

average 59,531. This is not to mention the thousands of Basotho working in other employment, in factories and on the farms.

In view of the fact that Messrs. Ntsu Mokhehle and Gerard Ramoreboli and their supporters are not prepared to work peacefully with the Republic of South Africa as I do, the question that arises is: what do they propose to do for the various groups of people which I have just mentioned if they were to form a government? How will Messrs. Mokhehle and Ramoreboli stop these people's expulsion from the Republic of South Africa or protect them from any other restrictions that may be imposed on them? In addition, who will suffer in the process? Mokhehle and Ramoreboli? No, the ordinary people will suffer and pay the cost of Mokhehle's blunders, his lack of consideration and foresight. This is the question that every Mosotho, whether young or old, in Lesotho or outside Lesotho, must ask and answer himself in respect of our relations with the Republic of South Africa. The second major question that you, the Chiefs and the people must ask and answer relates to the big Oxbow project. How can this project succeed in the hands of Messrs. Mokhehle and Ramoreboli whose Party is not prepared to deal with or co-operate with the Republic of South Africa? What is their alternative in this particular scheme?

Because I am convinced beyond a shadow of doubt that my policy of friendly relations with our neighbour the Republic of South Africa is the only one for the achievement of the rapid economic development of Lesotho and for realising a full exploitation of its resources. The Opposition has failed to provide any alternative to this policy. Therefore, I am not ashamed to declare that we shall continue to maintain friendly relations with our neighbour, because it is the only way to achieve our goals of nation-building and the development of our natural resources. Along the way many difficulties will be encountered, but many will be solved with determination and courage.

In conclusion, I would like to remind every one of you that the General Elections are a life and death proposition for our nation because your success and that of the country are inextricably bound up with your choice and with the relations that your elected Leader maintains with the Republic of South Africa.

I will.....