

The new Bill is designed to promote the planned development of minerals for the benefit of Lesotho. It would encourage the investigation of those minerals by those who are best equipped with the technical ability and financial resources to find and work those minerals in a way most likely to aid in the development of the country.

I have said often enough that political independence lacks meaning if we remain financially dependent on others. We must stand on our own feet.

When I spoke to you when we became politically independent last year, I said that the road ahead would not be easy, and that we should all pause to reflect upon where the path of dedication must lead.

I also said that we should go forward and together build a nation on the foundation of peace, wisdom, goodwill and good sense laid by our King and Father the Great Moshesh. Let us now, with the aid of the wealth that is our land and the minerals that are in it, and with the strength of our people, build that Nation.

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