

Because of this success, my intention and that of my Government, is that we should undertake this cultivation on a half-share basis with the people on a larger scale. There is a Sesotho adage, "that full strength derives from good sustenance." I therefore implore the whole nation to launch a vigorous campaign in all agricultural projects so that in the next five years Lesotho should be fully self-sufficient in food production, and even manage to have a surplus for export, of the produce of the country. What is required is sound co-operation directed towards one objective.

You will remember that in the years which have just passed a population census was conducted and statistics indicated that there had been an alarming population explosion. This means that as from the new year we shall be compelled to feed many more mouths than during the outgoing year. Unless we are to accept the education we are being given and the value of preserving the soil and applying improved methods of agriculture, it will not be possible to feed and bring up the new generation, the men and women of tomorrow. In the past we were given food aid by other countries. When one listens to news about the various countries of the world, one hears of shortages of foodstuffs all over. It is our duty to make a resolution to raise agriculture throughout the country with the intention of moulding a physically health nation.

In the Second Five Year Development Plan we have stated that the impact of economic development should be that the benefits and results of independence should be directed to the rural communities in the mountain areas; in other words they should be directed to the eighty per cent of the population which lives outside the urban areas, and which subsists on agriculture.

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