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SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER,
CHIEF LEABUA JONATHAN, AT THABA-PHECHELA, IN
THE MAFETENG DISTRICT, ON SATURDAY, 28TH JUNE,
1969.

In this country our present challenge is no longer politics or political independence, because that we have already achieved. As I see it the challenge is the attainment of economic self-sufficiency, and this challenge is facing us all - Government, Chiefs, political parties, the Churches, traders and the nation as a whole. The question is : What are we doing to meet the challenge as a united nation ? It is only when we are united that we can tackle and solve this problem. Those who are indifferent to the challenge are the inveterate enemies and betrayers of this country.

I speak in this constituency of Thaba-Phechela, which is near the border of the Republic of South Africa. I invite all present at this pitso to look across the border and see the difference between that land and ours.

While some farmers across the border have their lands covered with green wheat and others are still ploughing, the people at Thaba-Phechela are incited to oppose their Government and not to work for themselves. While the farmers in the Republic of South Africa rear sheep and other animals, the people at Thaba-Phechela are encouraged to waste their time in idleness and not doing anything for themselves. These people end up as thieves because of poverty.

While the farmers in South Africa plant trees in order to beautify their country and fight against soil erosion, the Opposition parties in this country encourage their followers to uproot trees; but it is my intention, and the intention of my Government, to bring this betrayal of our country to an end - until everyone living in this country regards it as his bounden duty to make his contribution to the common welfare, in the same manner as the South African farmers make their contribution to their country. I will strive to instil the spirit of patriotism in the hearts..../2.