

News from the DLN

Welcome to the last newsletter in 2016. Hope you will have a pleasant time reading it and view all the nice photos.



DLN wishes all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017.



AGM in DLN is 18th March 2017.

Sæt X i kalenderen **18. marts 2017**, hvor DLN afholder det årlige **GF i Århus**. Vi glæder os til at se så mange som muligt.

A new cultural trip to Lesotho has been planned for 2nd to 17th November 2017. We are really looking much forward to the trip.

Ny kulturrejse til Lesotho er planlagt til 2. – 17. november 2017. Der er 20 pladser og det er først til mølle, så kontakt os endelig, så du er sikret en plads. Se programmet på hjemmesiden www.lumela.dk

“Speech to Rural Self-help Development Association on its 25th Anniversary - a tribute”

From: Denmark Lesotho Network

Dear RSDA farmers, dear RSDA farmer groups, dear RSDA friends and supporters, dear RSDA Board, dear RSDA business relations, dear RSDA Staff, dear all of us.

KHOTSO, PULA, NALA

God bless Lesotho

HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY TO RSDA.

Rural self-help Development Association, was registered as a non-governmental organisation on December 9th, 1991. **Today the December 9th, 2016, we are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Rural self-help Development Association.**

And we do celebrate because there is EVERY REASON TO CELEBRATE.

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Membership of DLN

RSDA – you have made things happen. Dear RSDA farmers, dear RSDA farmer groups, dear RSDA friends and supporters, dear RSDA Board, dear RSDA business relations, dear RSDA Staff, dear all of us. **Together – we have made things happen.**



All of us being here have shared the RSDA vision being **“A Lesotho where every person’s right to quality food is assured”**. All of us being here, knows as well, that when we are talking food we are talking about farmers. **Dear RSDA farmers. Every year, every month, every day you are working to make this happen. Together with RSDA – you make food grow.**

The mission of RSDA is to support farmers in Lesotho by providing advisory services for sustainable agriculture, by adding value in support of marketing of farmers’ products and by capacity building and advocacy support of sustainable farmers’ organisations, **to ensure the right of every Basotho to quality food.**

Over the past 25 years of its existence RSDA has built a commendable track record and experience as a provider of advisory and support services to the smallholder farmers in Lesotho on both crops and livestock. As a national leader in technical and capacity support to small holder farmers RSDA has unique experience engaging with farmers at community level. This unique advantage has been supported by RSDA’s physical presence in the field through placement of Animators. This presence has allowed RSDA to be aware of the constraints, issues and needs at farmer level.

RSDA staff have enhanced livelihoods and built resilient communities by activating the self-help potential of the rural Basotho to help themselves, working collaboratively and in partnerships with other stakeholders. RSDA employees have assisted RSDA-farmers by providing trainings, information, facilitation and other resources which have helped them to ensure the right of every Basotho to quality food. Together with RSDA farmers, RSDA farmer groups, RSDA friends and supporters, RSDA Board, RSDA business relations, **RSDA Staff have made things happen.**

Through the implementation of a range of agricultural projects RSDA has developed an understanding of the formation, the support and scaling up of farmers groups in a sustainable way. RSDA has during the years implemented and gained experience in implementing internationally financed projects as both national projects and also as part of Regional projects covering several Countries.



RSDA is a recognized NGO in Lesotho, both within the civil society movement and as a partner of the Lesotho government. RSDA is also recognised in the Southern African Region through representation in various governing and advisory boards such as Lesotho Council of NGOs and PELUM (an organisation focusing on promoting sustainable agriculture and resource management through community-based activities). **RSDA Friends and supporters have made things happen.** Internationally, RSDA has been supported by a long winding road of donors. Some of us being here today. RSDA has thus proven itself capable of carrying out substantial development projects in cooperation with international donors.

Dear RSDA farmers, Dear RSDA farmer groups, dear RSDA friends and supporters, dear RSDA Board, dear RSDA business relations, dear RSDA Staff. Denmark Lesotho Network is so happy to be recognised as a partner to RSDA. More than half your lifetime RSDA, RSDA and DENMARK LESOTHO NETWORK have been partners. **Partners have made things happen.**

Due to persistent positive experiences and strong personal connections, the partnership between RSDA and DLN has separated itself from every other partnership. The partnership between DLN and RSDA is a true partnership. Equal of equals, mutually shared. **Together we have made things happen.**

Dear RSDA farmers. You Basotho farmers are known for living very independently, but through the RSDA farmer groups you have learned to cooperate and to take common ownership when beneficial. This has strengthened your communities as a whole. Through the RSDA farmer groups you have taken responsibility for your life, your family and for your community. **RSDA farmers have made things happen.**

This is exactly the same way farmers in Denmark have been living and taken the responsibility for their families, their communities and the country of Denmark. Through farmer groups and cooperation's, Danish farmers have developed and strengthened the food production of Denmark thus given food and prosperity to all of the Danish people.

