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SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER
AT INDEPENDENCE PITSO, ON SATURDAY, 4TH
OCTOBER, 1969



YOUR MAJESTIES, HONOURABLE MINISTERS, YOUR EXCELLENCIES,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

13 OCT 1969

At 12 o'clock midnight on the 3rd October, 1966, Motlotlehi, Moshoeshe II, bade farewell to the British Government Representative, Sir Alexander Giles. At that historic moment the British flag descended and the Lesotho flag was hoisted.

Early on the following day, at about 10.15 a.m., Her Royal Highness, Princess Marina - representing Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - handed over to Motlotlehi the Lesotho Constitutional Instruments.

These momentous events took place on this selfsame Pitso ground. Witnessing them were United Nations representatives, the representatives of 49 friendly countries and thousands of jubilant Basotho.

Today, we are gathered here to commemorate those events which took place exactly three years ago, when our country became free and took its rightful place in the community of nations.

What, we may ask, is the political implication of independence? The answer is that we the Basotho, and we alone, should have full control of the government machinery of Lesotho. This means that members of the National Assembly should be the democratically elected representatives of the Basotho and members of the Cabinet should be responsible and answerable only to Parliament. My Government has, to the present date, maintained this constitutional set-up.

The past three years have seen the Government pursuing economic and administrative policies designed to attain social justice and economic self-sufficiency which are the true goals of political independence. As you all know, these goals are gradually being realised on a country-wide scale.

Please allow me to remind you of the message I tried to convey when I spoke here on 4th October, 1966. I said then that the road ahead would not be easy. I stressed that in our march forward into the future, we would not hesitate to

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