

The major achievement of all was the progress made in economic development. My Government presented to the nation the Second Five Year Development Plan, outlining the objectives of Government for the coming five years. The principal objective of the Second Five Year Development Plan is to increase our agricultural productivity a hundred fold so that the Basotho should be self-sufficient in all aspects of agriculture. If we look back at the recent past years we will realise that even though such progress is being made in agricultural development, we are still far behind in self-sufficiency of food production. We are still greatly dependent on outside food supplies. It is necessary on this account, that in commencing the new year we should bear in our minds the wise words of the ancient Mosotho sage that, "Real prosperity is the outcome of self-help". For us to reach the full stature of maturity as a self-governing nation we ought to work harder than we are doing. We should plough in time; apply the correct methods of cultivation, and be assured that our food production will be sufficient to feed the entire community including the people who have not had the opportunity to plough the land because of its shortage.

Whilst on this point I wish to refer to the cultivation which has been undertaken by the Government and the people jointly on a half-share basis, which I choose to name anti-starvation agriculture. This was a new venture in the history of this country. Government undertook the cultivation of wheat and potatoes jointly with some farmers on a half-share basis, as an experiment, the success of which could not be guaranteed by anybody. I am happy to say to you that the wheat produce was so successful that the owners of the lands were given a pleasant surprise. The grain baskets will overflow with corn.

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