Dear RSDA farmers, dear RSDA farmer groups, dear RSDA friends and supporters, dear RSDA Board, dear RSDA business relations, dear RSDA staff you are moving the same way as the Danish farmers did and are doing. **RSDA - You are heading towards victory.**

KHOTSO, PULA, NALA

God bless Lesotho

HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY TO RSDA (and all of us).



News from the Board

By Marie Villumsen

The DPE group has been busy planning and implementing the visit from our partner, Development for Peace Education (DPE). National Coordinator, Sofonea Shale and Peace Education Researcher Mabataung Secker travelled the country and met with DLN members and various organisations. You can read more about the visit elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Nis and Solveig from the RSDA group are travelling to Lesotho in December to join the celebration of RSDA's 50th anniversary.

In the Committee we have focussed on our internal organisational and strategic issues. In September we went through CISU's Accountability Dialogue Tool to assess our internal work routines and in November we will follow up on the decisions made at the AGM and the Vision Day in April.

We have also made space for social and cosy get-together events for members. In September

Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Af Marie Villumsen

I DPE gruppen har der været travlt med at planlægge og afholde besøget fra vores partner, Development for Peace Education. National Coordinator Sofonea Shale og Peace Education Researcher Mabataung Secker var rundt i landet for at mødes med DLN's medlemmer og forskellige organisationer. Du kan læse om besøget senere i nyhedsbrevet.

Nis og Solveig fra RSDA gruppen rejser til Lesotho i december, hvor de vil være med til at fejre RSDA's 50 års jubilæum.



I bestyrelsen har vi haft fokus på de interne

24 members joined the Pitso we had organised. And two dinner parties for members were organised to meet our visitors from DPE:



One in Aarhus hosted by Karina Ruby, where 14 members attended to greet and dine with our guests from Lesotho, and one hosted by Grete Mygind in Copenhagen where 6 members participated.

DLN Pitso September 3rd 2016 in Aarhus

By: Anna Marie Haslund

Jubii, once again an invitation to come for a Pitso in DLN, this time in Aarhus and including visits from Sofonea Shale and other African friends. There were no doubts in our minds – we wanted to join. We went back home from Lesotho 16 years ago, so why is it so important to maintain the community? Because more than three years of family- and working life in Lesotho has an impact on your future life. It is nice ballast in life to carry forward. But a busy everyday life in Denmark means that memories and the period are no longer quite so clear. It is like a beautiful parcel that you cannot bring into focus continuously. It is placed at the back of the cupboard and gathers a bit of dust. But this is where DLN and the Pitso'es enter the picture. The dust is removed from the parcel, memories are allowed to flow freely and the joy of a wonderful and important time flowers. Thus full of expectations we set out from South

organisatoriske og strategiske forhold i foreningen. I september gennemgik vi CISU's Accountability Dialogue Tool for at vurdere vores interne arbejdsgange og i november følger vi op på de beslutninger, der blev taget på generalforsamlingen og visionsdagen i april.

Der har også været plads til hygge og socialt samvær med medlemmerne. I september afholdt vi en Pitso hvor 24 medlemmer var mødt frem. Der blev arrangeret to middage for medlemmerne for at møde vores gæster fra DPE. En i Århus hos Karina Ruby, hvor 14 medlemmer kom for at hilse på og spise med, og en i København hos Grete Mygind, hvor 6 medlemmer deltog.

DLN Pitso d. 3. september 2016 i Århus

Af: Anna Marie Haslund

Jubii, endnu engang blev der indkaldt til Pitso i DLN, denne gang i Århus og med besøg af Sofonea Shale og andre afrikanske venner. Der var ingen tvivl i vores hoveder – vi ville med!



Det er 16 år siden, vi rejste hjem fra Lesotho, så hvorfor er det så vigtigt at holde ved fællesskabet? Fordi mere end tre års familie- og arbejdsliv i Lesotho sætter sit præg på livet fremover. Det er en dejlig ballast i livsbagagen. Men en travl arbejds- og hverdag i Danmark

Funen towards Aarhus with car and dog. While the dog was taken care of by a student daughter it was more difficult to find parking for the Berlingo in central Aarhus, but quite a sum of money finally solved the problem at the top of Salling, the supermarket.



Fortunately, DLN is able to attract new participants, either through the culture travels, or though other sorts of interest in this, our second homeland. In any case, one meets a good mixture of 'old' friends and new supporters of Lesotho. However unfortunately not our African visitors who did not obtain visa for Denmark on time. I can only encourage more former DWs to join. It is overwhelmingly cosy! There was a lot of taking at the tables, memories were refreshed, new stories were told, and updates on the work of DLN were circulated. The food was enjoyed in an atmosphere of cosy disorder, and then it was time to watch the Lesotho movie: The Forgotten Kingdom. For two hours we participated in a cultural travel to Lesotho's villages, mountains, nature and people in a universal love affair that went straight to our hearts and urged a desire to go back. There was not a dry eye after the film.

