10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services

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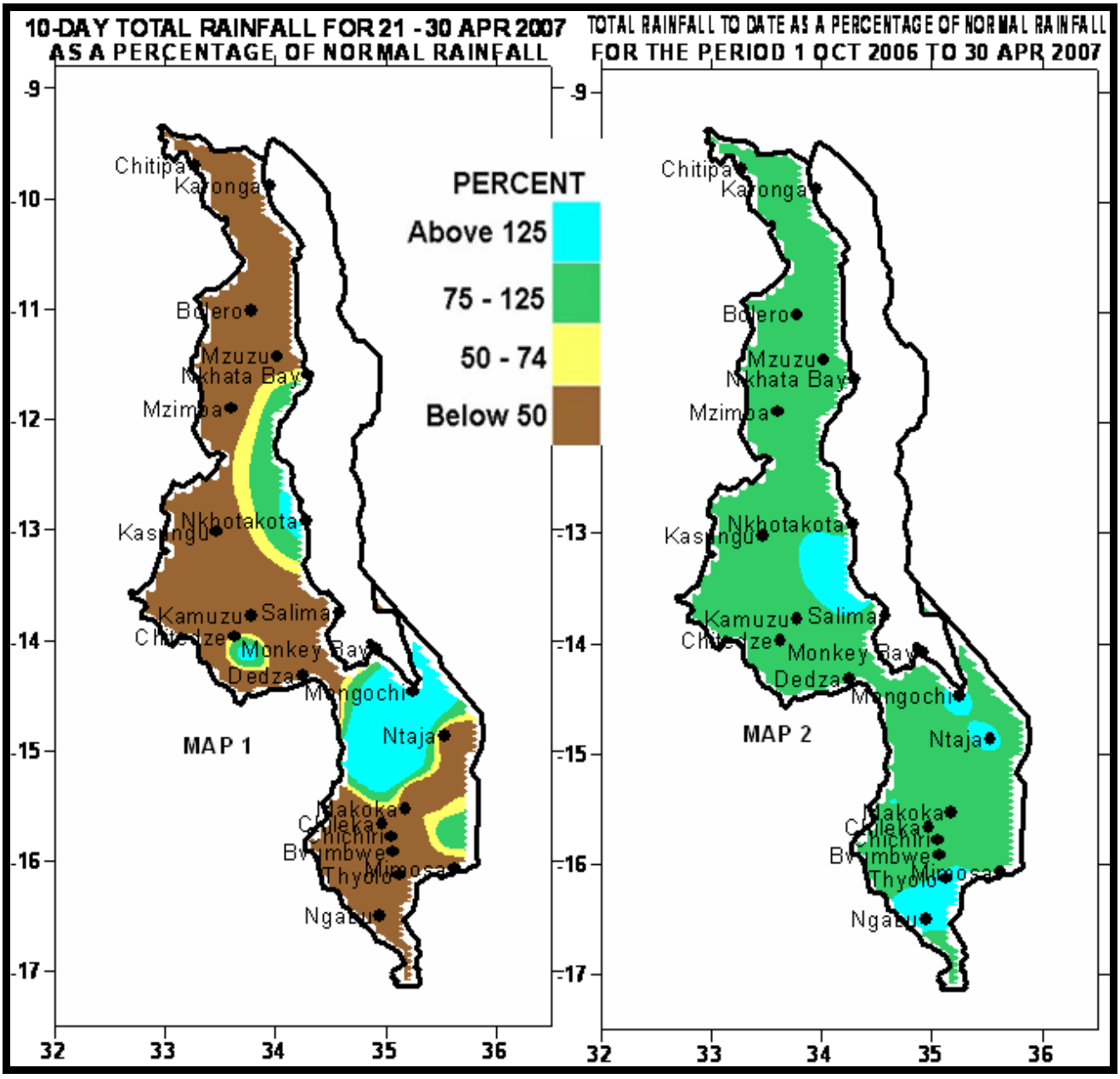
HIGHLIGHTS

- **Rainfall declined to below normal levels in the last ten days of April…**
- **Good rainfall performance experienced in 2006-07 season…**
- **Occasional winter rainfall expected over highlands and along the lakeshore…**



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1. WEATHER SUMMARY

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

During the last dekad of April 2007, rainfall distribution and amount in both time and space continued to decline to below normal levels in most parts of the country marking the end of 2006/07 rainfall season in Malawi. Total dekadal rainfall amounts received at most stations during the period was below normal (brown colour on Map 1) except at a few places in the south and over the centre (Green and light blue colours on Map 1). Most areas registered nil rainfall. Cumulative rainfall performance from October 2006 up to 30 April, 2007 suggests that the country has received normal rainfall season (green colours on Map 2).

