10-Day Rainfall & Agromet Bulletin

Department of Meteorological Services

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Malawi continued to be mostly dry and hot…**
- **Land preparation continues in most areas…**
- **Isolated rainfall activities are expected during 21 – 31 October 2006…**

1.1 RAINFALL SITUATION

During the second ten days of October Malawi remained mostly under the influence of warm north easterly air mass. Hence the country generally experienced dry weather during the period except a few places such as Kasinthula, Nsanje Agriculture, Chancellor College and Lifuwu that reported 8.0, 5.4, 3.1 and 2.8 mm, ten day rainfall respectively.

Rainfall is expected to continue being erratic until the main rain bearing systems become well established over the country.

1.2 MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE

Mainly hot temperatures continued over the country. Mean maximum temperatures ranged between 27.2 ºC and 35.8 ºC at Mzuzu and Ngabu, respectively. On the other hand, mean minimum temperatures were cool to mild over most parts of the country. They were in the range between 13.9 ºC at Mzuzu and 23.4 at Ngabu.

1.3 MEAN DAILY WIND SPEEDS

Mean wind speeds observed at a height of two meters above the ground across the country ranged between 1 and 7 m/s or 3.6 – 25.2 Km/hr (see table). Chitipa reported the highest wind speed of 7 m/s.

1.4 MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Fairly dry atmosphere persisted over the country with daily average relative humidity values ranging from 44% at Bolero to 62% at Bvumbwe during the second ten days of October 2006.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The major agricultural activity in Malawi during the period under review was land preparation in readiness for the main rains.

3. PROSPECTS OF 2006/07 SEASON

Most climate models indicate that during the period October to December 2006, the northern half of Malawi has 25% chance of rainfall total being above normal, 40% chance of being normal and 35% chance of being below normal. The southern half has 35% chance of rainfall total being above normal, 40% chance of being normal and 25% chance of being below normal. During the period January to March 2007, the country as a whole has 35% chance of above normal rainfall, 40% of normal rainfall and 25% chance of below normal rainfall.

In summary, a greater part of Malawi is expected to experience normal total rainfall amounts during 2006/07 rainfall season. However, localized dry spells and flush floods are also expected to occur during the season.

4. OUTLOOK FOR 21 – 31 OCTOBER 2005

Air over Malawi is expected to be relatively moist and unstable hence isolated thunderstorms are expected over Malawi during 21 - 31 October 2006. Temperatures will continue to be hot to very hot.

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TABLE FOR AGROMETEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR THE PERIOD 11 – 20 OCTOBER 2006

STATION	MAX TEMP (°C)	MIN TEMP (°C)	ABS MAX (°C)	ABS MIN (°C)	WIND SPEED m/s	RH %
BVUMBWE	27.9	15.3	30.4	13.5	2.3	62
BOLERO	30.6	20.4	33.0	19.4	3.0	44
CHICHIRI	28.5	17.3	32.5	15.4	1.2	54
CHILEKA	31.3	20.2	35.1	18.9	3.7	51
CHITEDZE	29.5	16.2	31.5	15.0	1.5	45
CHITIPA	29.9	18.8	31.6	17.8	7.3	46
KASUNGU	29.8	18.7	31.9	17.5	4.0	48
KARONGA	34.0	22.1	35.0	20.5	2.9	45
K I A	28.2	16.1	29.8	11.0	2.6	53
MAKOKA	29.3	17.6	32.3	15.9	1.7	56
MANGOCHI	33.7	22.1	36.0	21.0	1.9	46
MONKEY BAY	32.6	23.1	35.0	20.9	2.3	49
MZIMBA	29.1	18.3	30.9	16.9	1.9	48
MZUZU	27.2	13.9	28.6	10.5	2.1	55
NGABU	35.8	23.4	39.8	21.9	4.2	51
NKHATA BAY	33.0	17.2	34.2	15.4	1.0	53
NKHOTAKOTA	31.0	20.9	33.7	20.0	2.5	51
NTAJA	31.9	20.9	34.6	19.1	2.8	49
SALIMA	31.9	22.8	34.1	20.0	2.3	51

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