

SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER
AT SEFIKANENG ON SATURDAY, 13TH JULY, 1968

I still remember well that the last time I was at this place and addressed you was immediately on my return from the Pre-Independence Constitutional talks in London in 1964, although since then I have addressed other meetings at other places around Sefikaneng. I am happy that I am again able to speak to you at this Pitso and this place which is centrally situated and thus allows me to talk to the people of both the Malimong and Tsoanamakhulo constituencies. I am happy, too, to find that your active and moral support for your Party and your Government is even greater than when I was last here.

You will of course all be aware that since I was last with you your Government has been able to fulfil many of the promises made to you at that time - in spite of the efforts of the Opposition groups to convince you that they were nothing but dreams.

It is your present Government which has been the first in Lesotho's history to introduce a regular and nation-wide feeding scheme in your schools; it is your present Government which has instituted the feeding scheme for expectant mothers; **it is your present Government** which has stimulated the initiation of the self-help projects - and likewise the food-for-work programme.

During my period of office, through the Government's friendly negotiation with the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the passenger train service to Maseru has been reintroduced in order to assist our people who have to go out of the country to work and those who are coming in to return to their homes.

Today

Sethabathaba Fund to meet the cost of higher education. I cannot see any reason why they should not once again apply themselves to the task rather than see this University stagnate - when it should, on the contrary, now be growing from strength to strength, to the extent where it can provide all the facilities necessary for this country's development. The performance of this University deserves such consideration. It has turned out men of standing in the African society of today. To mention but a few, I would name the first pre-independence Prime Minister of Uganda, Mr. Benedict Kiwanuka, who is today the Leader of the Opposition in that country's Parliament; Mr. John Tembo, the Minister of Finance in the Government of Malawi is the product of our University and so is Mr. Masinde Muliro, a Minister in the Republic of Kenya. These men represent praiseworthy achievements for which we must be proud of our University and particularly grateful to those friends of the University who have assisted so far in its establishment and development. The United Kingdom, over and above the grant-in-aid to Lesotho, makes a special contribution towards the maintenance of the University; the Americans and the Canadians have in a number of ways also extended a helping hand. Here I would like to express a special word of thanks to Canada, because the establishment of our University was the direct result of the work of missionaries of Canadian extraction.

Like all emerging countries in Africa, we are faced with many problems. We are no exception to the rule that education needs to be adapted to the changing requirements brought about by development. It will require hard work and great effort - but I am positive that the response of all sectors of the population to this appeal which I and my Government are launching will bear wholesome fruits. We shall then go on to build properly for the future on a clear-cut policy which will lead to success.