

Our road network has been improved, although much more remains to be done. Notable achievements in this connection are the new Grand Valley road, and the high standard bitumenised road at Big Bend. Several other roads linking our urban and industrial centres have been improved for the benefit of all citizens and tourists.

Many Post Offices in the rural areas which prior to independence provided restricted services have now been upgraded to the cash accounts level. Achievements in the telecommunications section include the completion of a 42-mile open-wire trunk telephone route between Mbabane and the Manzini main telephone exchanges.

The Swaziland Electricity Board has more than doubled its generating capacity to, I believe, the joy of all the country's industries; and sales of electricity have risen by 42%. The Swaziland Railway has over the past year carried an increased iron ore tonnage.

Work continues on the United Nations comprehensive survey of the water and land resources of the Usutu Basin. The aim of this survey which earlier in the year extended to the three northern basins - Mbuluzi, Komati and Lomati - is to determine the potential of the river basins involved for irrigation and hydro-electric power. Shortly, it will be possible to identify the logical first stage of development of the Usutu Basin.

New programmes of the water, Telecommunications, Swaziland Electricity Board and the Swaziland Railway services will affect a number of areas in the Shiselweni, Manzini and Hhohho Districts.

Fresh town plans for a ten-year growth of Mbabane and Manzini have been completed. Progress is being made in constructing low cost houses in Mbabane; and plans are in hand for introducing a similar scheme in Manzini. Consideration is being given to the establishment of a national housing authority which should handle the country's housing programme.

A juvenile reformatory situated at Mdtshane will be completed soon. And it is hoped that such an institution will play a positive role in reforming the many juveniles who run into unnecessary trouble. A great deal of community development work has been done, resulting in several classrooms, water dams, farmers' sheds, health clinics and women's workshops being established through, mainly, community effort.

It is often said that a healthy mind and a healthy body do and must go together. Government, conscious of this fact and desirous to build a strong, healthy and prosperous nation has directed its efforts to, amongst others, expanding health services in the kingdom. Sympathetic countries and organisations have through varied contributions bolstered the endeavour to increase what medical facilities were available when we entered upon independence. Hence we now have a new, equipped X-Ray building as well as physiotherapy block in Mbabane. The Mbabane, Pigg's Peak, Mankaiana and Hlatikulu Government Hospitals, including the Matsapha Mental Institute, have been extended. A Public Health Centre, and a Public Health Unit have been established at Manzini and Hlatikulu respectively.

A new Health Centre in Mbabane is nearing completion. Additional clinics will be erected at Mathanjeni and at Singceni, while a mobile eye clinic will come into operation shortly. Also to be established is a rehabilitation centre at which will be trained the handicapped for specific jobs.