

establishment of the National Assembly, which constituted the basis of the present Government, was designed to improve the standard of living of the Basotho people by removing the obstacles which prevented the Basotho from enjoying the benefits of their own sweat and toil.

The independence struggle of the Basotho was the first step. The Basotho should govern themselves and control the economy of their country. The Basotho should provide services for themselves and should consult other governments directly for financial assistance. All these things could be achieved when legislative power was in their hands.

In spite of unfortunate opposition forces everywhere, even in the Parliament of the Basotho, in the days of British colonial rule, U.N.O. and the O.A.U., the Basotho Government succeeded in steering its way towards full independence. At midnight on the 3rd October, 1966, the British flag was lowered and the Lesotho flag was hoisted. To this day the Lesotho flag flies at home and abroad. The Basutoland National Party was there too. Today we have a Basotho Parliament, Ministers and Civil Servants in responsible positions. The Basotho now legislate. Of course, we do seek foreign aid wherever we are in need of it.

Proof of what I am saying is what you all can see right here at Thabana-Li-'Mele. The Government of Lesotho requested financial aid from Sweden. The response was a remarkable donation of R250,000 for handicrafts here at Thabana-Li-'Mele so that the people here may earn their living from handicrafts. The British Government was not able to do this for it avoided competition with other foreign countries in the economic development of Lesotho.

The Government of Sweden has given financial aid of R22,000 for the development of the Agricultural School. It is also carrying on a survey of the soil of Lesotho to see what types of fertilizers can best be applied in order to reap a profitable harvest.

It is not only the Swedish Government that gives us aid. America, West Germany, Britain, South Africa, Japan, South Korea, Nationalist China, Canada, Israel, Australia, Zambia, Tanzania, U.N.O., O.A.U. and others all give us aid in various ways. Aid from these countries and other organizations comes to us only since Lesotho attained independence.

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