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PRESS RELEASE

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STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF LESOTHO, CHIEF LEABUA JONATHAN, ON A REPORT IN 'DIE VOLKSBLAD' OF DECEMBER 5TH CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF A BASUTOLAND CONGRESS PARTY AGENT, WHO, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, WAS ARRESTED IN THE FOURIESBURG DISTRICT OF THE FREE STATE.

"How long will certain people in Lesotho allow themselves to suffer the effects of Mr. Mokhehle's unscrupulous propaganda machinations and deceit ?

"This pitiable Mosotho, like the rest of the B.C.P. fanatics who have lost their jobs in Lesotho and in the Republic of South Africa, or have been imprisoned for acts of lawlessness, is the victim of his own credulity and of blindly running after a leader who sees no further than his nose.

"Frustrated and in dire despair after the loss of his following in Lesotho, Mr. Mokhehle sent this poor man across the border to establish vote-producing factories in a foreign country. Mr. Mokhehle had convinced this man that the B.C.P. would provide him with a very stable export market for a political following. But instead, the consequences of this ill-fated venture is a six month prison sentence. His wife and children are left in the lurch with no-one to look after them.

"This brings to mind the plight of the nine Basotho boys now stranded in Zambia where they desperately yearn to return home to their people, while Mr. Mokhehle himself continues to enjoy the company and comfort of his friends and family.

"Mr. Mokhehle has also said that if he came into power he would divide the Free State among the African labourers who have promised him support. This technic is nothing new. He used to woo our people in Lesotho before the elections and said he would divide among his followers lands belonging to the chiefs, confiscate all buildings and houses belonging to Europeans in Lesotho -- whether they were missionaries, traders, technicians or professional men. Now, as our people begin to see through these foxy tricks and by the day withdraw their support from him, he turns to fresh words and pastures new.

"I am /