

to open up the interior of our country, by exploiting whatever natural resources we may have in the country - who, I would ask you, will come to do these things for us? I challenge the Opposition Parties to give their answer to this question.

It is very gratifying to me to see how many people have now decided to cast their lot by engaging in great numbers in the work of the Self-Help Programme in almost every district - both in the lowlands and in the mountain regions of our country, despite all the shoutings and criticisms of my Government's policy in this regard by the Opposition Parties who, as I said earlier in this speech, have nothing to offer to you but empty talk and mere lipservice.

If you follow the advice of the Opposition Leader you will very soon degenerate into a nation of talkatives who will never do anything material for your own welfare and the welfare of your children and children's children, you become nothing more than a nation of beggars, a nation of thieves and a nation which will lose its prestige and dignity because of poverty. Remember, beggars can never be choosers. It is only by hard work that you can become rich. And when you are a rich nation you will gain the respect of your next-door neighbours, the respect of the nations of the sub-continent of Africa, as well as the respect of the nations of the world at large. There is a saying that "money talks". When you have money you are in a position to choose what you like and what you do not like.

I know that there is nobody here amongst us today who would wish to be a beggar - who would be happy to lead a beggar's life. We all desire to be free - free from hunger, free from want, free from poverty, free from unemployment - but in order to be free from these scourges we must accept the fact that we must work hard to free ourselves. Our salvation is in our own hands and nobody else's. Let us then all rise to the occasion before it is too late. Let us work hard in order to protect ourselves against the abject poverty in which we are now living. We have our land and our water. They are our great assets. Let us utilise them to the full in order that we may reap the maximum benefits.

Let us, by a show of deeds and actions, prove to our former colonial masters, and to the world at large, that we are able to run the affairs of our country and develop our economy efficiently in order to make good the hundred years of neglect and stagnation under colonial rule. Lesotho is our garden,  
and it.....