1.2 MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

In the last ten days of April 2007, Malawi experienced warm to hot temperatures during the day. Reported mean daily maximum temperatures ranged from around 23°C at Kasungu to around 32°C at Ngabu in Chikwawa. The highest absolute maximum temperaure was registered at Mimosa (34°C) while the lowest absolute minimum temperature was 12°C, reported at Bvumbwe (Table 2).

1.3 MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Mean daily wind speed measured at a height of two meters above the ground, were generally light during the period under review. The highest speed was reported at Chitipa (4.3 m/s or 15.5 Km/hr) while the lowest wind speed was recorded at Chitedze and Nkhata Bay (0.7 m/s or 2.5 Km/hr). See Table 2.

1.4 MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Mean Relative Humidity values continued to decline over most areas during the period under review. The mean daily values ranged from 57% at Nkhotakota to 85% at Nkhata Bay. See Table 2.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Dry conditions that were experienced in most parts of the country facilitated harvesting and drying of matured crops. The maize crop was was at drying stage and harvesting was under way in all the regions.

2.1 OVERVIEW OF 2006-07 SEASON

During 2006/07 crop growing season, Malawi experienced good rainfall for agricultural production. The onset of the the effective planting rains was early to normal. The rains progressed very well without long dry spell days. This supported planting, growth and development of most crops. As a result of good rainfall performance, production of most crops has increased. Figures from second round agricultural production estimates meeting released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security estimated overall maize production at 3,218,850MT, the highest on record – a 25 percent increase over last season's production. Apart from good rainfall performance, the increase in maize production is attributed to increased use of fertilizer and improved seed varieties as a result of the government's input subsidy programme.
Cumulative rainfall performance suggested by 30th April 2007, many areas of the country registered normal rainfall amounts (green colours on Map 2).

3. FORECAST FOR MAY & JUNE 2007

A series of high pressure systems are expected to periodically induce cool and moist air mass from the Indian Ocean into Malawi during the winter season. Therefore, occasional winter rains are expected particularly over highlands and along the Lakeshore during the month of May 2007.

