

We have had enough of words and now want action - action to stem the terrifying tide of starvation and poverty that we are now experiencing - a spectre that is becoming fiercer and more grisly while we fold our arms and watch it devouring us, flesh and bones, man, woman and child.

We shall, I fear, soon cease to be a nation, once proud of its customs and traditions - a nation of hardworkers - if we do not retrace our steps while we have the opportunity to do so. Moshoeshoe and our ancestors would not be proud of our indolence and docile immobility. Why should we starve in the midst of plenty? I say "plenty" because we have the necessary potentialities - the chief of which is our land - "Lesotho re na le mobu". We had it a hundred years ago and we still have it. Not only that, but we now also have the means to utilise it to the fullest advantage. There is no need to envy other lands. Let us seize the opportunity and develop our own.

Let us live and let live. It is therefore my Government's policy, in order to combat poverty and clothe the nakedness of our people, to endeavour to instil into everyone a spirit of fruitful co-operation in all our national activities. We call upon everyone - man, woman and child - to cast off the cloak of idleness and get down to serious work - a herdboys to lead his flock into green pastures, a schoolchild to learn hard, a teacher to teach, instruct and educate, priests and nurses to heal wounded souls and bodies - everyone in his own particular field to put his shoulder to the wheel. There is no time for idle gossip, or empty words for political aggrandisement. If there is competition in every activity, let be healthy and fruitful and productive of the essentials of life - food, clothing and shelter. Let us each have an aim to achieve so that we may build a healthy and active nation, so that the world will not look on us as a nation of parrots that talk but do not act.

We exhort every head of a family, every Chief and every Headman to consider it his bounden duty and responsibility to see that all in the family, all in the village, all in the country, perform duties contributing to the welfare of each and all. That is the responsibility of all of us.

Government will not tolerate irresponsible behaviour such as, for example, childish acts of crossing the border and grazing stock there. Such culprits are being warned here and now. Anyone disregarding this admonition must rest assured that drastic measures of punishment will be taken against them and all miscreants. Forgive my harsh words, but they are meant to achieve an aim which I hope you all appreciate. In order to protect our own people, we must protect our policy of peaceful co-existence.

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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.