10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services

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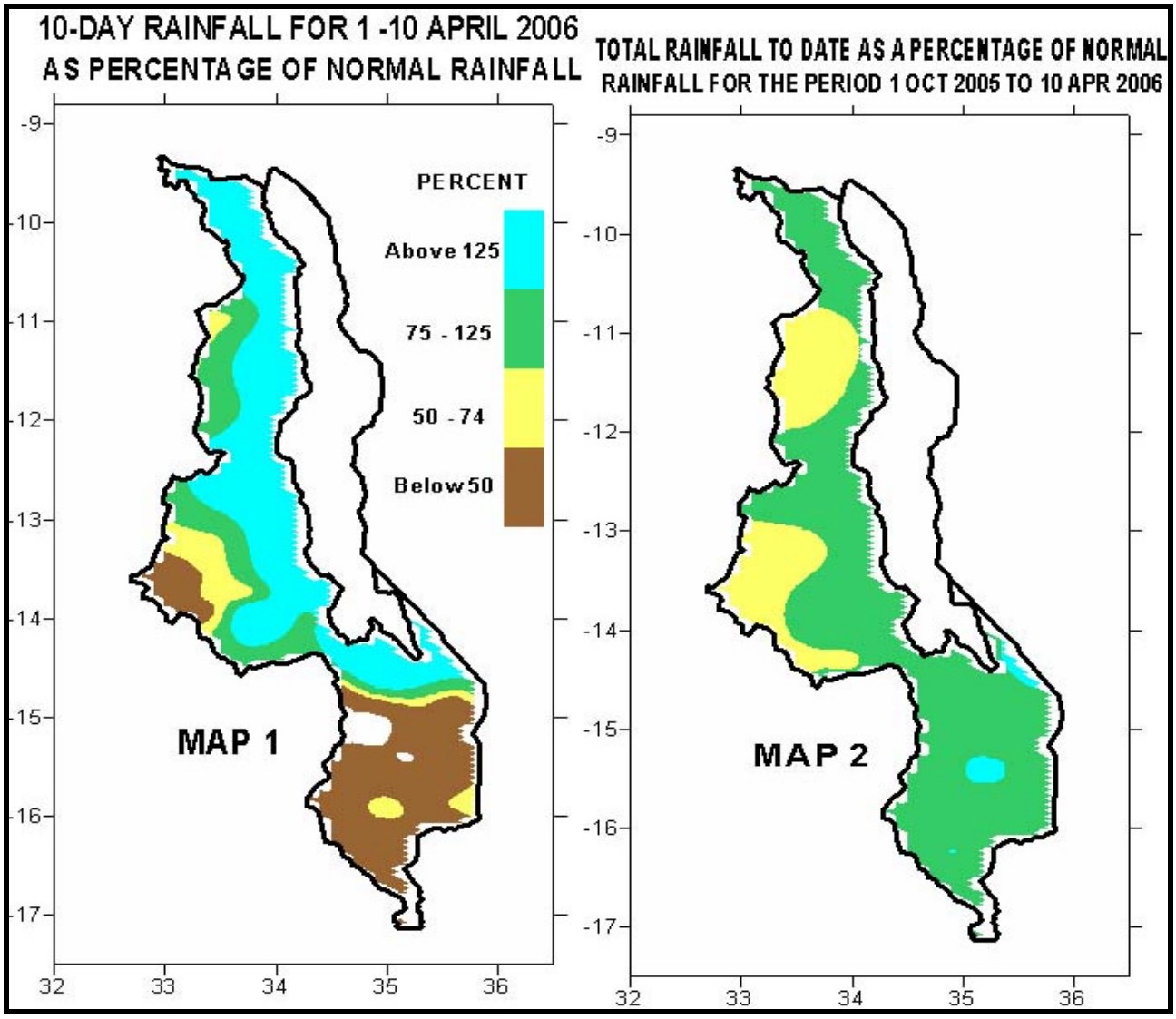
HIGHLIGHTS

- **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…**



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. WEATHER SUMMARY

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 AIR TEMPERATURE

Day time temperatures remained in the range of warm to hot. Mean maximum temperatures ranged from 25°C to 32°C while mean minimum temperatures were in the range of 14°C to 21°C See Table 2.

. MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Winds measured at a height of 2m above the ground has shown that light to variable winds prevailed over the country. The average speeds ranged from 0.7m/s (2.5 Km/hr) at Chitedze to 4.0 m/s (14.4 Km/hr) at Chileka Airport. See Table 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 1OF APRIL 2006: PERIOD 1- 10

