10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services

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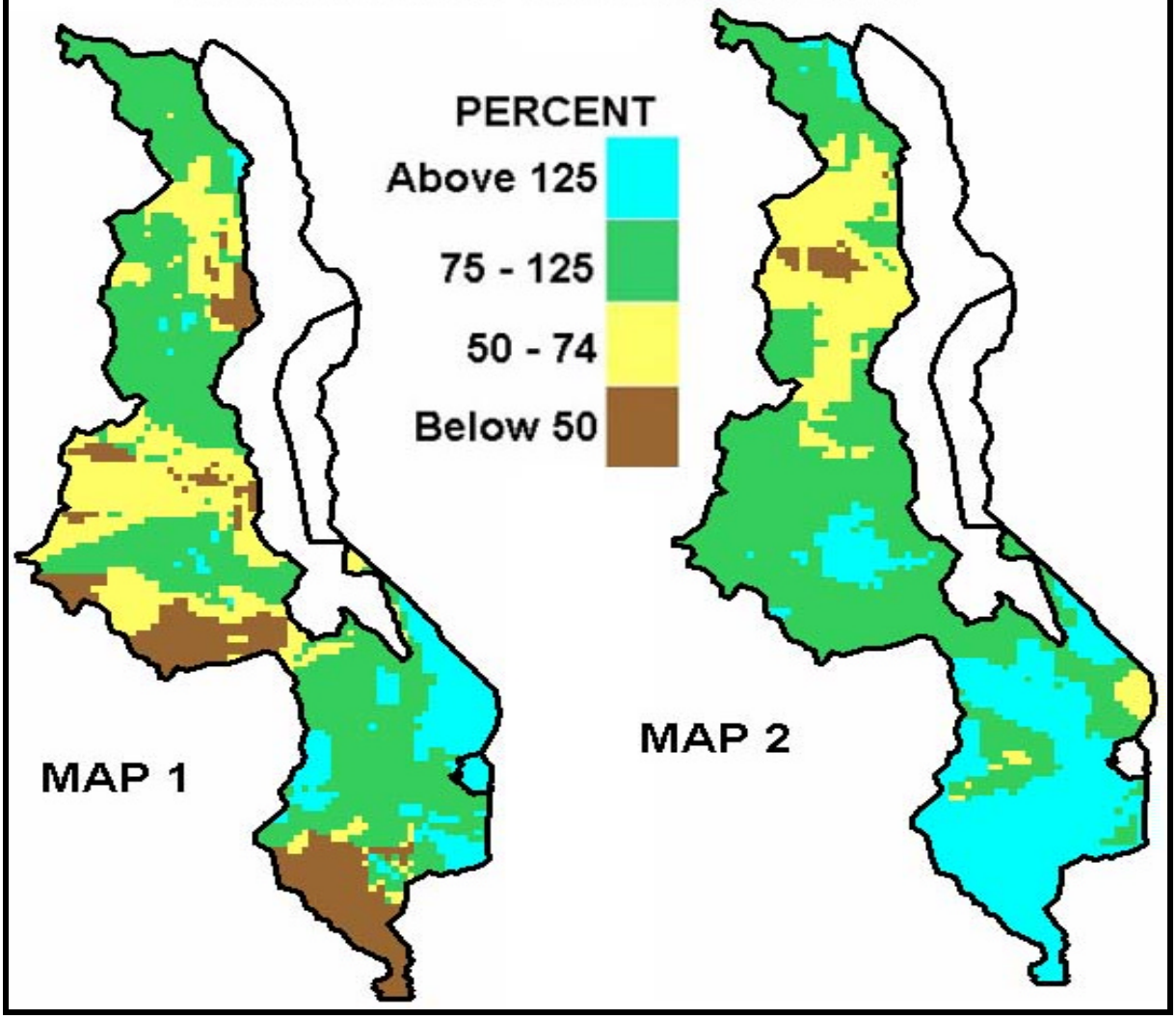
HIGHLIGHTS

