

living in their communities.

Speaking as Prime Minister and Minister responsible for development, I wish to emphasize that our main task is to fight against poverty, starvation and unemployment. It is only by careful planning that we can gradually become less and less dependent upon other nations. If we do not exert ourselves we shall remain forever a nation of beggars.

Lesotho, like other emerging countries, may be compared to a child who normally has to walk before it runs. We should therefore look first to the development of our country so that we can solve our own problems before we concern ourselves with the problems of other countries. Let us not allow ourselves to be diverted from our main task of development. We cannot compete with industrialised countries. It is development and development alone which will finally enable us to compete favourably with other countries of the world.

Given perseverance, hard work and determination, we shall certainly achieve our goal.

In conclusion I would like to remind all Government Ministries that the nation is ready to follow and support Government. All it requires is expert leadership. Let us remember that the basic economic objectives of our development plan are to increase the productivity of the land, to raise our income per capita, and to improve and extend our health services, educational system and employment facilities. These are the only things that will enable the Basotho to govern themselves. I appeal to all those in position of responsibility to guide the people along these lines so that our nation may finally achieve that success, peace, and prosperity which we all so deeply desire.