

SPEECH MADE BY THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER
AT THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF PEIA-TS'OLEU
CREDIT UNION ON 10TH JULY, 1969.

13 AUG 1969



I am very pleased to get this opportunity to join with you in celebrating your first Anniversary as a Credit Union and for that matter a very successful Credit Union. The latter is borne out by the fact that your Credit Union has come first in competition with twenty-five Credit Unions for eight Iecusa Tractors. I understand that your Credit Union made the best performance managing its finances and administering its affairs. For this performance you were awarded a tractor. I therefore would like to add my congratulations to those of other people for your various achievements over the last year.

I also understand that in this Pela-Ts'oleu area you also have a very successful thrift and Credit Society which is contemplating the purchase of a tractor too. These are encouraging developments and I hope that your two organizations will co-operate and co-ordinate their activities for the betterment of our people's well-being.

Permit me to take this occasion to outline the Government's policies towards mechanization of Agriculture, marketing and land tenure problems. I would also like to state the Government's philosophy towards economic and Agricultural Development of Lesotho.

You all know that Basotho people have in the past relied on oxen for ploughing and other purposes. Owing to increasing demands for food and deteriorating standards of draught animals, especially oxen, mechanization of Agriculture has become a necessity. Not only are the standards of oxen deteriorating but the absolute numbers have been decreasing because of lack of good pastures for grazing. These are facts which we cannot deny and we have to take steps as a people to innovate and to adopt our farming practices to these changing circumstances if Agricultural productivity is going to be increased.

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