It was then time to visit the World Mirror Festival quite close to where the Pitso was held. On this late Saturday afternoon the festival was quite quiet, but we nonetheless experienced a good sensory-boom of African culture, clothes, jewellery, food and people. And not least, we continued strolling around,

gør, at minderne og tiden ikke står så lysende længere. Det er som en smuk pakke, som man ikke hele tiden kan tage frem og fokusere på. Pakken kommer til at stå bagest i skabet og samle lidt støv. Men her kommer DLN og Pitsoerne ind i billedet. Så bliver støvet børstet af pakken, minderne får lov at myldre frem og glæden over en dejlig og vigtig tid får lov at blomstre. Således forventningsfulde drog vi fra Sydfyn til Århus med bil og hund. Hunden blev sat i pleje hos den studerende datter, det var straks værre at finde parkeringspladser i midtbyen til Berlingoen, men en god klat betaling klarede problemet på toppen af Salling.

Heldigvis formår DLN at samle nye deltagere, enten fra rejserne til Lesotho, eller ud af anden interesse for vores dejlige, andet hjemland. I hvert fald møder man en god blanding af 'gamle' venner og nye Lesotho-støtter. Dog ikke vores afrikanske gæster, som ikke kunne få visa til Danmark.

Jeg vil opfordre endnu flere tidlige DW'ere til at møde op. Det er knusende hyggeligt! Snakken gik livligt ved bordene, minder blev genopfrisket, nye historier blev fortalt, og opdateringer om DLN's arbejde cirkulerede. Maden blev nydt under stor hyggelig uro og så var det tid til at se Lesotho-filmen The Forgotten Kingdom.



I to timer blev vi hensat til en kulturel rejse til Lesothos landsbyer, bjerge, natur og befolkning i en universel kærlighedshistorie, som gik lige i hjertet og gav længsel tilbage.

chatting to each other in a good African spirit.



Finally, a group 'disappeared' into Aarhus Festival Week, but we had to collect the dog and turn our car back towards South Funen, filled with the impressions of the day. We look forward to the next Pitso and hope to meet lots of new as well as old Lesotho people.

Ikke et øje var tørt efter filmen.

Derefter var det tid til at besøge Verdensspejl Festivalen, som foregik få skridt fra Stiften Lounge, hvor Pitsoen blev holdt. Her sidst lørdag eftermiddag var der ret roligt på festivalen, men vi fik alligevel et godt sanseboom af afrikansk kultur, tøj, smykker, mad og mennesker. Og ikke mindst strolkede vi rundt i små grupper og fik igen snakket sammen i en god afrikansk ånd.

Til slut forsvandt en gruppe ud i Århus Festuge, men vi måtte hente hund og vende bilen tilbage mod det sydfynske, godt mætte af dagens oplevelser. Vi ser frem til næste Pitso og håber at møde masser af nye og gamle Lesotho-folk.

Citizen involvement in Haderslev

By: Solveig Kappel og Nis K. Skau

Sofone Shale and Mabataung Secker's visit to Haderslev and surrounding country , November 3rd 2016

Hosts were Solveig Kappel and Nis K. Skau, member of DLN and project group RSDA. Haderslev municipality has 54.000 inhabitants and includes a large rural area. In Haderslev as in the rest of the world there is migration from rural to urban areas. Rural areas lose jobs and the communities are challenged as young people leave for education and jobs elsewhere. We received Shale and Mabataung at Vojens railroad station at 12.30. We made a short tour of Vojens, a town with currently app. 8.000 inhabitants, whereas it was only a small village some 150 years back. Then the railroad was built during WW I and during WW II the German occupiers built a large airport. After the war the airport was further extended and industries flourished during the 1960s. Today there are fewer jobs in industry and part of the

Borgerinddragelse i Haderslev

Af: Solveig Kappel og Nis K. Skau

Sofonea Shale og Mabataung Seckers besøg i Haderslev og omegn 3. november 2016.

Værter var Solveig Kappel og Nis K. Skau, der er medlem af DLN og undergruppen Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA). Haderslev kommune er en provins med 54.000 indbyggere og et stort landdistrikt. Der sker i Haderslev som i resten af verden en afvandring fra land til by, så landdistrikterne mister arbejdspladser og landdistriktskommunerne har udfordringer med, at de unge rejser efter uddannelse og arbejde.

Vi modtog Shale og Mabataung på Vojens banegård kl. 12.30. Vi tog en kort rundtur i Vojens, i dag en by med knap 8.000 indbyggere som for 150 år siden kun var en lille landsby. Så kom jernbanen under 1. verdenskrig og under 2. verdenskrig anlagde tyskerne en større flyveplads. Efter krigen blev flyvepladsen yderligere udbygget og industrien blomstrede i tresserne. Der er i dag færre

town centre lacks cohesion. In 2015 local citizens launched an association "Forum Vojens" with the purpose of influencing other citizens and politicians to take part in the development of Vojens.

