

the whole stock. May I take the liberty to inform you that Government has decided on the establishment of a single marketing system, operated by a state-controlled body to be known as the "Lesotho Livestock Marketing Corporation". Co-operatives will be encouraged to take up shareholdings in this Corporation and thus have a voice in policy. I have also directed that a National Planning Consultative Council be formed and that the co-operatives be represented on this Council. In addition, District Planning Consultative Committees will be formed and co-operatives in various districts will be represented on these Committees. The underlying principle is that Government is convinced that no development plan can be realistic without taking into account the views of the people who will implement the plan or who may be affected by its implementation. The National and District Planning Consultative Committees will be consulted on development plans and projects and also given progress reports on the implementation of the plan and projects.

I am greatly encouraged by your achievements, and I would like the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to prepare a full statement of the successes of Boiteko-Kota Thrift and Credit Society for publication throughout the country. Your success will encourage all of our people to do as you are doing. Moreover, this report will create a better image of the Basotho in the world.

In conclusion, let me say that Lesotho belongs to the Basotho. The Basotho should be rewarded for their efforts. There is no better way to safeguard the Basotho than through Basotho independence and self-government. Our safety lies in our self-government (Boipuso).