

RADIO TALK BY THE HONOURABLE THE
PRIME MINISTER DELIVERED ON RADIO
LESOTHO ON WEDNESDAY, 3RD APRIL,
1968,
ON THE SUBJECT OF
"EDUCATION IN LESOTHO"

GOOD EVENING!

The address recently delivered by Professor John Blake, Vice Chancellor of the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, is, in my view, one of the most important pronouncements on the subject of Education in a developing country which has yet been made. I therefore feel I would be failing in my duty if I did not make my own comments of appreciation of what Professor Blake put across to his audience on that occasion. The University, he said, had an important rôle to play, and he stressed the need for co-ordination with the Government to ensure that its output of trained manpower met our requirements in terms of the trained personnel required for development. To quote the Vice Chancellor, "higher education must be closely related to national needs".

No person truly interested in the development of our country - particularly at the present stage of its economic and educational advancement - will fail to appreciate and agree with the thought expressed by Professor Blake that the University is the high pinnacle of our educational structure in this country.

Tonight I wish to avail myself of the opportunity to clarify my Government's policy on Education. Unlike the purposeless type of education left behind by the former colonial administrators, our own Education Policy will be geared towards turning out Basotho young men and women who will fulfill the needs and requirements of Lesotho as they face us today. In truth, our policy should lay emphasis on a complete reorientation of the present system which we have inherited. Our primary and secondary school syllabi must begin the task of training our future administrators and specialists by offering subjects which they will need to continue their education at higher levels. A devoted and thoroughgoing implementation of this policy is the only answer to the question of replacing expatriate administrators and specialists by local candidates of sufficiently high calibre to maintain the necessary standard of efficiency in the service. On the other hand, we need must have engineers, technicians