

SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER  
AT MASERU, ON SATURDAY, 31ST AUGUST, 1968

I have come here neither to praise nor to vilify anyone; neither to answer political allegations, nor to lay any against my opponents. These would be fruitless labours on my part because no good could come of them. I am sure that you too are uninterested in hearing charges and counter-charges. I have decided to relegate the prerogative of making allegations to the Opposition parties, who seize every opportunity - either at their meetings or in their newspapers - to level unfounded charges against me and the Government. This has become an obsession with them. To them the Government is incapable of doing any good thing for the nation. Even "Leabua Highway" is a Government mistake; the installation of ESCOM electricity in Maseru, Maseru, Maseru and in any other areas in which it might later be installed, is objectionable; the establishment of a carpet-weaving factory, a tyre retreading factory, and the manufacture of candles at Kolonyama - all of which require electricity and will provide employment for many of our people; all these, according to the Opposition Parties, are unpardonable mistakes.

Mr. Koenyama Chakela is deliberately being blind to our development projects, such as, for example, those projects recommended to the Government by the National Planning Board. It is a sad and unfortunate fact that the Leader of the Opposition has declined repeated invitations to attend the meetings of the Board and is, in consequence, completely unaware of what is being done; yet in his ignorance he is prepared to make the allegation that Government is doing nothing - an allegation that is, to say the least of it, insulting and defamatory.

Even Radio Lesotho, which the Government built in order to keep the nation informed of what is happening in Lesotho and in the world around us, is - according to the Leader of the Opposition - a mistake; the Food Aid which we receive from the American Catholic Relief Service to alleviate famine conditions in our country is a mistake - regardless of whether the nation is starving or not, and equally regardless of the fact that the Opposition Parties cannot themselves feed the people.

However, in the midst of all these alleged mistakes which the Government has made, I am happy to be able to tell you that no amount of insult or defamation will persuade us to lay down our tools in the building of our country, and I am sure you will all be pleased to hear that, in addition to the achievements gained in so many fields of development, it is now Government's intention to provide, for the first time, low-cost houses in Maseru for employees other than civil servants. These houses will be rented at a low cost and will include an option of outright purchase by those who can afford to take.....