- **Scattered rains were experienced over southern and central Malawi…**
- **Isolated to scattered rains to continue during the first dekad of February 2006…**

MAP 1: 10 - DAY RAINFALL FOR 21 – 31 JANUARY 2006 AS A PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL RAINFALL

MAP 2: TOTAL RAINFALL AS A PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2005 TO 31 JANUARY 2006



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. WEATHER SUMMARY

1.1 RAINFALL

Rainfall activities decreased in this dekad compared to the second dekad of January. Though Congo air mass was dominant during the period under review, scattered rains were experienced over the country during the last dekad of January. The extreme tip of southern Malawi which is largely the shire valley received below normal rainfall while the southern highlands areas covering Namwera, Mulanje Boma, Ntaja, Satemwa, Zomba, Neno and Chiradzulu reported normal to above normal. Below normal conditions were observed over some places in the central and northern areas as well. See Table 1 and Map 1.

Cumulative rainfall from 1 October 2005 to 20 January 2006, indicates that a large portion of the northern part of Malawi like Rumphi, Mzimba and parts of Kasungu have received rainfall in the below normal category. The southern and central region of the country are fairing well registering normal to above normal rainfall. See Table 1 and Map 2.

. MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

The mean air temperatures during the last dekad of January 2006 were generally hot. The mean maximum temperatures ranged between 26°C and 35°C. Mzuzu reported the lowest maximum temperature (28°C) while Ngabu reported (36°C). See Table 2.

. MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Mean daily wind speeds measured at a height of 2 meters above the ground were generally light. The average speeds ranged from 0.7 (2.5 Km/hr) at Bolero and Mzimba, to 1.7 m/s (6.1 Km/hr) at Chitipa. See Table 2.

. MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

The relative humidity was lower as compared to the previous dekad. The daily average relative humidity values ranged from 64% to 81% at Ngabu and Bvumbwe respectively. See Table 2.

. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The crop situation in the country is still reported to be encouraging though localised dry spells have been experienced in some parts of the country causing some crops to start wilting during the period under review. Cumulative rainfall assessment indicates that in the south and central areas, rains have been favourable for good crop production. Some parts of the northern region have received below normal cumulative rainfall. In most parts of the southern and central regions, maize is mostly at tasseling and cobbing stages while in the north the maize crop is generally at early vegetative stage.

. FORECAST FOR – FEBRUARY

Congo air will remain active over Malawi. Therefore, scattered rains are expected to continue over much of the south and centre while isolated cases are expected over the north.