Afterwards we drove to Haderslev town hall, where Solveig started on September 1st as a project manager for a city development project 'Jomfrustien – vivid rooms in Haderslev'. The project covers an area of 25 hectares between the cathedral and the closed industrial harbour.



Shale, Mabataung and Solveig studying the project description

Citizen participation is a high priority in the project. The intention is to combine city quality and climate change adjustments (coping with increased rain).



Ash tree becomes a sculpture

After the visit at the town hall we took a walk through town starting at the cathedral and

industri arbejdspladser og en del af midtbyen er blevet usammenhængende. I 2015 har lokale borgere startet en forening "Forum Vojens" får at påvirke andre borgere og politikere til at tage del i udviklingen i Vojens.

Dernæst kørte vi til Haderslev Rådhus, hvor Solveig pr. 1. september startede som projektleder for byudviklingsprojektet Jomfrustien – levende rum i Haderslev.

Projektet dækker et 25 hektar område mellem domkirken og den nedlagte industrihavn. I projektet har borgerinddragelse høj prioritet, der skal skabes sammenhæng og by-kvalitet samt klimatilpasning til øgede regnmængder.

Efter besøget på rådhuset tog vi en tur gennem byen, startede med domkirken og derfra ned af Jomfrustien. Solveig havde hyret en træskulptur kunster, som var i gang med at lave en træskulptur af et udgået asketræ.



Solveig fortalte at det skulle blive til en mast

down the 'Jomfrustien'. Solveig had engaged a wood sculpture artist, who was busy making a sculpture out of a dead ash tree.

Solveig explained that it should become a mast with a sail. Shale was thrilled to know how thin the sail and mast would be when he was told that the artist would take all the cuttings back home for firewood. He could imagine the situation in Maseru, where an artist in a similar situation would try to maximise the amount of firewood. We promised to send Shale a picture of the finished sculpture, expectant to see how big it would be.

We continued down Steetdome in Haderslev's new modern harbour area where everyone can access climbing walls and skateboard tracks.



A happy man on a climbing wall

Beside streetdome is the new fantastic new VUC South with a wide range of education programmes for students of all ages in top modern learning environments. We sat down in one of the noise insulated green learning rooms and agreed with Shale and Mabataung that

med et sejl. Shale var noget spændt på, hvor tynd sejl og mast ville blive, da han fik fortalt, at kunstneren tog alt det afskårne med hjem som brænde. Han kunne udmærket se situationen i Maseru, hvor en kunstner naturligt ville maksimere udbyttet af brænde. Vi lovede at sende Shales et billede af den endelige skulptur, han var spændt på hvor stor den blev.

Vi fortsatte ned af Jomfrustien og besøgte streetdome i Haderslev bys nye moderne havne bydel, hvor alle har adgang til klatrevæg og skate board baner.



Fra VUC Syd

Ved siden af street dome ligger det fantastiske nybyggede VUC Syd, - med et væld af uddannelsesstilbud til elever i alle aldre i topmoderne læringsmiljøer. Vi satte os i et af de lydisolerede grønne læringsrum og var enige med Shale og Mabataung i, at succesfuld læring altid afhænger af, ligegyldig om der er WIFI eller ej, at der findes dygtige og engagerede lærere med frihed til frie tanker og frisind.

Fra Haderslev kørte vi til den lille by Hammelev for at se Nis's svineproduktion, maskinhus og solcelleanlæg. Dagsorden var fortsat primært borgerinddragelse, så næste stop var Multihuset i Simmersted, et moderne forsamlingshus bygget i 2012.

Landsbysamfundet har 600 indbyggere, der selv har stået for projektering, indsamling af penge, og megen frivillig arbejdskraft er brugt ved opførelsen af huset. Multihuset drives af frivillige og bruges til idræt, koncerter og mødeaktiviteter i et rigt foreningsliv. Senest er

successful learning always depends- whether there is WIFI or not – on competent, committed teachers who are tolerant and free to think for themselves.

From Haderslev we drove to Hammerslev, a small village, to see Nis's pig production, machine shed and solar panel plant.



However our primary agenda was still active citizenship, so our next stop was the 'Multihuset' in Simmersted, a modern community house built in 2012. The village has 600 inhabitants who have themselves been in charge of planning, fund raising and voluntary work in the building of the house. The house is run by volunteers and is used for sports, concerts and meeting by a very comprehensive array of local associations. Lately, in 2016, a fitness centre and creative workshop has been added.

Shale and Mabataung still had appetite for more experiences, so we visited the commonly owned waterplant. The chairman Christian guided us and explained how they are organised. As we talked, we discovered many parallels to Lesotho in terms of the challenges that the board has to deal with. Ranging from recruiting members for the board, 'the battle' against the municipality owned plant, price policy, protection against vandalism, and how a national law for running of private water plants had been formulated.

We finished the day with Wienerschnitzel and apple pie at Solveig and Nis in the village

der i 2016 kommet motionscenter og kreativt værksted til.

