

Your grandfathers and forefathers have left you an inheritance which was bought with indescribable sacrifice; for the simple reason that they wanted your future and that of your children assured. The Basotho have always had a particular respect for their departed forebearers who have done so much for posterity. They have always honoured them. No Mosotho wishes his grave to be cursed by posterity because he has failed his country in the time of need. You can consider yourselves most fortunate in this part of Africa for your forefathers preserved this country for you while people like yourselves have become slaves in the country of their forefathers because their country was conquered. For what you have received you have great responsibility to ensure that this country is handed over to your successors with much better improvements than you inherited. You owe a great debt to this nation, but perhaps the greatest is the love you owe the country. It is incumbent upon you to show in a tangible way the love of your country. The love for your country will help to overcome all the problems, for where there is love there are no insurmountable problems. Let me once again remind you what I said during the past decade - namely, that what should be uppermost in your minds should not be "what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." I appeal to you to make this your New Year resolution. There is no doubt that your country needs urgent assistance, but what it needs most are dedicated people. I pray that your children may live to honour rather than curse your graves.

It is fitting that as we enter the new year I should remind you of the words of wisdom of the Founder of this Nation, for the critical circumstances also require that you should be reminded of them. He said, "U ka nketsang ha e ahe motse, motse ho aha oa morapeli". This has no English equivalent but the closest translation is as follows: "There is no need to use force, where you can achieve your goal by diplomacy". To-day our country is