TABLE 1: DEKADAL RAINFALL FOR SELECTED STATIONS FOR DEKAD 2 OF JANUARY 2006: PERIOD 11 - 20

STATION NAME	DEKADAL TOTAL RAINFALL	DEKADAL NORMAL	DEKADAL TOTAL AS A %	TOTAL TO DATE	NORMAL TO DATE	TOTAL TO DATE AS A %	RAINY DAYS
SOUTHERN REGION	**mm**	**mm**	**NORMAL**	**mm**	**mm**	**NORMAL**	
Bvumbwe Met.	22.5	90.5	25	771.6	589.8	131	6
Chancellor College	71.1	100.8	71	619.0	742.0	83	4
Chileka Airport	56.3	79.3	71	569.8	499.7	114	5
Chingale Agric	73.5	94.8	78	118.5	535.8	22	4
Chiradzulu Agric	101.4	94.1	108	772.5	598.9	129	6
Kasinthula Res. Stn.	3.6	62.5	6	537.9	387.3	139	2
Liwonde Township	63.8	80.5	79	470.2	458.4	103	7
Mangochi Met.	41.2	74.0	56	311.6	445.1	70	8
Monkey Bay Met.	69.9	114.2	61	288.9	545.4	53	3
Mulanje Boma	140.5	115.0	122	1278.0	828.6	154	6
Namwera Agric	168.0	96.9	173	735.2	589.8	125	6
Nchalo Sucoma	6.2	54.2	11	524.9	366.2	143	2
Neno Agric	111.6	105.5	106	723.6	609.1	119	3
Ngabu Met.	3.2	52.2	6	510.4	420.2	121	2
Ntaja Met.	125.4	84.5	148	427.4	501.2	85	6
Satemwa Tea Est. No.1	119.7	95.0	126	632.1	672.4	94	6
Thyolo Boma	76.0	91.2	83	851.4	606.3	140	5
Thyolo Met	85.6	88.5	97	609.2	610.1	100	6
Zomba RTC	107.9	107.3	101	848.1	679.3	125	6
CENTRAL REGION							
Chitedze Met.	27.6	81.9	34	346.4	514.5	67	5
Dowa Agric	74.0	84.2	88	147.2	481.6	31	4
Dwangwa Sugar Corp.	86.5	87.0	99	458.4	593.1	77	7
Kaluluma DTC	35.2	75.7	46	293.8	459.7	64	1
K.I.A Met	90.5	90.9	100	471.6	478.8	98	6
Lisasadzi	18.1	80.9	22	298.5	469.7	64	2
Madisi Admarc	73.0	73.4	99	318.2	454.9	70	3
Mlangeni Njolomole	52.4	85.2	62	481.0	534.9	90	5
Mwimba Research	44.2	76.1	58	371.2	492.6	75	3
Nkhotakota Met	43.1	107.1	40	364.1	615.7	59	6
Ntcheu - Nkhande	109.7	84.0	131	546.1	605.8	90	5
Ntchisi Boma	25.5	74.6	34	230.2	472.8	49	3
Salima Met	68.7	114.4	60	525.6	636.2	83	5
Dedza RTC	19.0	116.3	16	327.8	550.4	60	2
NORTHERN REGION							
Bolero Met	37.0	47.3	78	169.8	410.6	41	5
Bwengu Agric.	30.8	87.6	35	262.0	468.6	56	2
Chikangawa forest	67.4	70.8	95	196.1	545.5	36	8
Chitipa Met	62.5	72.6	86	372.7	515.3	72	6
Karonga Met.	27.9	54.1	52	415.0	422.8	98	4
Mzimba Met	62.9	63.3	99	278.4	485.1	57	5
Mzuzu Met.	31.3	69.9	45	234.9	567.5	41	8
Vinthukutu Agric	84.6	65.1	130	311.5	480.3	65	6
Zombwe Agric	35.0	61.2	57	66.5	397.1	17	5

TABLE 2: AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR DEKAD 1 OF JANUARY 2006

STATION	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN TEMP (°C)	ABS MAX (°C)	ABS MIN (°C)	WIND SPEED m/s	RH %
BVUMBWE	26.7	17.5	28.5	16.0	1.1	81
BOLERO	29.0	18.6	32.0	17.4	0.7	76
NTAJA	29.9	21.6	31.0	20.0	1.0	81
CHILEKA	29.1	20.8	30.5	20.0	2.1	80
CHITEDZE	28.6	18.5	28.9	17.9	0.8	73
KARONGA	30.9	22.0	31.6	19.7	1.3	76
K I A	27.7	18.0	28.6	16.8	1.5	74
CHITIPA	27.2	18.3	29.4	16.6	1.7	76
MANGOCHI	30.7	22.6	33.0	22.0	1.0	77
MIMOSA	31.0	19.9	32.6	18.1	1.7	80
NKHOTAKOTA	28.1	22.1	30.5	20.5	1.5	77
MONKEY BAY	30.6	25.5	31.8	21.7	1.5	73
MZIMBA	27.6	17.9	30.0	15.6	0.7	76
MZUZU	26.4	17.7	28.2	16.6	1.4	79
NGABU	34.5	24.6	36.1	23.7	1.6	64

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