Shale og Mabataung havde fortsat appetit på flere oplevelser, så vi besøgte vores lokale andels ejede vandværk. Formanden Christian viste rundt og fortalte om organisationen.



*Der blev lavet nyt vandværk i 2015.
Cooperativet blev oprettet i 1939.*

Som snakken gik, fandt vi ud af vore mange paralleller, der var til Lesotho, i de udfordringer bestyrelsen havde. Det var lige fra rekruttering af bestyrelses medlemmer, "kampen" mod det kommunale vandværk, prispolitik, sikring mod hærværk og hvordan, der er udarbejdet en central lov for drift af private vandværker i Danmark.

Vi sluttede dagen med wienerschnitzel og æblekage hos Solveig og Nis i landsbyen Maugstrup, hvor Shale og Mabataung kunne fortsætte snakken med Christian og Ulla, som er formand for menighedsrådet samt Keld, der havde været frivillig i Lesotho i midten af firserne.

Jeg kniber mig selv lidt i armen over, hvad vi kunne nå på en eftermiddag, - og lidt spøjst, så har jeg lige skimtet Kristelig Dagblads bud på de 10 mest centrale værdier i Danmarkskanon, der strækker sig fra andelstanken, den kristne kulturarv, folkeoplysning og til hygge, - vi nåede det hele denne eftermiddag.

Maugstrup, where Shale and Mabataung could continue their talks with Christian and Ulla, who is chair of the parochial church council, and Keld who was a volunteer in Lesotho during the mid-1980s

I am still amazed at what we covered in just one afternoon – and funnily enough, I have just glanced over 'Kristeligt Dagblad's' (newspaper) bid for what should be considered the most central values in the new Danish canon. The range goes from the community coop concept, the Christian cultural heritage, public enlightenment and education, and cosiness. We accomplished it all this afternoon.



Visit to VUC South



Shale strækker ud efter en lang rejse

DPE visit to Copenhagen and Project meeting

By Grete Mygind and Lisbet Kristensen

Programme:

Monday 7th Nov. Visit to Christiansborg (Danish parliament) and Institute for Human Rights

DPE-besøg I København og projektmøde

Af: Grete Mygind og Lisbet Kristensen

Program:

Mandag d. 7.11: Besøg på Christiansborg og Institut for menneskerettigheder.

Tirsdag d. 8/11: Action Aid (Mellemfolkeligt

Tuesday 8th Nov. Action Aid (Mellemfolkeligt samvirke), Copenhagen Municipality, Evening: Social get together

Wednesday 9th Nov: Danish Society for Women, Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy, Danish Council of Nurses (DSR), DPE-meeting, Farewell dinner.

We left Aarhus very early Monday as we had managed to get a last minute appointment at Christiansborg (the Parliament) with Ulla Sandbæk from 'Alternativet' (a new political party). We went by ferryboat and that was a very exiting experience for Mabataung, who had never sailed an ocean before.



The meeting with Ulla Sandbæk went very well. She showed us around Christiansborg and told us about Alternativet's 'political laboratories'. A great inspiration indeed, and Shale proposed that we work to get Ulla to Lesotho to explain the concept at a conference. Ulla Sandbæk was also very interested in learning about the work of DPE.

At Institute for Human Rights we met Lis Dhundale. Shale and Mabataung informed about DPE and Lis explained about the Institute, which is right now engaged in cases of discrimination. Shale and Mabataung invited Lis to visit Lesotho, where Shale is himself an organised human rights activist. Business cards were exchanged with a wish to stay in contact.

At Action Aid, previous Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (MS) Mabataung explained how

samvirke)

Københavns Kommune

Socialt samvær om aftenen.

Onsdag d.9/11: Dansk Kvindesamfund

Dansk Sygeplejeråd (DSR)

DPE møde

Farvel middag.

Mandag morgen forlod vi Aarhus meget tidligt, da vi havde fået en sidste-øjeblikks-aftale på Christiansborg med Ulla Sandbæk fra Alternativet. Vi tog færgen, hvilket var meget spændende for Mabataung da hun aldrig har sejlet før.

Besøget hos Ulla Sandbæk gik rigtig godt.



Hun viste rundt på Christiansborg og fortalte os noget om Alternativets politiske laboratorier. Det var meget inspirerende og Shale foreslog at vi skulle arbejde på at få Ulla til Lesotho så hun kan fortælle om det på en konference. Ulla Sandbæk var også meget interesseret i at høre om DPE's arbejde.



policies are followed up locally through local advisors. The task of DPE is to assemble advice and guide local communities to gain influence by presenting their position to the advisor and to urge the advisor to present the issues for common discussion. Dialog is the key word and the model for good decisions in the local communities.



Questions were raised as to why Action Aid had ceased its support to projects in Lesotho. Karen Asbæk explained that they had been forced to prioritize differently for economic reasons, but mentioned that the regional office in Zimbabwe.

Private, social get together in the evening with old as well as modern Basotho music.

