

SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF THE MOBIL
CENTRE, ON MONDAY, 30TH JUNE, 1969

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Serrurier, Your Excellencies,
ladies and gentlemen:

Nothing gives me greater pleasure than opening new factories, unveiling plaques or laying cornerstones for new enterprises in Lesotho.

I am sure you will excuse my joy in performing these duties if I tell you that these are occasions of joy for all right-thinking people in Lesotho. And they are the majority.

These occasions are historic, because we have never had private investment of this magnitude in Lesotho before, and to us they are the first milestones on our way to economic viability.

Lesotho has been independent for just over 2½ years now, but it seems as though we have come a very long way along our road to economic self-sufficiency.

Less than two years ago, when the Lesotho National Development Corporation, of which I am Chairman, started its operations, we had no factories. Up to this date we have attracted investments to an amount exceeding R3,000,000 and we are negotiating more. This is only the beginning. Apart from this building, we have a big hotel under construction and a brewery. These investments provide for over 600 jobs that never existed in Lesotho before. I am not talking about all the indirect jobs - like the builders on this site, the shops that do more business, the extra work involved in supplying more water, power and other essential services. And this is what matters most, that we create more work and a better living for all.

Ladies and gentlemen, these developments show that there is confidence in this country, its people and its Government.

Only recently we announced that one of the world's largest corporations, the Bethlehem Steel Corporation is to become a partner with L.N.D.C. and Rio Tinto in the proposed diamond mining operation at Letseng. There has never been such confidence in the future of this country.

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