10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services

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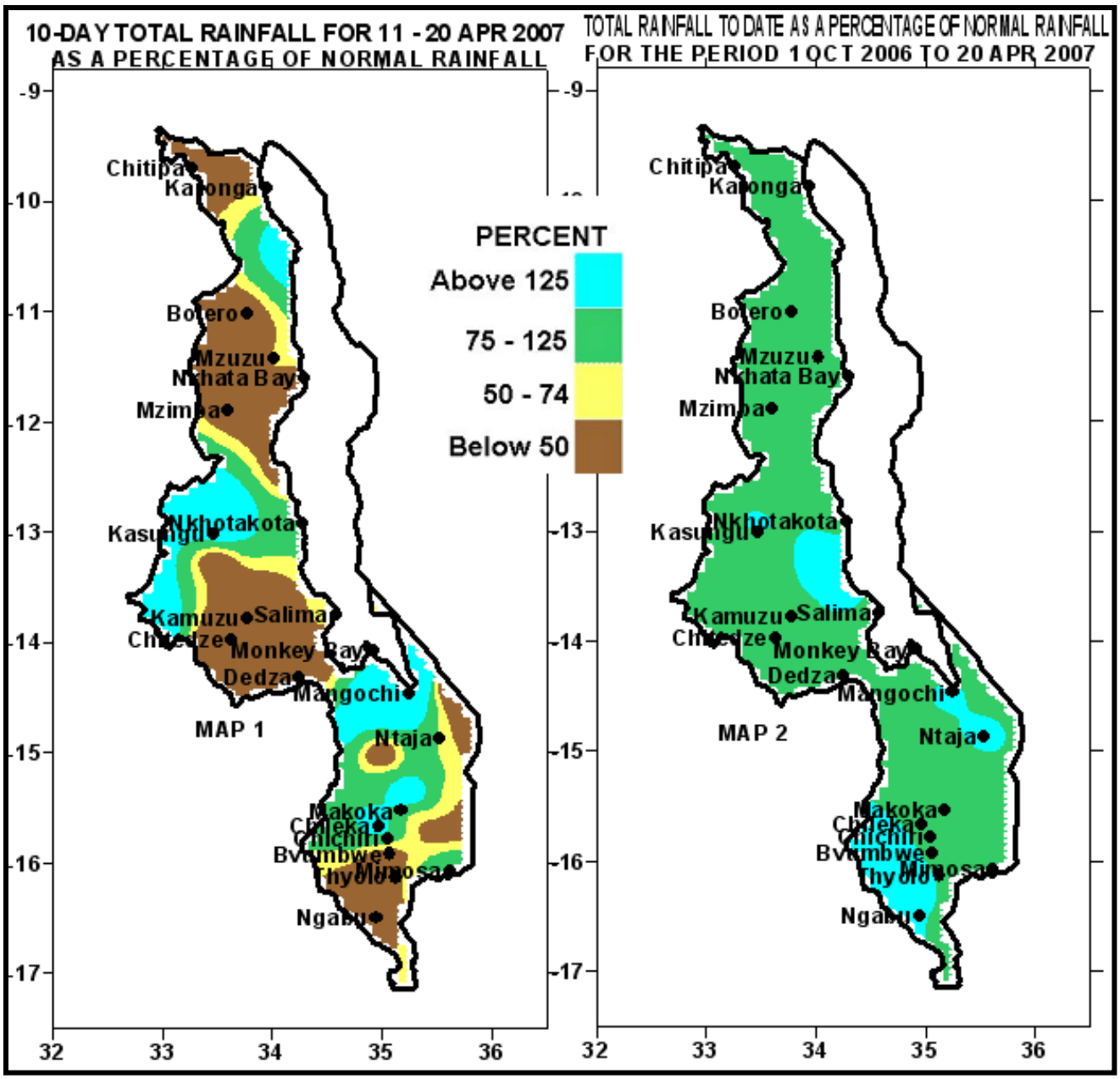
HIGHLIGHTS

- **Rainfall continued to decline over the country…**
- **Maize crop mostly at dying stage and harvesting continues…**
- **Mostly dry weather expected during the period 21 – 30 April, 2007…**



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1. WEATHER SUMMARY

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

During the second dekad of April 2007, rainfall distribution and amount in both time and space continued to decline in most parts of the country as the rainfall season comes to an end. Total dekadal rainfall amounts received during the period were mostly below normal (brown colour on Map 1). Very few areas registered above average rainfall (Green and light blue colours on Map 1). Most areas registered less than four rainy days. Only Lujeri Tea Estate, Mzuzu and Nkhata Bay Met registered up to seven rainfall days (Table 1). According to climatology, the main rainfall season is expected to end during end of April to early May.

