

The Leader of the Opposition Parties and their extremist friends abroad may accuse us of being beggars and of selling our country down the river, but let me tell them, as well as the outside world, that our policies of co-operation with the Republic of South Africa are determined by the Lesotho way of life, way of thinking, the people's interests and welfare.

What I am trying to make clear to you is that even the United Nations Organization - or for that matter, the Organization for African Unity - could not influence me to go against the interests of our people.

To put this point even more strongly, let me tell you that even if one or more of my Ministers were to go against our declared policies of peaceful co-existence with the Republic of South Africa - policies which have the full support of our nation - such Minister would do so at the risk of losing his position, whatever that might be.

Let me repeat that from the first my stand in regard to both domestic and international policies and relations has been and will continue to be determined by Basotho public opinion and by nobody else. I refuse and categorically reject any form of outside interference in this regard.

Let all anti-Government forces know that you are working for your families - whether you are employed in Lesotho or in the Republic of South Africa. They may say we are beggars, if that amuses them, but whatever misfortunes befall you, it is not Leabua's fault. No, he, among other things that you are enjoying, is making arrangements for your deferred pay to be transferred to Lesotho so that you may derive the interest and benefits from it locally.

No person in his right mind who cares for the welfare of Lesotho can say that the Government is wrong for establishing a direct two-way air link between Maseru and Jan Smuts International Airport. If Mr. Chakela, his leader and their followers were not cowards, they would tell the truth and express publicly their appreciation of this air link between Maseru and Jan Smuts because, more than anyone else, they make use of the service for going on their trips abroad. Because of their resolute determination to oppose everything that the Government undertakes, they fail to be thankful even for those things that directly benefit them. Shamelessly they use Leabua Highway while criticising Government for its construction. It can be said of them that they bite the hand that feeds them.

Unabashed, they use the electricity provided by the Government in Maseru and, what is more, they continue to draw monthly salaries from Government coffers. But their instructions to  
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