

It is Government policy to improve the quality of all classes of livestock. To this extent, 30 Livestock Improvement Centres have been built. The Poultry Industry has grown substantially since independence. There are 700 poultry-keepers who have adopted improved methods of husbandry recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture. The poultry population has increased from 5,000 at the end of 1965 to 40,000 to date.

Turning now to industry, Government is aware that in the long run, industrial development is the answer to Lesotho's economic problems. As employment opportunities in agriculture are limited, new ways of providing alternative means of livelihood for our people have to be explored in the secondary and tertiary sectors. My Government has already laid the foundation for the processing of some of our raw materials within the country. We have established the Lesotho National Development Corporation whose major responsibility is to investigate all opportunities for industrial development and try to attract the necessary investment and know-how.

In the two years of its operations, the L.N.D.C. has been instrumental in attracting investments totalling R4,000,000 and is likely to attract far more over the next two or three years.

In the past two years, more has been done for the development of industry in Lesotho than during the whole colonial period of nearly a century. Candle and pottery factories have been established at Kolonyama. The products of a carpet factory, which started production earlier this year, are being sold in Australia, England, Canada and the United States, and the demand far exceeds the supply. A Tyre Retreading Plant has been established and under construction is an international hotel which is expected to attract 60,000 tourists per year to Lesotho and which, when in full operation, will pay more than R400,000 per year in taxes and R16,000 per month in wages. Also under construction in Maseru is a Mobil Training and Services Centre which will cost R160,000.

Our agreements with Lonrho and Rio Tinto to explore professionally our diamond deposits are well known. Rio Tinto alone is already employing more than 300 people at Letseng. Hundreds more are employed in our industries and in the numerous building operations stimulated by the L.N.D.C. Never before has there been so much confidence in the future of Lesotho.

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