

RADIO BROADCAST BY THE HONOURABLE THE  
PRIME MINISTER ON TUESDAY, 28TH MAY,  
1968

Today I would like to talk to you about the National Planning Board which has been constituted in terms of Section 90 of the Lesotho Independence Order. May I remind all sections of the community - that is, Ministers of Religion, teachers, farmers, stock owners, traders and cultural organisations, that it is your duty to submit your suggestions on development to the National Planning Board so that a list of priorities on short and long term projects may be arranged. One of the functions of the National Planning Board is "to prepare plans for the economic development of Lesotho....." This can be achieved with your help.

The Leader of the Opposition was offered a seat on the National Planning Board but he declined this offer without giving any reason. Is it because he is indifferent or does he not care whether this country develops or not? Is there any hope that under his government Lesotho would ever attain any reasonable stage of development?

I am now convinced that we have overcome all inclinations towards disunity which were promoted by the Opposition. I am convinced that inside and outside Parliament the nation does not approve of the destructive and negative attitude of the Opposition. The majority of our people support government policy of economic development. Although some people still have reservations, we can rightly say that there is peace and stability in the country. May I take this opportunity to remind those few who still have reservations that it is high time they joined hands with the rest of the nation for the improvement of this country. I know that you would like to see results because actions speak louder than words.

In every district you have Assistant Ministers and District Administrative Secretaries who will help you in all community development projects such as laying out communal gardens, construction of wells and dams - in fact, all self-help projects. Remember that the development of Lesotho depends on the efforts you make in these self-help projects. May I also remind Chiefs and Headmen that, as important arms of government, they can help to bring about development at a quicker pace if they co-operate closely with the people. Chiefs and Headmen have great responsibilities imposed upon them because they are, by birth, leaders of the nation. The success or failure of these development projects rests on their shoulders. It is also through their keen interest that they can raise the standard of living in their communities.....