Cumulative rainfall performance from October 2006 up to 20 April, 2007 suggests that the country has enjoyed good rainfall season (green and blue colours on Map 2).

1.2 MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Between 11 and 20 April 2007, Malawi experienced warm to hot temperature temperatures during the day. Reported mean daily maximum temperatures ranged between around 23°C and 33°C at Dedza and Ngabu respectively. The highest absolute maximum temperaure was reported at Ngabu (33.5°C) while the lowest absolute minimum temperature was 13.1°C, reported at Bolero (Table 2).

1.3 MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Light mean daily wind speeds, measured at a height of two meters above the ground, were reported during the period under review. The highest speed was reported at Chitipa (4.7 m/s or 16.9 Km/hr) while the lowest wind speed was recorded at Chitedze (0.7 m/s or 2.5 Km/hr). See Table 2.

1.4 MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Mean Relative Humidity values reported during the ten day period were slightly higher than in the the previous dekad. The mean daily values ranged from 64% at Ngabu to 80% at Chileka, Makoka, and Mzuzu. See Table 2.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

During the period under review, the dry weather that continued over most areas facilitated harvesting and drying of matured crops. The main agricultural activity during this period, particularly over the south and some parts of the centre, continued to be harvesting of matured crops.

The general crop stand in the fields was reported in good condition. Maize crop which is the staple food crop for Malawi was reported at drying stage and harvesting is in progress in some parts of the south. Generally no major incidences of pests, diseases and extended dry spells have been experienced this season. There are high prospects of another good harvest this season. This could be mainly attributed to the Government of Malawi fertiliser and input programme and good rainfall performance. The second round crop production estimates from Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security suggested a national maize production forecast of 3.2 million metric tonnes.

3. OUTLOOK FOR 21 – 30 April 2007

During the third dekad of April 2007, Malawi will generally be under the influence of relatively moist easterly air mass. Therefore dry conditions are expected to continue in most parts of the country with very isolated thunderstorms and rain showers mainly over the north and along the lakeshore.

