

I am Prime Minister of Lesotho, your Chairman, Mr. Mtsositsoai Motholo, is the "Prime Minister" of your co-operative society.

One important feature I admire about your society is that you can elect your Chairman and, if you do not like him, you are free to elect another one. Likewise, I was elected Prime Minister by the Basotho men and women - and if they wish to elect another Prime Minister they are free to do so. You have the right to manage your society as long as you operate within the terms of your bye-laws. The Basotho can run their country as long as they operate within the provisions of the Constitution.

I could speak at length trying to show the similarity between the Government and your society. What is important is that my Government and your Society have a common base. It is for this reason that my Government will always support you and you will always support my Government. My presence and your presence here now are sufficient proof of this common bond between us. Above all, Lesotho belongs to all of us.

As I travelled from Khabo's to this village, my vehicle moved on a road which was constructed by you with your own hands, without any foreign assistance. I have been told that a few years back your fertilizer used to be off-loaded at Khabo's - but now co-operative vehicles bring your fertilizer right up to your village. You have helped yourselves and your children. This is self-help. This is independence. A road is a precondition to development. It is a chain that links you up with other parts of Lesotho. Without it, I would have found it difficult to come here. Lesotho is proud of you! This road must be maintained and even improved. In this connection, I will instruct my Food Aid Office and Roads Department to render such assistance as is possible to improve on the work already accomplished.

I am aware that your Society is now 9½ years old. Whilst other societies tumbled and collapsed under the strong winds of Opposition politics, you stood firm and even succeeded in strengthening this Society. I have had reports that you attend meetings of your Society regularly. Your members attend courses organized by the Co-operatives Department and you also organize courses for your members. Consequently, your management and bookkeeping are very satisfactory.

I learn you amended your bye-laws to enable you to improve your livestock marketing of cattle, small stock and pigs direct to the coast and you even realised R3,358 net for

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