

than the absenteeism of Opposition Members from Parliament? Since Parliament opened (you remember how they clamoured for it!) they have not been taking their seats in the House. But at the end of the month they expect their monthly salaries from the national coffers. What could be more contradictory in their behaviour than this? How do they justify their election to Parliament. How do they represent your interests? By absenting themselves from the House? I hope not. Surely you deserve better representation in the House of Parliament than you are now getting from the Opposition ranks.

The actions and behaviour of our Opposition in Lesotho show that their criticism and opposition is not constructive. Their opposition is one of obstruction to progress in nation-building and economic development; it is one of rebellion and subversion of national interest. But we on the Government side are not surprised, particularly when we recall their verbal promises and pronouncements which were printed in "Mohlalani", which was later renamed "Makatolle". We will recall their opposition to the Church of God and those dedicated to Christian service; they opposed the Chiefs and Headmen and, indeed, the whole institution of Chieftainship; they criticised the traders and violently opposed the right of women to vote, and they criticised and opposed vehemently co-operation without subservience with the Republic of South Africa. Nowhere did they ever raise a finger against or criticise the communists for their deprivation of human freedoms and liberties. Let me therefore make this known: whoever co-operates with or jointly undertakes ventures with the Opposition, whether it be the Church of God, Priests, Nuns and Brothers, other Christians or traders, he is a traitor to the Church of God, to the Chieftainship and to the national cause which stands for progress and the betterment of life for all. Anyone who engages in such activities deserves our Government's combined opposition.

Let us look for a moment at what would happen if the Opposition were to be elected to form a government on their declared policy of non-collaboration and non-co-operation with the Republic of South Africa. Every month the people who cross at Ficksburg Bridge to go for medical attention, wholesale and retail shopping number some 25,000; those crossing at Maseru number some 24,000, while those crossing at Van Rooyen's Gate amount to 11,000. This is to say nothing of those who cross at other points around Lesotho. The numbers of Basotho working in the South African Coal Mines are 5,995, at the Kimberley Diamond Mines 1,371, and those working in the Gold Mines average. . . .