TABLE 1: DEKADAL RAINFALL FOR SELECTED STATIONS FOR DEKAD 2 OF APRIL 2007: PERIOD 11 - 20

STATION NAME	DEKADAL TOTAL RAINFALL	DEKADAL NORMAL	DEKADAL TOTAL AS % OF	TOTAL TO DATE	NORMAL TO DATE	TOTAL TODATE AS % OF	RAINY DAYS
SOUTHERN REGION	**mm**	**mm**	**NORMAL**	**mm**	**mm**	**NORMAL**	**> 0.3**
Balaka Township	0.0	16.6	**0**	909.3	824.8	**110**	0
Bvumbwe Met.	3.5	26.1	**13**	1094.4	1043.5	**105**	2
Chichiri Met.	21.2	21.1	**100**	1161.5	1053.7	**110**	4
Chileka Airport	26.8	16.9	**159**	965.1	874.6	**110**	3
Chingale Agric	36.4	21.4	**170**	946.7	939.3	**101**	1
Lujeri Tea Estate	106.6	70.2	**152**	1833.4	1920.7	**95**	7
Makoka Met	10.3	13.2	**78**	995.7	984.7	**101**	3
Mangochi Met.	30.1	9.2	**327**	1128.1	817.3	**138**	3
Monkey Bay Met.	0.2	8.5	**2**	793.7	912.7	**87**	0
Namiasi Agric	22.1	3.3	**670**	963.5	789.5	**122**	2
Naminjiwa Agric	1.0	11.5	**9**	941.2	925.9	**102**	1
Namwera Agric	3.3	19.6	**17**	836.8	1051.7	**80**	2
Nchalo Sucoma	0.0	18.0	**0**	1070.1	668.2	**160**	0
Ngabu Met.	1.4	17.4	**8**	964.6	755.3	**128**	2
Nsanje Boma	11.9	17.1	**70**	987.1	820.3	**120**	2
Satemwa Tea Est. No.1	14.2	43.5	**33**	1452.9	1261.8	**115**	5
Thyolo Met	16.0	30.7	**52**	1144.8	1119.9	**102**	4
CENTRAL REGION							
Chileka Namitete	0.0	17.8	**0**	844.1	907.3	**93**	0
Chitedze Met.	0.0	14.9	**0**	970.3	897.0	**108**	0
Dedza Met	0.0	18.3	**0**	872.8	926.2	**94**	0
Dowa Agric	0.0	12.5	**0**	984.0	862.1	**114**	0
Dwangwa Sugar Corp.	10.9	74.6	**15**	1328.8	1358.4	**98**	3
K.I.A Met	1.5	3.5	**43**	720.5	823.7	**87**	1
Kasungu Met	2.5	0.8	**313**	1148.6	840.7	**137**	2
Mchinji Boma	66.3	22.5	**295**	1219.5	1027.0	**119**	4
Mlangeni Njolomole	16.7	12.9	**129**	854.7	983.8	**87**	1
Mwimba Research	0.0	11.0	**0**	988.0	909.4	**109**	0
Nathenje Agric	9.5	19.4	**49**	988.3	885.7	**112**	2
Nkhotakota Met	63.6	61.3	**104**	1246.5	1429.5	**87**	5
Ntcheu - Nkhande	35.5	19.2	**185**	1141.0	1050.4	**109**	3
Salima Met	28.6	38.6	**74**	1377.4	1247.2	**110**	2
Dedza RTC	0.1	6.4	**2**	1096.4	973.9	**113**	0
NORTHERN REGION							
Bolero Met	0.7	12.5	**6**	748.9	723.5	**104**	1
Bwengu Agric.	6.7	23.1	**29**	822.7	817.3	**101**	2
Chitipa Met	3.2	16.7	**19**	1008.4	970.2	**104**	2
Karonga Met.	32.6	69.2	**47**	808.2	1015.7	**80**	2
Mzimba Met	1.7	14.8	**11**	896.6	874.9	**102**	2
Mzuzu Met.	36.7	67.0	**55**	1074.0	1124.9	**95**	7
NkhataBay Met.	37.2	91.1	**41**	1145.7	1490.8	**77**	7
Vinthukutu Agric	187.3	80.7	**232**	1165.9	1157.0	**101**	4

TABLE 2: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR DEKAD 2 OF APRIL 2007

STATION	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN TEMP (°C)	ABS MAX (°C)	ABS MIN (°C)	WIND SPEED m/s	RH %
BOLERO	28.5	16.7	29.5	13.1	1.0	68
BVUMBWE	25.4	16.4	27.0	15.0	2.1	79
CHICHIRI	26.0	17.9	27.6	16.5	0.7	79
CHILEKA	28.0	19.1	30.2	18.3	2.5	80
CHITEDZE	27.6	16.8	28.5	15.3	0.7	73
CHITIPA	27.0	17.5	28.1	16.9	4.7	65
DEDZA	23.4	15.5	24.2	13.6	1.4	65
KASUNGU	28.0	17.5	29.3	15.9	1.8	68
KARONGA	31.0	22.5	32.0	21.3	2.3	66
K I A	26.0	15.5	26.8	13.7	1.8	77
MAKOKA	26.6	17.8	28.2	15.1	1.1	80
MANGOCHI	30.4	21.7	31.5	20.2	1.2	73
MONKEY BAY	31.2	22.6	32.0	21.5	1.5	67
MZIMBA	26.0	16.5	27.7	14.6	1.0	69
MZUZU	24.8	17.7	25.8	16.5	1.7	80
NGABU	32.5	22.0	33.5	19.5	1.7	64
NKHATA BAY	30.4	19.9	30.8	18.9	0.8	79
NKHOTAKOTA	28.6	21.6	29.2	21.0	1.8	66
SALIMA	29.7	22.7	31.2	21.1	2.2	66

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