

The constitutional and independence battles for Lesotho now belong to history. Your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren will read about these things in their history books. History will proclaim that the Basotho National Party were alone in fighting for Motlotlehi to be a King equal to other Kings. Ironically, Motlotlehi joined the Opposition ranks in a fierce struggle against a measure which was destined to improve his own position in Lesotho in particular and in the world in general.

Apart from removing Motlotlehi from the position of a second-rate King and elevating him to the position of a King amongst other Kings and Heads of State, we struggle to keep him clear of political disputes. Even in this regard, the members of the Basotho National Party battled alone in protecting Motlotlehi from the political mud of the Opposition. The Opposition groups now claim to love Motlotlehi more than we do. They claim we have imprisoned Motlotlehi.

If the Opposition love Motlotlehi, why did they oppose the independence of Lesotho? Why do they oppose police protection of Motlotlehi? Why do they drag him down into the political mire?

We believe in democracy. By this we mean that we believe in a government of the Basotho, by the Basotho, for the Basotho. The practical implications of this democratic principle are that -

- (1) Lesotho has and will continue to have a democratically elected National Assembly;
- (2) Lesotho has and will have Basotho filling positions in the public and private services;
- (3) Basotho should get first preference regarding the services and goods that obtain in Lesotho.

If the Lesotho National Party fails in upholding democracy in Lesotho, the whole of Africa and the world will cover their faces in sorrow. We uphold a world-wide principle. The Basotho must have a government of their choice. This Government must employ the Basotho and where we are not able to obtain suitably qualified Basotho we shall have to welcome and rely on friendly countries to supply various experts. But for democracy I am prepared to die.

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