



21 OCT 1969

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRIME MINISTER'S BROADCAST TO
THE NATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST INDEPENDENCE
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, SEPTEMBER, 1969

Twelve months ago today, we celebrated the restoration of our National Independence and Sovereignty. At the same time, we pledged ourselves to making a success of Independence : we declared our intention to create a new world for ourselves, socially and economically. That was commendable.

Tonight, we would all be failing in our duty as citizens if we associated the country's independence anniversary celebrations with only pleasure, excitement, and the end of foreign rule. For this is an Occasion for us all to retrospectively consider whether we have made a praiseworthy start towards creating a prosperous Swaziland. Indeed, we have to devote some time today, to pondering over what we as individuals and as a nation have done to improve the various sectors of the country's economy.

Government has, for its part, taken vigorous action during the past year to ensure that increased social and economic services as well as facilities are provided. And for the first time, a national development plan in which are spelled out our development objectives, has been published. In order to facilitate all forms of development, a department of Planning and Statistics has been created in my office.

The first post-independence year has seen, amongst other things, significant secondary school expansion. New junior secondary schools have been established at Ekukhanyeni, Entfonjeni, Edwaleni, Ebenezer, Mhlume, Nomahasha, Stegi and Ikwezi. In order to cope with the fast increasing secondary school enrolment, a Two-Year Post School Certificate (Cambridge Ordinary Level) Teacher's Course was introduced at the William Pitcher College, earlier in the year. Primary school enrolment has/ from 62,000 in 1968 to 65,000 this year with an increase of 100 teachers above last year's figure. To date, 75% of the senior administrative and inspectorate personnel in the Ministry of Education is local, the rest being expatriate on short term contracts.

The significance of this development is that more pupils and students have, since independence, been absorbed into not only our primary and secondary schools but also into our government teacher training college. Hence bigger numbers of either primary or secondary school completors are able to proceed to secondary schools, technical schools, or university; and provided this type of progress is maintained, and more funds are found we should, before very long, reach our target of universal, free primary education in this country.

Already this year as a result of our secondary school expansion programme, there are about 100 Swazi students at the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. And this represents the biggest number of students Government has yet sponsored for degree courses at the U.B.L.S.

When the William Pitcher College Expansion Programme is completed, it is expected that the total annual enrolment at the Manzini Nazarene Teacher Training College and the William Pitcher College, will be 360. Necessary arrangements are being made for the establishment of a Polytechnic Institute which should assist in training young Swazi Men and Women in a variety of trades and skills and in speeding up our localisation programme in both the public and private sectors.

Moves have begun/