

SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER
AT MAFETENG ON SUNDAY, 2ND MARCH, 1969

On Saturday, 22nd February, 1969, I attended a huge National Pitso at Rothe, which Chief Mohlalefi Bereng convened so that I could address the Chiefs, Headmen and the multitude of people who had gathered for the occasion.

In short, Chief Mohlalefi and his people expressed their full confidence in the present Government, because by its successful programmes such as the village water system at Rothe, the various self-help projects which involve the construction of roads, dams, communal gardens, etc., this Government has demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt its willingness and determination to help our people. These visible and tangible programmes of direct benefit to the people contrast sharply with the hollow and empty promises of the Opposition.

I am also grateful to you, the Chief of Likhoele - the right-hand man of His Majesty the King - for inviting me to come and address your people here at Mafeteng.

Yesterday I opened officially the village water system at Thabaneng, whose Headman, Chief Sempe Lesaoana, is under your jurisdiction. On Friday I visited Mtjanyane, which is under Chief Mhamha Vova Stokwe Tyahali, for the purpose of opening "Tyahali Road", which was constructed by the people under the self-help programme of road construction with inducement grants from the Government.

I refer to all these schemes at the beginning of my address in order to show this Government's determination to back its words by tangible and visible projects of immediate benefit to the people. We believe actions speak louder than words.

It is unfortunate that there are those who are equally determined to criticise, oppose and destroy all Government schemes to help our people. Yesterday at Thabaneng I was shown a heap of water pipes which had been maliciously destroyed in order to frustrate the works which our Government is doing for and with the people. This damage occurs in other places within Lesotho, not only in respect of village water supplies, but also in conservation works such as tree planting, whose dual purpose is to provide anti-erosion measures and at a later date to provide our people with firewood. Nevertheless, these enemies of the nation - out of malice and bigotry -
pull out.....