

MRA

BACKGROUND TO BASUTOLAND

Mr. Joel Mohapeloa, CBE, who has had a distinguished public career in Basutoland, and is now serving on the Public Service and Constitutional Commissions, addressed the MRA Conference which met in Roma, Basutoland, for two weeks this month.

Pointing out how closely we in our present age are knit, Mr.

Mohapeloa emphasised the need of a new dimension in people's thinking. He cautiously explained that Basutoland's economic structure is precariously viable. "Our greatest export is labour," he said. "Agriculture is the backbone of our economy."

Mr. Mohapeloa gave a brief outline of Basutoland's constitutional advance from a National Council of Chiefs to its present position on the threshold of independence.

In answer to a question, Mr. Mohapeloa said: "Basutoland will get its independence, but whether it gets its freedom depends on me, you, and all of us here."

"Much had been done, but much has been undone." This he attributed to the lack of public relation soil erosion, the speaker said:

Replying to another question on work needed to prepare Basuto people for the necessary agricultural techniques.

"No private property," he said, "exists in Basutoland, all private property being held in trust for the people by the Paramount Chief."

Mr. Mohapeloa's final words were: "We must be forward looking; we must not spend too much time thinking of yesterday and its hurts for this is the breeding ground for hate and bitterness."