Lumela Ntate O pela yang? Ke pela Hantle in old and new relationships. The menu was tomato soup and boiled pork, cauliflower and potatoes. The guests felt at ease and at home.



In Copenhagen Municipality we were met by three staff who listed to Shale's presentation of

I Dansk institut for menneskerettigheder mødte vi Lis Dhundale. Shale og Mabataung fortalte om DPE og Lis fortalte om instituttet. Instituttet er aktuelt optaget af sager om diskrimination.

Shale og Mabataung inviterede Lis på besøg i Lesotho, hvor Shale selv er organiseret menneskerettighedsaktivist. Der blev udvekslet visitkort med ønsket om at holde kontakt.

I Action Aid (tidligere Mellemfolkeligt samvirke, MS) præsenterede Mabataung udmøntning af politikkerne i de lokale områder gennem den lokale rådgiver. DPE ser sin opgave i at samle, råde og vejlede lokalbefolkningen til at få indflydelse ved at præsentere sin position for rådgiveren og få rådgiveren til at lægge sagerne frem til fælles drøftelse. Dialog er kodeordet og modellen for gode beslutninger i lokalmiljøet. Der blev rejst spørgsmål om, hvorfor Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke havde trukket hjælpen til projekter i Lesotho. Karen Asbæk forklarede at de har været nødt til at prioritere økonomien anderledes og henviste til regionskontoret i Zimbabwe, som kunne være interesseret.



Selskabelig privat hygge i aftenimerne med ældre og moderne basothomusik. Gensidigt: Lumela Ntate O pela yang? Ke pela Hantle i gamle og nye bekendtskaber. Menuen var tomatsuppe og hamburgerryg, blomkål og kartofler. Gæsterne fandt helle og følte sig hjemme.

I Københavns kommune blev vi mødt af 3

DPE's projects in Lesotho, and they explained about participatory projects in Copenhagen Municipality. Shale explained how DPE works to get the legislative process more transparent to the people in order for them to understand how they can influence the process. One way could for example be to try the laws' making in relation to the constitution at a court of law. Another way could be to request to have the state budget presented to the citizens for discussion in order to influence prioritizations. To engage cleverly in the legislative process it is crucial to have access to knowledge and be able to advocate your case.

Copenhagen Municipality presented a case of building a new railroad line through a housing area in Southern Copenhagen. The citizens succeeded in having the railroad moved through a strategy of community meetings and publicity.

At Danish Institute for Women Mabataung explained that women in Lesotho want projects that address women issues such as for example clean water. The position of women in parliaments was compared, and Mabataung explained about quota for women in Lesotho's parliament. Anne Lise Rasmussen considered the actual policy in Parliament more important than gender. Opportunities for women in both Denmark and Lesotho were discussed. Mabataung asked about projects that help women who had been subject to violence. Anne Lise informed that Danish Society for Women has a shelter in Frederiksberg and there are others elsewhere. The shelters receive financial support from government and there are plenty of volunteers helping out. At the moment half of the women come from ethnic minorities. They are offered psychological as well as legal assistance.

Wednesday morning Shale and Lisbeth met the Danish institute for Parties and democracy, where we met Bjørn Førde and discussed the

ansatte, der lyttede til Shales præsentation af DPE projektet i Lesotho og selv fortalte om deltagerprojekter i Københavns Kommune. Shale fortalte om hvordan DPE arbejder med at gøre lovprocesserne gennemskelige for befolkningen så der åbnes for viden om, hvordan man kan gøre sin indflydelse gældende. En måde kan være at prøve loves tilblivelse i forhold til forfatningen ved en domstol. En anden måde er at få statsbudgettet forelagt til høring hos borgerne, før det vedtages for at øve indflydelse på, hvad der skal prioriteres. For at indgå klogt i lovgivningsarbejde er det afgørende at have adgang til viden samt at kunne tale en sag. Fra Københavns Kommune præsenterede man et projekt om anlæggelse af jernbanen gennem et beboelsesområde Sydhavnen, hvor det lykkedes borgerne at få flyttet jernbanestrækningen. Strategien var at holde beboermøder og føre synspunkterne frem i offentligheden.



I Dansk Kvindesamfund fortalte Mabataung hvordan kvinderne i Lesotho ønsker sig

work of the Institute as well as DPE's. Time was also spent on discussing old days in MS and why MS has closed the programme.



