



**Figure 2.8 : Long-term Mean and Median Rainfall in Namibia**

*The "mean" or "average" value has traditionally been used as the key statistic for describing rainfall for an area. In an arid environment, where the statistical distribution of rainfall is skewed, the mean value tends to give a misleading picture. Namibia is no exception, and in the more arid parts of the country it is much more probable to have a year of below average rainfall than one of above average. For this reason, the median value is more often useful since it represents the real "fifty-fifty" value. There is an equal chance of having a rainy season above or below the median value.*

Data Sources : Namibia Meteorological Services; Hydrology Division, DWA.