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PRESS RELEASE

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STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON A NEWSPAPER
INTERVIEW GIVEN BY WYCLIFFE TSOTSI.

The Government of Lesotho has been accused, in newspaper reports published on Friday, of being "pressurised by South Africa to get rid of supporters of the opposition to moves towards stronger links with the Republic."

The person who was quoted in the reports as having made the accusations was Wycliffe Tsotsi, a refugee from South Africa who left Lesotho last Friday and who flew with his wife, at the Lesotho Government expense, to Lusaka. He was also quoted as saying that the Prime Minister was "being given orders by the South African authorities."

This refugee has been in Lesotho for over 5 years. During that time Lesotho Government was tolerant of his actions aimed at undermining Government. It is known that this refugee was trying to destroy the image of the elected Government abroad, e.g. through his contacts in some African States. He is a typical type of refugee we have given asylum to in this country.

His allegation that the Prime Minister was "being given orders by the South African authorities" is a blatant lie and a reflection of his sense of gratitude for the hospitality extended to him over the five years of his asylum in Lesotho.

Mr. Tsotsi makes a fair admission that as a refugee he meddled in the politics of this country. What Government can tolerate indefinitely this kind of refugee.

In the case of this refugee Government took what steps it thought necessary to end an unhealthy situation. We thought no further than the domestic issues at stake. The action we took was for the good of the Basotho as a people, and for Lesotho as a country.

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