

economic and administrative structures of Lesotho and outline a realistic programme of action to free the country from economic stagnation.

Because of the present structure of the economy of Lesotho, Government will play a leading rôle in preparing and implementing development measures. The Five-Year Development Plan will be primarily a public investment plan. Government's expenditure on development will be the main lever for economic development. This is inevitable because of the weakness of our private economic sector.

The implementation of the Five-Year-Development-Plan will call for increased capital and recurrent expenditure. Because of our meagre financial resources, the Government will be obliged to approach friendly organisations and countries to assist with financial, material and expert aid. The plan will form the basis for aid and technical assistance requests. The existence of the plan will undoubtedly be appreciated by foreign aid donors who will be anxious to see that their assistance to Lesotho is used in accordance with specified conditions and priorities designed to expedite the country's economic and social development.

Notwithstanding the absence of a development plan, my Government has, since 4th October, 1966, been pursuing a number of economic activities. Each year, Parliament passed development measures aimed at improving the economic and social position of Lesotho.

During the past three years, my Government identified agriculture and industry as priority sectors. In the field of agriculture our objective has been to diversify and develop agricultural and livestock production in order to provide sufficient foodstuffs for the population while also paying particular attention to the export potential of the commodities produced. Emphasis has also been laid on soil conservation and pasture improvement.

In the field of crop production, seed-multiplication and Certified Seed Production Schemes have been introduced. Whereas before independence all certified seed was purchased from the Republic of South Africa, Lesotho now has 80 acres of land in the mountain areas used for seed multiplication. To offset the effects of the severe droughts which so frequently occur in our country, irrigation schemes have been established in selected places.

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