



13 AUG 1969

BROADCAST ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME
MINISTER ON THE WATER RESOURCES INVESTIGATION IN
LESOTHO, ON THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST, 1969.

It has recently been announced that the United Nations Development Programme has approved a grant of 1,625,900 United States Dollars (R1,150,000) to assist the Government in planning the utilisation of its water resources, and has appointed the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development as executing agency for the study.

The International Bank has appointed Messrs. Binnie and Partners, Consulting Engineers, to carry out the study. The study is expected to be completed within twenty months, and will include an overall evaluation of the water resources of the country, and how these resources can best be used.

The Consulting Engineers will review the work already done in connection with the Oxbow Scheme, and will make recommendations for the detailed investigation of an initial project by May 1970. This detailed investigation and feasibility study is expected to be completed by June 1971.

Messrs. Binnie and Partners have already established an office in Maseru, which will be staffed by twelve engineers. These engineers will in the course of their work, travel to most parts of the country to study river flows, underground water, dam sites, irrigable land, population distribution and other relevant factors.

Upon completion of the study Lesotho will have an overall plan for the orderly and profitable development of her water resources. At the same time it will be possible to decide on the most suitable project or projects for which the necessary loans could be raised.

I therefore appeal to all people in Lesotho, including Civil Servants, Chiefs and Missionaries to give as much assistance as possible to the local representatives of Binnie and Partners, who will be travelling in different parts of the country in the course of their duties.

On behalf of the Government of Lesotho, I can say without fear that the Basotho people will welcome this study, which will be of benefit to the country as a whole.