



SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER
AT A NATIONAL PITSO AT FITSI'S NEK,
ON SUNDAY, 7TH APRIL, 1969

16 APR 1969

Today history has been made in the district of Leribe, in that, at Mots'oane's, two prominent people in their own particular communities have voluntarily and of their own accord joined our party, the Basotho National Party; here I refer to Mr. Surtie, who like his father, the late Mr. Gayob Surtie, is one of the well known traders not only in this district but in other districts of Lesotho; and to Mr. Machobane, who is one of the well known farmers both inside and beyond the borders of Lesotho, particularly for his agricultural scheme known as 'MANTS'A TLALA'. I have the strong belief that other leaders of the people in other fields of endeavour will follow this good example set by Mr. Surtie and Mr. Machobane.

Every day, every week, every month and year by year, our Party continues to make progress and to be well received by all people of goodwill, of different creeds and different races. This in itself serves to show that we are the Party of the people, and therefore we alone can stand for and protect democracy for the people, as opposed to the splinter parties, who represent only minor groups of disgruntled people.

It is encouraging and indeed it gives us joy to see Basotho people of different races joining together in all the districts of Lesotho - in voice and in action - to reject the Congress Party and all its acts of irresponsibility and subversion aimed at the destruction of the people. With God's Grace we are today seeing with our own eyes the last throes of the dying B.C.F. and the saving of the nation under the leadership of the Basotho National Party.

At no time in the history of Lesotho - except during the time of the B.C.F. policies - have our people lived in hatred, despising the Churches of God, the traditional Chiefs and the foreigners living among us missionaries or traders.

At no time in the history of our country did stock theft and theft in general reach such heights as it did during the time of B.C.F. politics, whereby they condoned theft because they claimed that the people committed such acts owing to hunger; but it is difficult to understand the logic of this B.C.F. kind of reasoning.

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