

VISIT OF THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER TO
THE LESOTHO YOUTH SERVICE CENTRE, ON THURSDAY,
1ST JANUARY, 1969



PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS

HONOURABLE MINISTERS, MR. RESHEF, MR. HAREL, MR. SEKHONYANA
AND MEMBERS OF THE LESOTHO YOUTH SERVICE, MEMBERS OF THE
E.N.P. YOUTH LEAGUE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Thank you, Mr. Sekhonyana!

On this happy occasion today I am reminded of my memorable visit to Malawi in May 1968, when I was so greatly inspired by the stirring example of the Malawi Youth Service that I there and then determined that I would make it one of my prime concerns to form a similar service in Lesotho among the youth of my own people. I shall ever be grateful to the President and Government of Malawi for their generous aid in training ten of our young people in Malawi, because these ten people formed the nucleus of the Lesotho Youth Service as you see it today.

My purpose in establishing the Lesotho Youth Service is to imbue all of our youth in Lesotho with the spirit of patriotism and service to their country. I am sure you will all appreciate that it takes time, effort and funds to build up any efficient service and this is even more the case in a country which has only just embarked its ship on the turbulent seas of development. But we have made a beginning - a beginning which you see here before you today. It is my earnest hope and prayer that from this beginning, you who are here today will go from strength to strength and that by your example you will encourage all the youth of our country to join with you in selfless service to their people and their fatherland. We would like to see all our young men and women - many of whom have fallen by the wayside and have been led into an unfortunate way of life through lack of direction - become proud and honourable citizens of their country, having the sure knowledge that each and every one of them has the power to become a useful and productive citizen of Lesotho. I do not think I am asking too much of you when I exhort you to go forth among our boys and girls and show them what can be done not only for their own upliftment but for the upliftment of our society as a whole. Never forget that the youth of a country are its potential leaders!

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