

RADIO TALK BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER

(For release at midnight on 7th March, 1969)

It has been reported to me that the Opposition is boasting that it will delay the registration of electors in order to disrupt registration, confuse enumerators and show that inefficient enumerators have been appointed.

It has been further reported to me that in some enumerators' areas Opposition supporters have interfered actively with registration, and have caused disturbances at the Pitsos at which registration took place.

It has also come to my notice that falsehoods have been published in the Opposition Press designed to bring the registration of electors and the enumerators under suspicion and into disrepute. In addition, there have also appeared of late cowardly attacks on election officials, who cannot reply to these attacks because of their position as civil servants.

In view of these reprehensible tactics on the part of the Opposition, I feel it my duty as Prime Minister to make it clear to the entire electorate of Lesotho that the general registration of electors is a lawful exercise - I repeat lawful exercise - duly promulgated by the Honourable the Deputy Prime Minister in terms of Section 9(1) of the Electoral Act 1963. The enumerators and witnesses again have been lawfully appointed - I repeat lawfully appointed - by the various electoral officers in the Districts in terms of Section 4(2)(b) of the Electoral Act 1968 and Section 3 of the Registration of Electors Regulations 1968.

It is therefore the responsibility of every member of the electorate of Lesotho - of whatsoever Party affiliation - to assist in the due and lawful process of registration and facilitate the efforts of the enumerators, who have an onerous duty to perform and are acting solely in their capacity as civil servants. Not only this, but I cannot too strongly emphasise that it is also the bounden duty of the Parliamentary Opposition to share equally and impartially with Government the responsibility of seeing that full and proper registration of voters is carried out in a lawful and orderly manner. This is the only course of action that will satisfy the interests not only of all the political Parties concerned but indeed of the electorate as a whole.

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