At the Danish Nurses Organisation (DSR) we were showed the facilities at 'Kvæsthuset' and met various staff member including journalists who write about 'nurse' projects around the world, for example Swaziland. The projects have been realised through requests to the International Council for Nurses (ICN). Vice-chair Anni Pilegaard explained the position of the trade union, particularly the right to be organised in the Danish democracy. That organisations themselves negotiate salaries and working conditions in the labour market within the framework of the 'flexicurity' model. The agreements concern salary, working conditions, paid holidays, maternity leave, paid sick leave, etc. The Nurse Council also participates in negotiations about the education of nurses and contributes with knowledge about health matters towards the department of Health and politicians. The government acknowledges the contribution of the trade

projekter, der beskæftiger sig med kvindeområder som rent vand. Kvindernes position i parlamenterne blev sammenlignet, hvor Mabataung fortalte om kvindekvotes i Lesothos parlament. Anne Lise Rasmussen lagde i højere grad vægt på den første politik i parlamentet end kønnet. Kvinders muligheder i Danmark og Lesotho blev drøftet. Mabataung spurgte til projekter, der hjælper voldsramte kvinder. Anne Lise fortalte, at Dansk kvindesamfund har et shelter på Frederiksberg. Og der er flere i landet. Kvindeshelterne får statstilskud og har mange frivillige hjælpere. I øjeblikket er halvdelen af de voldsramte kvinder fra etniske minoriteter. Der tilbydes psykologisk og juridisk hjælp. Onsdag formiddag besøgte Shale og Lisbet Institut for flerpartistøtte, hvor vi mødte Bjørn Førde til en snak om henholdsvis instituttets og DPE's arbejde. Der blev også tid til at snakke om gamle dage i MS og hvorfor MS lukkede programmet.

I Dansk Sygeplejeråd (DSR) fik vi først en rundvisning i Kvæsthuset, hvor vi mødte forskellige medarbejdere som journalister, der skriver om sygeplejerskeprojekter rundt i verden eksempelvis Swaziland. Projekterne er kommet i stand efter anmodning gennem den internationale sygeplejerskeorganisation ICN. Næstformand Anni Pilgaard fortalte om fagforeningens position herunder det væsentlige i retten til at organisere sig i det danske demokrati. At organisationerne selv forhandler løn og arbejdsvilkår på arbejdsmarkedet efter flexicurity modellen. Aftalerne angår løn, arbejdsvilkår, betalte feriedage, barselsdage, betalte sygedage m.m. Dertil deltager DSR i forhandlinger om Sygeplejerskeuddannelsen og med viden indenfor sundhedsvæsenet i forhold til sundhedsstyrelsen og politikerne. Regeringen tilgodeser fagforeningernes bidrag med skattefradrag. En væsentlig drivkraft i demokratiet er ytringsfrihed, hvorfor DSR er i offentligheden med sine synspunkter hver dag.

unions by allowing a tax rebate. Freedom of speech is an important pillar of democracy and the Nurse Council shares its views publicly more or less daily.

Gift were given to Shale and Mabataung with greetings and best wishes for Basotho nurses from Danish nurses.



We finished the project visit with a meeting in DPE and a farewell dinner.

The days in Copenhagen were terrific with plenty of impressions, discussions and inspiration for more development projects and peaceful coexistence.

Der var gaver til Shale og Mabataung med ønske om at hilse basothosygeplejerskerne fra de danske sygeplejersker.



Vi sluttede projektbesøget med møde i DPE og afskedsmiddag.

Det har været forrygende dage i København med mange indtryk, drøftelser og inspiration til flere projekter rettet mod udvikling af fredelig sameksistens.



News from Lesotho:

From Lesotho Times:



Lesotho must kill corruption



Posted by :Lestimes Posted date : **November 26, 2016**

... or corruption will kill Lesotho

Topollo Charles Putsoane

WHEN the law can no longer protect you from the corrupt, but protects the corrupt from you, you know your country is heading for doom! All I know is corruption and nepotism are rampaging the civil service. At long last, the longest serving minister, Monyane Moleleki attests to that. And I, as a long time lone corruption fighter, feel vindicated.

Thank you Mokola, and welcome to the army of Corruption Freedom Fighters. However, while I welcome you as a buffalo soldier, be warned, fighting corruption in Lesotho is not an easy feat, it is a very risky, lonely and bitter war. Be cautioned further, the corruption peddlers, are well organized and ruthless; unless you are careful, they will skin you alive. In order to survive the war, humble yourself and learn from us the veterans with old battle scars and fresh wounds, we have seen it all, we are the corruption fighting maestros. While I don't claim I have a panacea to kill corruption in Lesotho, I know

you are a witness that I am a one size short shoe on the foot of corruption, and have been for a long time, remember!? I hope you have what it takes to see the war through, that's stamina, high level of pain tolerance, ethics and guts! You also need mercy, to forgive because greed occupies center part of their hearts, not God. Good luck to you Mokola!"

Ntate Thabane is also a witness to intolerable high levels of corruption, because in his tenure of two and a half years as the premier, he once declared war against crime in the rural areas of Lesotho where he was running after the criminals day in day out. But, after he declared war on corruption in the civil service, he was pushed out of power by a powerful hurricane force that he fell far in Ficksburg. Unlike in the rural areas where he set criminals on the run, he never managed to wage the intended war against white-collar crime – corruption, nepotism and connivance with criminals against freedom fighters. It seems this time around corruption set him on the run. Some people say by attacking white collar crime, he touched a wrong button. White collar criminals are the ones responsible for the rot and poverty in Lesotho through destruction of the economy by corruption and incompetency. These are the true enemies of the country; not AIDS, not drought.

