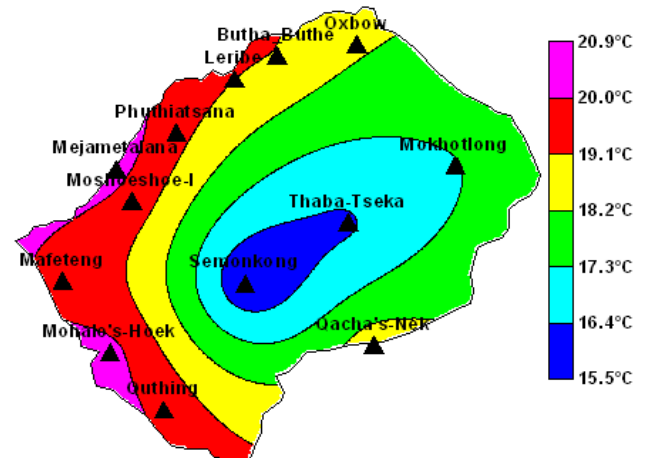
Map 2: Cumulative % Rainfall Dep. from Normal

**TEMPERATURES**



Map 2: Temperature Deviation

Temperature deviation range from -1.0 °C at Moshoeshe I to 0.8 °C at Quthing (see Map 2).



Map 3: Mean Temperature recorded.

The highest mean temperature recorded is 20.6 °C at Mejametalana followed by 20.3 °C at Mohale’s Hoek and the lowest recorded mean temperature is 15.5 °C at Semonkong followed by 16.3 °C at Thaba-Tseka (See Map 3).

**CROP STAGE AND CONDITIONS**



Summer crops are at various stages of their growth. They range from germination late vegetative stage. There are no field operations

currently going on due to heavy rains and crops are generally unsatisfactory.

### EXTREMES IN DEC 3<sup>rd</sup> DEKAD 2010

**HOTEST DAY** (*Highest Daily Maximum Temperature*)

**30.4 °C at Mejametalana on the 28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010**

**WARMEST DAYS ON AVERAGE** (*Highest mean Daily Maximum Temperature*)

**20.6 °C at Mejametalana**

**COOLEST DAYS ON AVERAGE** (*Lowest mean Daily Maximum Temperature*)

**15.5 °C at Semonkong**

**COLDEST DAY** (*Lowest Daily Maximum Temperature*)

**16.1 °C at Thaba-Tseka on the 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2010**

**COLDEST NIGHT** (*Lowest Daily Minimum Temperature*)

**5.0 °C at Semonkong on the 25<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010**

**WARMEST NIGHTS ON AVERAGE** (*Highest mean Daily Minimum Temperature*)

**14.6 °C at Phuthiatsana**

**COOLEST NIGHTS ON AVERAGE** (*Lowest Mean Daily Minimum Temperature*)

**9.3 °C at Semonkong**

**WARMEST NIGHT** (*Highest Daily Minimum Temperature*)

**17.5 °C at Mohale's Hoek on the 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010**

**WETTEST OVERALL** (*Highest Total Rainfall*)

**147.3 mm at Quthing**

**DRIEST OVERALL** (*Lowest Total Rainfall*)

**16.1 mm at Mokhotlong**

**WETTEST DAY** (*Highest Rainfall*)

**65.0 mm at Quthing on the 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010**

**DRIEST DAY** (*Lowest Rainfall*)

**0.0 mm at various places and days**

### SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS IN DEC 3<sup>rd</sup> DEKAD 2010

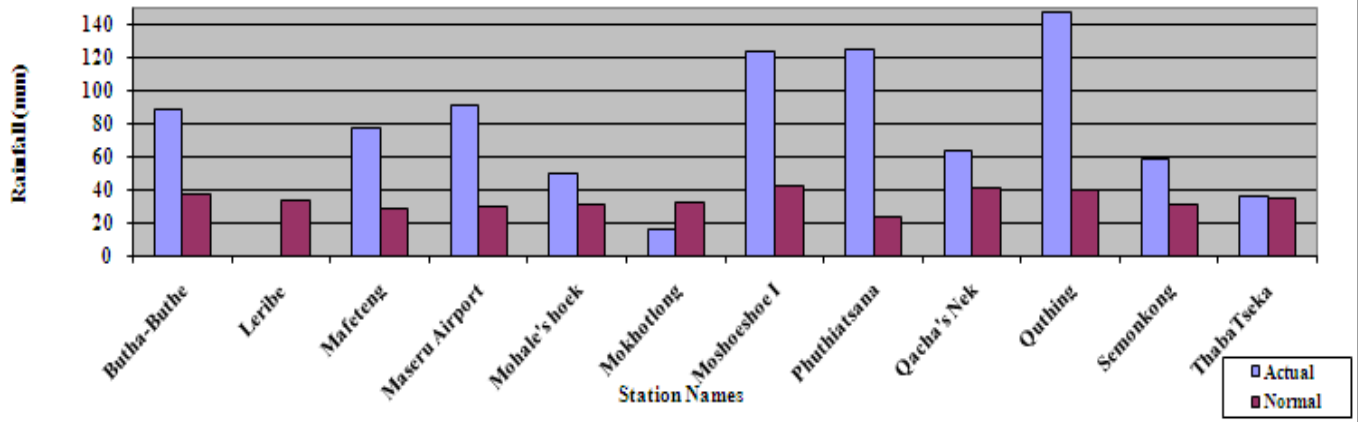
#### Temperatures (°C)

STATION	NORMAL	OBSERVED
Butha-Buthe	19.7	19.1
Mafeteng	20.3	19.6
Mejametalana	21.2	20.6
Mohale's-Hoek	20.8	20.3
Mokhotlong	17.1	17.3
Moshoeshe-I	20.7	19.7
Qacha's-Nek	18	18.8
Quthing	20.4	19.8
Semonkong	15.6	15.5
Thaba-Tseka	16.7	16.3

#### Rainfall (mm)

STATION	NORMAL	OBSERVED
Butha-Buthe	36.3	88
Mafeteng	28.3	76.3
Mejametalana	29.5	90.6
Mohale's-Hoek	30.5	49.9
Mokhotlong	31.9	16.1
Moshoeshe-I	41.6	122.6
Phuthiatsana	23.5	124.9
Qacha's-Nek	40.3	63.2
Quthing	38.9	147.3
Semonkong	30.4	58.7
Thaba-Tseka	34.2	35.5

**Actual And Normal Rainfall**  
Third Dekad of December 2010



**Accumulated Actual and Normal Rainfall**  
First Dekad of September 2010 to Third Dekad of December 2010

