

were given this responsibility by the nation have abused it for a long time. In all the nine districts of Lesotho, there are complaints from Basotho men and widows who have been deprived of their lands, - in Butha-Butha, Leribe, Teyateyaneng, Maseru, Mafeteng, Mphahle's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha's Nek or Mokhotlong. There are similar complaints everywhere, not only about land but about the rights of Headmen as well. In places where Headmen had rights of land allocation, their children and grandchildren have been deprived of this right, and quite often it is given to a favourite or a newcomer.

Again there is a wrong practice arising from the so-called "paBallo". People who own land under one Principal or Ward Chief should not be made to forfeit their lands as a result of the change in boundaries of two Headmen within the boundaries of one Principal or Ward Chief. "PaBallo" exists where people under one Principal Chief own land within the boundaries of another Principal Chief. This practice must be reviewed urgently in order to protect people who are deprived of their lands and also in the interests of development.

I would like to conclude by appealing to the whole nation to co-operate with your Government in tackling this problem. If you do not reach a solution immediately, it will be left to posterity to solve.

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