

TRANSLATION FROM SESOTHO OF
SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER AT
MASIANOKENG, ON SUNDAY, 3RD AUGUST, 1969



After attaining independence, the inhabitants of developing countries such as ours should, in my opinion, concentrate on improvement and development. It is a source of great pleasure to me that I am able to address you here at Simon Mapetla's, one of the villages whose inhabitants do concentrate their efforts on improvement and development for their benefit and welfare. There is no doubt that this is one of the Basotho villages whose example could well be emulated. If everyone considered it his responsibility to improve whatever piece of ground is allotted to him - be it a residential site, arable ground, a business, a church, a school or an individual property or site for co-operative undertaking, even the chiefs' or headmen's areas - Lesotho would advance in easy and rapid strides. In other words, what I am driving at is that it would facilitate completion of Government developmental and economic projects if Chiefs and Headmen, who are the custodians and allocators of land, could give priority to improvement and development by themselves setting a good example to their people by deeds and not mere words.

Again, it would expedite progress in every sphere for the good of us all if various political leaders were to abandon their bickerings by which they spread the undesirable germs of disunity which merely stand in the way of progressive Government enterprises aimed at fighting our arch enemies - starvation, insufficient clothing, ignorance and unemployment. In this connection, I can give an appropriate example: the great National Tree Planting Day tomorrow, 4th August. This is a day on which political leaders and their followers ought to bury their differences, so that each one of us can, for the good of the Nation, plant at least one tree and thereafter protect those trees so that they can grow, beautify our country and help preserve its soil, which every year is being carried away by the rivers into the ocean,

In a similar manner, we all bear a responsibility in the various national enterprises such as those being carried out by the Self-Help Campaigners, the Farmers' Co-operatives, the Credit Unions, the associations of the Traders, the Stock Owners, the poultry farmers, the Home Bakers and the Nutritionists - as well as others too numerous to name

individually -