

Library



SPEECH BY THE HON. THE PRIME MINISTER CHIEF  
L. ABUA JONATHAN AT A PITSO HELD AT CANA,  
'MAMATHU'S', SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER, 1969.

15 SEP 1969

The Hon. The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation of the warm welcome given him by the people of Cana and the fact that they had come to the Pitso in such large numbers. He thanked the representative of the Chief for the message and said the happy sentiments would be long remembered. The Missionary in charge, Rev. Baccust, had opened the Pitso with prayer and the Prime Minister thanked him for the timely thoughts expressed in the prayer asking that the Lord give peace and look on the Nation with compassion. It was all the more memorable because it came from a representative of the Church which Mshoeshoe the Great had "married" with his cattle. He assured the Church of protection by his Government so that she could continue preaching fear of and honour to the Lord.

Mr. Pheello Maluke, the Premier said, had already spoken words of considerable impact. He, therefore, paid tribute to him for the valuable work he had achieved in a practical manner. People were supporting Government in large numbers as was witnessed by the 120 who lined up to indicate they were joining the ruling Basotho National Party and deserting the Opposition camp. He said politics could be dangerous if mishandled but wisely handled could bring beneficial results.

He repeatedly reminded the people that he was not interested in recruiting numbers to support Government. Lesotho was a free country; everyone was free to do as he thought fit. That was why they had sought independence from the British who, in the 100 years of their rule, had done nothing to develop the country. It was a pity the people were so easily deceived by the Congress who criticised the present Government by saying it was a "Boer Government" in spite of the fact that the whites were not at the polls.

Chief Jonathan said that he and Mr. Mokhehle were members of the National Council which was then advisory. Mr. Mokhehle represented the Teachers who up to now still follow him for he had promised he would do something.../2