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intended to encourage you to carry on with the development of your own areas. Unfortunately, here again you will find members of the Opposition Parties and their supporters only too ready to accuse Government of turning you into slaves, although it is a mystery to me how you can become a slave by constructing your own road, when you must know that it is you and your children who will benefit by the roads you have built. Do you think it is really true to suggest that when you, the people of Toloane's, group yourselves together for the purpose of constructing a village water supply project in your own village for your own use - and not for the use of the Government - you are turning yourselves into Government slaves? Let me assure you that if you start by using your own labour on any project which will best serve your own needs and can show by practical results that you wish to improve your lot in life, the Government will always be ready to come to your assistance where you fall short and are unable by your own efforts to complete the project. Does this make you Government slaves? I think not. On the contrary, I must warn you that if you yourselves are not willing to help yourselves in any practical way, you will soon find that by your own idleness you have become the slaves of poverty and despair.

My friends, let us face the issue squarely. The time for believing in fairy tales is long past. There is only one magic wand that will transform poverty into riches and that is made of hard work and more hard work! If you are short of a water supply in your village, who do you think will come to build it for you? Are you expecting the Angels to come from Heaven to do things for you? God helps those who help themselves!

No amount of empty talk and empty promises by the members of the Opposition Parties and their supporters in their villages will help you in any way. Reject them with the contempt that they deserve. They despise manual labour because they believe that they can earn a living by squeezing money from your pockets and from the pockets of your daughters and sons.

My call to you, the people of Toloane's, is the same as my call to all the people of Lesotho: Let us all rise to the occasion - work hard in order to make our independence a reality. Because if we do not work hard - if we do not develop our country by planting it with trees, by harnessing its waters, by using modern methods of agriculture in order to increase our agricultural productivity, by constructing roads in order to open.....