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PRESS RELEASE

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BROADCAST BY THE PRIME MINISTER * CHIEF LEABUA JONATHAN,
OVER RADIO LESOTHO ON ~~NOVEMBER~~ 19, 1967.

It gives me great pleasure to address this Pitso here at Thupa Kubu to-day. I am indeed sorry that this is the first opportunity I have had to visit you since before the 1965 elections. Do not think I could forget you, I could never do that because this is one of the first places in which the National Party was established. The fact is I have not been able to come here before because ever since we have won the elections, pressure of work has prevented me from doing so. You will ask what that work is. I am here to answer that very question. By a sad misfortune an Opposition candidate won this constituency and you will certainly not be well informed about Governments plans for your welfare now and in the future. I will tell you about them.

You should know that Government is already doing a great deal to provide work for Basotho here in Lesotho. Many Basotho are already employed on the main tarred road now under construction. Early next year we hope that the first of several new industries will start up in Maseru.

The South African Government which is the only possible customer for our water and electricity, has shown great interest in the Oxbow project which could vastly increase the prosperity of our country as well as provide employment for very many Basotho in construction stages.

Another important development is my recent announcement of an Agreement to be made between the Lesotho Government and the Rio Tinto Company which is one of the largest mining companies in the world. Under this Agreement Rio Tinto will provide the capital for a State Diamond Mine from which Government will draw much more than one-half the profits. This enterprise will provide still further employment in our homeland. Finally as you already know, Government has made great and successful efforts to develop main roads and feeder roads under the self help campaign so that many of you have easy access to the outside world, which you did not enjoy before. Also Government has given considerable assistance to encourage self help in the villages in such matters as the improvement of water supplies by the sinking of wells.

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