

to feel free to express their opinions without fear before this Commission, which will tour all the districts of Lesotho with the sole purpose of finding a solution to this matter of the allocation and deprivation of the lands of the people and drawing up recommendations in accordance with the wishes of the people. The Chiefs are no longer satisfying the nation in this matter.

To you the Chiefs I would issue a word of advice and warning. You cannot put the clock back a hundred years. The people are no longer satisfied with the present state of affairs in regard to the allocation and deprivation of the lands. You would be wise to return to the people this privilege which they had entrusted to you so that the people may themselves decide to whom this privilege should be entrusted. You would be wise, in the long run, not to put yourselves in conflict with the people, who are the rightful owners of the soil in Lesotho.

We, who are charged with the responsibility of improving the economy of the country and safeguarding the welfare of the people, bear a responsibility to all the people without discrimination, and to make it our endeavour to ensure that no section of the people be left behind without lands or employment. We can never achieve lasting peace in Lesotho if we continue to allow one section to live in poverty while another section is rich in lands, salaries, diamonds and other riches. Peace can only be found in Lesotho if we work for the welfare of all the people in Lesotho without discrimination - that is, Chiefs and commoners, white and black. No person should be able to take possession of a number of lands while others are without any land at all. Each should be given an allocation, even if only a small portion, so that every man can be in a position to work his lands with his own hands.

Forward the people of Thesele!

It is true that the road that will lead us to economic independence is a long and hard one, but nothing can beat us if we go forward with a common determination, a common aim and purpose, and the understanding that the welfare of this nation is not the responsibility of the Government alone. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us.

But the most important thing of all is work. God

has .....