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SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER
AT A NATIONAL PITSO AT MAFETENG ON SATURDAY,
6TH DECEMBER, 1969



14 JAN 1970

CHIEFS, CIVIL SERVANTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I GREET YOU!

I am very grateful that you all sacrificed your precious time and even money only to be with me today. Allow me to remind you that I greet you with pride because I do so as a free man greeting free men and women in a free and democratic country. We owe this position to our independence in general. In particular, we owe this freedom to the Basotho National Party members.

Those of us who have travelled to other countries in Africa, Europe, Asia, America, will remember how embarrassed we were when people of other nations were told by the Basotho travellers that Lesotho was a British protectorate. Civil servants and students of other independent African countries despised the Basotho for remaining colonial subjects of the British. Today the position has changed. Lesotho is independent. Basotho students, civil servants, dignitaries, Chiefs, Ministers, teachers etc., move freely and proudly in the free world, well knowing that Lesotho is an independent country. Today Basotho who travel to the Republic of South Africa are given a measure of respect and admiration by South Africans of all races. In other parts of the European, Asian and African continents nations are governed by military governments or hereditary kings, or colonial masters. These men and women yearn for a free democratic society such as obtains here in Lesotho.

Because we are a democratic society I, in accordance with the Lesotho Constitution, approached and advised Motlotlehi to dissolve Parliament. This he did and elections will be held on 27th January, 1970. If we were not a democratic government believing in the right of the Basotho to elect their own government, we would not have called a general election. We maintain and uphold the principle that the Basotho must choose their own government.

People do not want to be ruled by bad rulers, and for this reason elections are a means by which the people can get rid of bad rulers and substitute those who they think or believe are good or better rulers. Elections are also a means by which a nation supports or endorses the actions of a party in power.

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