

The Government has therefore accepted mechanization as the only way to ensure that people's lands are properly ploughed. It has also been accepted as a way of reducing pressure on our land. There are indications that the total livestock population in Lesotho may be above the carrying capacity of the country.

If it is true that Lesotho is overstocked, then mechanization points another way out of our dilemma. The Government has already begun a programme for establishing tractor hire schemes throughout the country.

The basic purpose of ploughing our fields well is to ensure higher and better yields from them. This can only be achieved by adopting and using new methods and techniques of farming: By applying fertilizers, insecticides and improved hybrid seeds. It is therefore imperative for our people to start adopting these new methods of husbandry.

In the past we have had schemes which used these new methods. But they failed because they were undertaken by the colonial Government only and did not involve the people. My Government's philosophy is that sound and successful development has to come from the grass roots up. People should initiate projects and form themselves into community groups and associations. The Government will then assist them with technical advice through its extension staff and agents.

In connection with the above point, I would like to congratulate the people in the Pela-Ts'oeu Area for taking initiative and the lead in various things. In Self-Help road schemes and village water supplies, you have taken the initiative; In the credit societies and co-operatives you have taken the lead; In communal gardens you have made commendable progress. This is the kind of approach to development that the Government would like to see adopted throughout the whole country.

Of course the Government is aware that the greatest incentive for increased Agricultural production is a good marketing of crops and livestock. The Government has already passed a marketing act, which because of a few administrative difficulties, has not yet been fully...../3.