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PRESS RELEASE.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

22nd November, 1966.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Chief S. Maseribane, told members of the Lesotho Chamber of Commerce at their annual dinner on Saturday evening that the Government fully appreciated the need for vigorous and successful commercial expansion.

"It is our intention to do all we can to stimulate this expansion," he said. "We are not merely determined to maintain the necessary basic conditions of law and order, security and the rule of law, it is also our intention to do whatever lies in our power to improve communications to stimulate industrialisation and to exploit such resources as we have in the effort to raise the living standards of our people.

"We are confident that the commercial community will play its full part as our ally in achieving these objects, in the full realisation that it cannot fail to share in the benefits which will result."

The Deputy Prime Minister assured the Chamber of the importance attached by the Government of Lesotho to the well-being and development of the private sector of the economy of the country, and the regard which the Government had for the commercial community.

"Historically, the trading community has played a most important part in the evolution of Lesotho, and it is particularly gratifying to my Government to see the old associations between Lesotho and many well-known trading families continuing from one generation to another. There could be no better assurance of confidence and stability. My Government looks forward with confidence to the long continuation of these old friendships in the new independent Lesotho," Chief Maseribane said.

"Some of you will ask what that new independent Lesotho means for you. Inevitably there will be change, but we intend that it will be change for the better and to the mutual advantage of all who live and work in our country. The only alternative to it would be a stagnation which would destroy not only our commerce but every other form of national activity and prosperity."