

Moves have begun to disperse the U.B.L.S. in such a way that part one courses in some subjects can be offered in Swaziland while others go to Botswana. This is a welcome development which should enable all our Cambridge Certificate completors to proceed to Degree Courses unrestricted by accommodation shortage. Government expects that this Programme will begin within the next twelve months.

Additional junior secondary schools will be erected at Eric Rosenberg, Zombodze, Bhunya, and Nkambeni during the 1969/70 period. The Peak English Medium School will be converted into a junior secondary school. New primary schools will be established at the Gilgal, Old Florence, Tambankulu, and Elulakeni areas.

The Sebenta National Institute continues to spearhead the fight against adult illiteracy in the country. I would urge those who have not yet taken advantage of Sebenta's literacy courses to do so without delay. This is because the importance of the written word today cannot be over-emphasised, and world events during our time silently stress one thing: the pen is mightier than the sword.

Erection of our Public Library in Manzini is nearing completion. And I do hope that once the library has been opened members of the public, especially teachers and students who are constantly in search for knowledge, will make full use of the facilities which will be available therein. We more than ever before need informed minds in this country today, and the library in question can effectively assist those of us who can read to inform ourselves on a variety of subjects.

Our Agricultural sector has been hard hit by the severe drought which has adversely affected both crops and animals. In view of this setback, Government has approached the United Nations World Food Organisation about the possibility of famine relief supplies. I am glad to say that the World Food Organisation has responded favourably on this score; and details of the relief scheme will be released later.

It is, nevertheless, encouraging to realise that the Mpfu scheme which was introduced by His Majesty last year has, against natural odds, proved a great success. It is hoped that this type of scheme will extend to other districts as part of a Swazi National Land Development Programme.

Devaluation of the pound sterling and other factors beyond Government's control have given rise to problems in the marketing of certain primary products. Hence primary products processing industries and exporters have regrettably realised lower earnings during the year.

Plans are afoot for improving the rural sector particularly as regards irrigation facilities, the livestock industry, crop production and land use planning. Additional farmer training centres are being established to cater for the demands of each district. A team of agricultural experts is due to arrive shortly from Taiwan to help in training local farmers in modern farming techniques. In addition, an agricultural vocational training programme will be mounted in the near future to absorb principally the school "drop outs".

As part of a technical co-operation programme, the Government of Israel has sent an expert to this country to help in mobilising and training our youth in mainly agriculture. Within the next year a youth camp will be established at which the necessary training will take place. Such a scheme will assist in preparing the youth for their responsibilities in the post-independence Kingdom of Swaziland. It should also give such regiments as the Goina and the Inkanyezi Yelanga a meaningful start in life.