

SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER
AT HLEOHENG ON SATURDAY, 5TH JULY, 1969.

In a democratic government the wishes of the people are paramount. The present Government was elected by the people in the General Elections of 1965. Those who do not accept this fact run counter to the wishes of the people. Therefore, whoever disregards the wishes and aspirations of the people, whatever his position or status, is a rebel who has no room in this country.

It is unfortunate that there are such people in Lesotho; they have chosen to become stumbling blocks in the way of progress and the full realisation of the aspirations of our people.

Right here at Hleoheng such obstruction was experienced when some members of the Opposition Party interfered with the construction of a well, as proposed by the Government to assist the people in building it for themselves. Strangely enough, the Opposition Party themselves, have contributed nothing constructive in this vital project. You will, however be glad to know that your Government will go ahead with the construction of the well. I have already given instructions that all the necessary equipment be transported here by next Tuesday, the 8th July, 1969. I exhort you people of Hleoheng to ignore the empty, fruitless politics spread by the Basotho Congress Party. Roll up your shirtsleeves and do what you can for yourselves. Everywhere people are abandoning the B.C.P. because of their destructive criticism and empty promises; they are joining the ranks of the Government Party in self-help projects.

While we all understand and accept the principles of a democratic form of government, the fact that we have a destructive Opposition such as exists here in Lesotho may decide the nation to abolish democracy; but rather than do so by enacting a law to that effect, I would advise you to desert the Opposition, as you are doing so now, until it dies a natural death.

There is yet another point I would like to discuss
here/2.