



PRESS RELEASE

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STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, CHIEF S. MASERIBANE, ON
MONTHLY GRANTS TO WAR WIDOWS FROM THE NATIONAL WAR FUND

The National War Fund (1939-1945), previously known as the Governor General's National War Fund, is about to reinstate certain financial assistance for the benefit of Basotho war widows in the form of monthly grants to supplement the pensions they are already receiving.

The National War Fund was active in Lesotho some years ago; in addition to certain grants made by the Fund to Mission hospitals, in this country, grants were made to all War Widows who had minor children. Owing to changing conditions the Fund lost touch with these individual beneficiaries.

The Government of Lesotho has recently put in order all its War Pensioners records, and, having reviewed each case, has been able to provide the N.W.F. with the necessary factual information to support applications for the grants from the Fund to which the war widows have since become entitled.

The total annual amount to be paid out by the N.W.F. to some 950 war widows will come to about R40,000 annually.

Mr. H. Gray, the National Secretary of the N.W.F. accompanied by Mrs Woolacott, also of the N.W.F. visited Maseru and handed the first batch of cheques to me in the Prime Minister's office this morning. All grants made will be effective from the 1st of January, 1968, and those widows whose application forms are still outstanding will receive a grant from that date - if a grant is approved - and their cheque will follow.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my heartfelt thanks, on behalf of the Government and people of Lesotho, to the National War Fund, and to its National Secretary, Mr. Gray, for the goodwill he has shown and the efforts he has made to bring this welcome assistance to our war widows.