

BROADCAST TO THE NATION BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRIME  
MINISTER, CHIEF LEABUA JONATHAN, ON THE BASOTHO WHO  
DIED AT BUFFELSFONTEIN MINE.

13TH NOVEMBER, 1969.

---

Having obtained clear information in regard to the tragic disaster at Buffelsfontein Mine near Klerksdorp in South Africa where 60 people died, of whom 54 were Basotho, I wish to take this opportunity on behalf of the Government of Lesotho and people in general to convey our heartfelt sympathies to the families and relations of the victims of the disaster. I also wish to inform the relatives of the victims and the Basotho that the Government nominated Chief Joel Molapo of the Rand Agencies to represent the Government and our people at the funeral.

I also wish to appeal to the Basotho as a whole, both in Lesotho, and those working in the Republic of South Africa that much as you know I have established a National Disaster Fund, it would be a gracious act of sympathy to give whatever you can afford and to send it to the Secretary of the National Disaster Fund, Mr. Desmond Taylor at Food Aid Programme, P.O. Box 686, Maseru, so that the Government would be in the position to help those adversely affected by the disaster. In the same spirit I also appeal to all our friends and other people in Lesotho and in the Republic of South Africa who would wish to help us. However, this appeal should be without prejudice to any relief measures to be taken by the employers under the Workmen's Compensation claims which will take their normal course, but it is designed to reinforce whatever Mine employers will contribute. Therefore, I have a sincere hope that every Basotho in Lesotho and the ones working in the Republic of South Africa will make a concerted effort to give a helping hand to the National Disaster Fund. This tragedy affects us all. Here is my appeal to all Basotho.