

GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, THE
HON. CHIEF SETHO LETSIE, ON THE RESTRICTIONS
WHICH WERE IMPOSED YESTERDAY

12th October, 1966.

Maseru is in the grip of the most severe water shortage the town has ever experienced. The Caledon River, from where we normally draw our water, has completely dried up. We are now dependent on the three-million gallon storage reservoir at the intake works, which is at present being filled from the various small dams in the area. When full, the reservoir would normally be sufficient for one week's supply. With the water restrictions imposed yesterday, with water mains closed at all times except from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., our storage should now last for at least three weeks.

These are the facts which we believe the public should know if they are to co-operate with us in the desperate struggle that lies ahead. The shortage of water affects us all: without water, many of our essential services will be unable to function.

We therefore appeal to all residents to accept with good grace the emergency measures which have necessarily had to be imposed. We ask for their co-operation and their assistance. Until the rains come, the town must be considered to be at war. Every drop of water is precious: every drop of water wasted derides the effort and the sacrifice which we ask everyone to make.

We cannot stress/...