THIS IS THE LAST 10—DAY BULLETIN FOR 2006-07 RAINFALL SEASON

TABLE 1: DEKADAL RAINFALL FOR SELECTED STATIONS FOR DEKAD 3 OF APRIL 2007: PERIOD 21 - 30

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	24.0	0.4	6000	933.3	825.2	113	1
Bvumbwe Met.	0.0	16.9	0	1094.4	1060.4	103	0
Chancellor College	0.0	13.2	0	1217.9	1393.2	87	0
Chichiri Met.	0.0	16.7	0	1161.5	1070.4	109	0
Chileka Airport	0.0	3.5	0	965.1	878.1	110	0
Chingale Agric	0.0	7.7	0	1042.6	947.0	110	0
Chiradzulu Agric	0.0	9.0	0	906.6	1044.8	87	0
Liwonde Township	0.0	8.3	0	757.9	830.0	91	0
Lujeri Tea Estate	0.0	63.0	0	1833.4	1983.7	92	0
Makoka Met	7.8	11.3	69	1003.5	996.0	101	2
Mangochi Met.	29.5	8.9	331	1157.6	826.2	140	1
Mimosa Met.	0.0	43.8	0	1403.0	1445.7	97	0
Monkey Bay Met.	0.0	4.1	0	793.7	916.8	87	0
Namiasi Agric	23.5	7.3	322	987.0	796.8	124	1
Naminjiwa Agric	8.3	5.8	143	949.5	931.7	102	2
Nchalo Sucoma	0.0	10.1	0	1070.1	678.3	158	0
Ngabu Met.	2.1	11.1	19	966.7	766.4	126	1
Nsanje Boma	0.0	12.3	0	987.1	832.6	119	0
Ntaja Met.	0.1	10.5	1	1264.6	892.1	142	0
Satemwa Tea Est.	0.0	22.3	0	1452.9	1284.1	113	0
Thyolo Met	0.0	23.3	0	1144.8	1143.2	100	0
Zomba RTC	0.0	10.0	0	1513.7	1200.7	126	0
CENTRAL REGION							
Bunda College	25.8	10.5	246	933.3	860.0	109	1
Chileka Namitete	0.0	13.9	0	844.1	921.2	92	0
Chitedze Met.	5.2	8.4	62	975.5	905.4	108	1
Dedza Met	2.3	10.2	23	875.1	936.4	93	1
Dowa Agric	0.0	4.9	0	984.0	862.1	114	0
K.I.A Met	0.0	4.0	0	720.5	827.7	87	0
Kasungu Met	0.0	8.0	0	1148.6	848.7	135	0
Mchinji Boma	0.0	15.0	0	1219.5	1042.0	117	0
Mkanda Met	0.0	4.7	0	1022.9	897.5	114	0
Mlangeni Njolomole	0.0	6.6	0	854.7	990.4	86	0
Mwimba Research	0.0	1.6	0	988.0	911.0	108	0
Nathenje Agric	0.0	9.8	0	988.3	895.5	110	0
Nkhotakota Met	54.9	31.2	176	1301.4	1460.7	89	3
Ntcheu - Nkhande	1.0	8.1	12	1142.0	1058.5	108	1
Ntchisi Boma	0.0	6.3	0	1739.7	868.5	200	0
Salima Met	0.0	11.1	0	1377.4	1258.3	109	0
Dedza RTC	0.0	5.1	0	1096.4	979.0	112	0
NORTHERN REGION							
Bolero Met	0.0	4.7	0	748.9	728.2	103	0
Bwengu Agric.	0.0	8.8	0	822.7	826.1	100	0
Chitipa Met	0.0	9.0	0	1008.4	979.2	103	0
Chintheche Agric	111.8	83.8	133	1185.3	1803.7	N/A	4
Emfeni Agric	0.0	4.4	0	859.2	806.0	107	0
Karonga Met.	3.7	33.9	11	811.9	1049.6	77	2
Mzimba Met	1.3	8.7	15	897.9	883.6	102	1
Mzuzu Met.	11.9	59.2	20	1085.9	1184.1	92	6
NkhataBay Met.	87.4	146.3	60	1233.1	1637.1	75	7

TABLE 2: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR DEKAD 3 OF APRIL 2007

STATION	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN TEMP (°C)	ABS MAX (°C)	ABS MIN (°C)	WIND SPEED m/s	RH %
BOLERO	29.2	15.0	33.3	13.2	1.0	69
BVUMBWE	25.9	19.2	29.7	12.0	1.6	70
CHICHIRI	28.7	18.3	29.5	13.6	1.0	74
CHILEKA	27.6	18.0	31.2	15.0	2.8	71
CHITEDZE	27.2	15.1	29.9	12.8	0.7	71
CHITIPA	27.8	17.5	30.4	16.9	4.3	66
DEDZA	24.0	14.8	27.6	13.1	1.3	60
KASUNGU	23.1	15.7	32.6	12.9	1.6	63
KARONGA	30.6	21.4	31.9	20.5	1.7	73
K I A	26.0	14.7	30.8	12.8	1.5	71
MAKOKA	27.0	15.9	30.1	13.4	1.1	72
MANGOCHI	30.0	20.1	32.5	18.3	1.6	72
MONKEY BAY	30.8	21.0	32.1	19.4	1.7	63
MZIMBA	27.1	16.5	29.9	15.1	1.0	69
MZUZU	24.2	16.0	28.4	13.0	1.3	84
NGABU	31.9	19.2	32.8	16.4	1.4	62
NKHATA BAY	28.6	20.0	31.7	18.9	0.7	85
NKHOTAKOTA	28.1	20.8	29.0	19.5	1.9	57
NTAJA	28.6	18.9	32.4	17.0	1.4	73
SALIMA	29.4	21.1	31.2	19.5	2.3	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