STATION NAME	DEKADAL TOTAL RAINFALL	DEKADAL NORMAL	DEKADAL TOTAL AS % OF	TOTAL TO DATE	NORMAL TO DATE	TOTAL TO DATE AS % OF	RAINY DAYS
SOUTHERN REGION	**Mm**	**mm**	**NORMAL**	**Mm**	**mm**	**NORMAL**	
Bvumbwe Met.	20.8	30	69	1244.7	1017.4	122	4
Chancellor College	3.3	38	9	1257.7	1353.8	93	3
Chichiri Met.	13.5	29	47	1195.0	1032.6	116	3
Chileka Airport	6.2	23.6	26	1005.4	857.7	117	1
Chiradzulu Agric	4.6	34	14	1017.4	1011.5	101	0
Liwonde Township	7.0	17.2	41	870.9	809.2	108	1
Lujeri Tea Estate	77.6	106.5	73	1793.3	1850.5	97	5
Makoka Met	0.0	27.7	0	1234.3	971.5	127	0
Mangochi Met.	53.0	18.4	288	816.3	808.1	101	3
Mimosa Met.	13.7	61.7	22	1556.0	1350.6	115	3
Monkey Bay Met.	27.9	5.8	481	878.4	904.2	97	2
Namwera Agric	88.7	34.4	258	1515.6	1032.1	147	5
Nchalo Sucoma	3.0	19.8	15	871.8	650.2	134	1
Ngabu Met.	3.9	16.2	24	768.3	737.9	104	2
Nsanje Boma	2.5	16.6	15	645.8	803.2	80	1
Ntaja Met.	4.6	26.5	17	848.3	865.6	98	3
Satemwa Tea Est. No.1	24.2	53	46	1242.0	1218.3	102	4
Toleza Farm	0.0	23.5	0	869.6	818.5	106	0
Zomba RTC	0.0	39.7	0	1775.4	1168.5	152	0
CENTRAL REGION							
Bunda College	54.8	34.9	157	618.7	840.1	74	4
Chitedze Met.	21.7	23.8	91	704.7	882.1	80	5
Dedza Met	18.0	21.6	83	660.9	907.9	73	1
Dwangwa Sugar Corp.	277.8	108	257	1310.6	1283.8	102	8
Kaluluma DTC	48.0	24.6	195	773.4	789.3	98	8
K.I.A Met	12.6	16.7	75	779.0	820.2	95	4
Lifuwu	185.6	45.2	411	1363.4	1261.7	108	3
Lisasadzi	11.6	15.8	73	488.0	792.1	62	2
Mlangeni Njolomole	3.3	27.4	12	1201.3	970.9	124	1
Natural Res. College	43.0	15	287	677.1	821.7	82	5
Nkhotakota Met	79.8	78.6	102	1235.3	1368.2	90	8
Ntcheu - Nkhande	1.0	20	5	1097.5	1031.2	106	1
Ntchisi Boma	76.1	24.1	316	673.1	845.2	80	7
Salima Met	24.9	42.7	58	1653.3	1208.6	137	4
Dedza RTC	23.1	22.5	103	905.0	967.5	94	4
NORTHERN REGION							
Bolero Met	13.6	18.6	73	437.7	711	62	4
Bwengu Agric.	55.7	24.2	230	548.8	794.2	69	7
Chitipa Met	55.7	30.8	181	977.0	953.5	102	5
Karonga Met.	167.0	76.1	219	926.3	946.5	98	8
Mzimba Met	17.9	19.6	91	619.4	860.1	72	7
Mzuzu Met.	230.3	87.0	265	817.8	1057.9	77	8
NkhataBay Met.	211.0	85.8	246	1096.7	1399.7	78	9
Vinthukutu Agric	286.8	114.2	251	1110.0	1076.3	103	9

TABLE 2: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR DEKAD 1OF APRIL 2006

STATION	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN TEMP (°C)	ABS MAX (°C)	ABS MIN (°C)	WIND SPEED m/s	RH %
BVUMBWE	25.3	15.1	27.0	13.5	1.6	82
BOLERO	27.9	16.9	29.4	15.0	1.0	75
CHICHIRI	25.4	16.8	26.5	15.8	1.0	76
CHILEKA	27.2	18.3	28.6	17.5	4.0	78
NTAJA	27.7	20.0	28.6	19.4	1.5	78
CHITEDZE	26.1	16.4	27.0	15.1	0.7	82
CHITIPA	25.5	17.6	26.5	16.5	2.3	76
DEDZA	20.3	13.4	23.4	14.0	0.9	53
KARONGA	29.2	21.5	30.0	20.0	2.1	82
K I A	24.8	16.2	26.1	14.8	1.6	71
MAKOKA	26.4	17.2	27.9	15.3	1.4	74
MANGOCHI	29.5	21.8	30.0	20.9	1.6	73
MIMOSA	28.7	18.5	30.1	15.4	1.8	76
MONKEY BAY	30.0	22.4	30.7	21.1	1.7	67
MZIMBA	25.5	16.5	26.5	15.5	1.0	76
MZUZU	23.4	17.3	25.1	16.5	2.1	85
NGABU	31.5	21.7	32.4	20.5	1.5	66
NKHATA BAY	28.8	20.5	30.7	19.6	N/A	84
NKHOTAKOTA	27.7	21.2	29.1	20.4	2.0	78
SALIMA	28.9	22.3	29.7	20.9	3.0	72

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) = mpsx3.6