

pull out the newly planted trees at night. The Government is taking a serious view of these acts and where the culprits are apprehended they are dealt with immediately according to law.

Those who oppose this Government criticise us for wasting national funds on overseas trips. They deliberately overlook the fact that it is through these trips that today Lesotho has many friends abroad who are assisting it with indispensable aid. By way of an illustration, I would remind you of the United States self-help grants, the Peace Corps, whose services on village water schemes are well known, the transport and food received through Catholic Relief Services, as well as the voluntary assistance from Crossroads Africa - all these are the direct results of my overseas trips. The same can be said of the medical doctors from Korea, the aircraft for the Flying Doctor Service from the Republic of West Germany and many other forms of valuable assistance from other friendly Governments which cannot all be mentioned by name. This is of course also true in respect of the various international, inter-governmental and voluntary agencies, among which I would like to mention the specialist doctors' Shuttle Service from the Republic of South Africa, which was organized through the efforts of my friend and industrial adviser, Dr. A. Rupert. Before this shuttle service commenced all medical cases requiring specialist treatment had to be sent to Bloemfontein. Today all such cases can be attended to in Maseru. From the operation of the Shuttle Service the Government realized a saving of R93,000, which would formerly have been spent in Bloemfontein. Last, but not least, let me mention the Dakota aircraft which the Republic of South Africa lent to Lesotho for transporting food for work to Mashai. This is also a result of co-operative co-existence with South Africa and visits abroad. To our dismay, the Opposition labels these visits a waste of money, but fails to mention the many benefits that Lesotho is deriving from them.

One of the most expensive inheritances of this Government arose out of the District Councils which Mr. Ntsu Mokhehle and his Deputy, Mr. G. Ramoreboli, administered and controlled. Although the District Councils have been abolished for some time now, we are still paying off the debts which they incurred. These were no less than R150,000. One scheme which you, the people of Mafeteng, will remember very well is the Farmech Scheme.

But what could be more wasteful of national funds than...