

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER
FOR BROADCAST ON LESOTHO RADIO, ON TUESDAY,
23RD APRIL, 1968

The Christian character of the Basotho nation is one of the cornerstones of the foundations laid by the Great Moshoeshoe when he brought the nation into being. It is the basis of our national structure and should not be disregarded, despised or destroyed. Consequent upon the tendering of cattle which took place when the first Christian Missionaries came into Lesotho in 1833, the Christian Religion has a dignified, acceptable and vital role to play in our society.

In our previous public speeches to the nation we, as Ministers of Government, have laid emphasis on the importance of the social, economic, health, educational and administrative functions in our country. Today I want to make the point that, important as these functions are for the welfare of our country, without the proper Christian spirit and outlook on life, their scope is seriously limited. None of these services has any measure of success unless we return - as Moshoeshoe has shown us - to Christian principles as a way of life. Prayer is the key to the success of all earthly endeavour - "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams on."

You may at this stage recall what I said in December last in my Christmas message to the Christian Churches in Lesotho. Prominent among my remarks was: "We are known to be the most friendly and peace-loving people because peace and love are the cornerstones of Christ's Teaching." In that message I went on to say: "They encouraged and advised us to seek friendship with other powerful nations of the world, who like ourselves had accepted the Christian teaching." And it is on the basis of this friendship that we continue to improve our international relations - thus gaining a place on the map of the world.

Today I have decided to make this statement primarily to remind us all that the keystone in the building of this nation is the teaching and the practice of the Christian Religion. My word of advice, as we forge ahead towards the construction of a new Lesotho, is that we should not make the mistake of leaving behind the principles and practises of the Christian Teaching. It gives me great pleasure to remind you that when we went to the General Elections in 1965 the Church once again - and this time by prayer and good counsel - led the way to nation-building in the modern fashion, as did the Great Moshoeshoe in the days of old. From a joint pronouncement issued under the title 'The Voice of the Church Concerning the Election' the following passages may well be repeated:

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