

NEW YEAR MESSAGE TO THE NATION BY THE HONOURABLE
THE PRIME MINISTER, CHIEF LEAEUA JONATHAN,
BROADCAST ON WEDNESDAY, 31ST DECEMBER, 1969

In my New Year message of good wishes, I would like to repeat my usual appeal to you, our people. I have before stressed the fact that the future of our country is in our own hands. The future of Lesotho is the responsibility of every Mosotho.

In 1969 we enjoyed success, peace and stability in a much greater measure than we had ever done before. The reason for this was that our people, in general, joined hands with Government in the service of their country. Such positive co-operation enabled them to ward off whatever enemies of progress were lurking and threatening. In 1969 we were able to achieve a number of things within a very short period - things we could not achieve in the 100 years of the colonial régime.

More than 80 miles of tarred road, as well as 180 miles of gravel roads were constructed in various parts of the country through the "Self-Help Volunteer Services". Hundreds of communal gardens were started in many villages. Today our people are able to obtain fresh and clean water in abundance. This was all through Government aid and the enthusiasm shown by members of the "Self-Help Volunteers". Today medical services can be supplied to various villages through clinics built in 1969.

In general, the people of Lesotho, with the assistance of Government, have been able to achieve a number of things in order to raise their standard of living. But that is not the end; more work has yet to be done. In 1970 Government will seek ways and means of strengthening the Self-Help Volunteers, and my appeal to those who have not yet joined this organisation, which is doing valuable work, is that they join these hundreds of men and women who have already made sacrifices to serve their country.

In order that we continue to maintain economic and social stability, every Mosotho should pursue such occupation as will encourage productivity. We should show enthusiasm in co-operative activities such as Credit Unions because these are a unifying factor.

You will be pleased to know that Government, on your behalf, has established diplomatic relations with 21 free
countries