There is a saying in Lesotho that, "if you are not corrupt, you are corrupt". Simply put, it means if you are not corrupt and are known for your firm anti-corruption principles, your corrupt superiors, will organize corrupt and/or incompetent staff, to frame you as corrupt or incompetent in order to harass and humiliate you so that you can resign or ultimately get fired, whether the courts of law say no, they don't care.

Those who attended *Ntate* Mphanya's memorial service will remember that I made a very passionate speech giving a stern warning about the impending calamity awaiting the present administration that unless a serious introspection was made soon, with heavy emphasis on corruption and nepotism we are risking a revolt. It's amazing how the leadership can at times fail to correctly read the political barometer even after they were warned of the consequences of corruption that is bedeviling the civil service!

On the international corruption watch scale Lesotho is ranked number 66, most surprisingly two places ahead of South Africa. I say surprisingly because, while I admit corruption is a serious problem in SA, they are clearly doing something about it, they are not condoning it through the culture of impunity like in Lesotho. I was advised by some senior government officer friends of mine, to stop wasting my time by annoying corruption in Lesotho because it is orchestrated by some of powerful people.

Corruption is defined as the misuse/abuse of entrusted power for private gain. The late Ntsukunyane Mphanya, the former Congress Party stalwart famous for his uncompromising stance against corruption defined corruption simply as "a mortal enemy of the poor people in Lesotho, worse than prostitution". He said: "Prostitution endangers morals of an individual, while corruption endangers the morals of the entire country. Because corruption is destroying the poor people; it must be destroyed.

"We don't need SADC to kill it, all we need is ethical political leadership with the patriotic and Godly attitude, with no sympathy with law breakers. The Basotho youth must challenge and fight corruption fiercely and mercilessly without any compromise, because it is destroying their future."

The greatest evil in Lesotho these days is lack of love and indifference towards the victims of corruption, the poor, who are the voting fodder for the ruling elite – the energetic party supporters who are mostly unaware that they are victims of corruption. This evil is characterized by some party leaders openly fraternizing and socializing with known criminals.

It was encouraging, however, to hear Mr Moleleki, the longest serving minister admitting that there is corruption in the government, and instead of doing what ostriches do best, burying head in the sand, he has now declared war against it. It is also gratifying to Dr Thabane saying, "if my stand against acts of corruption has cost me my job, so be it! I am a happy loser". Courageous and bold statements indeed. The consistently least corrupt countries in Africa are Botswana, Mauritius, Cape Verde and Namibia and this lack of corruption is reflected in their political stability and growing economies.

Ministers and PSs are holding in trust billions of Maloti of the tax-payers' money and it is our duty to keep them in check. Unfortunately, somebody must risk and bell the cat if we are to survive as a credible nation. Regrettably, in Lesotho some people have turned politics into a very profitable business and they need to be stopped. Martin Luther King Jr said, "a man who is not prepared to sacrifice and die for something is not a man". Are you a man? If you are, join the Lesotho Corruption Liberation Army, we have work for you.

Suggested remedies towards long-term reduction of corruption in Lesotho:

1. Declaration of assets by all senior government leaders.

All politically exposed people, The PM, Ministers, PSs, DPSs, Directors and the CEOs of the parastatals must declare their assets at the beginning of their contracts. Banks must subject these people to more and effective enhanced due diligence checks to ensure legitimacy of their source of wealth. All Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO) senior staff must be included in this exercise.

2. DCEO and Ombudsman must be empowered and be seen to be free from any political influence.

Processes that ensure total independence of these these bodies must be in place. The head of DCEO should report to the dedicated and ethical Board appointed by the parliament transparently. The head of DCEO should serve one non-renewable term of six years. DCEO staff salaries to reflect the dangerous and very stressful job they are doing. This department to be resourced sufficiently to meet the serious national challenge.

3. Establishment of separate courts for corruption cases.

Let there be specialised courts sufficiently staffed with highly ethical, competent and motivated judges to deal with this scourge; if necessary complement our judges with foreign judges. Violations of judges' Court Orders to be punished severely and promptly.

4. Criminalise failure to report corruption and enact whistleblower protection law.

Failure to report corruption should be criminalized. Government to protect whistleblowers who have witnessed corruption throw effective whistleblowing policies.

5. Ensure good corporate governance in the ministries and parastatals.

There is no way you can get good candidates for the job using outdated and corrupt recruitment methods and processes, with little or zero transparency. The PSs, DPSs and directors must go through a good corporate governance training, preferably King II, III and IV, which is cheaply obtainable across the border. It must be stated that criminals, like hyenas, are able to spot and capture a vulnerable officer and entice him with employment of their relatives and friends in senior government positions irrespective of their lack of qualifications. Thereafter, the tail starts to wag the dog, the poor captured officer is blackmailed and dictated to by the criminal forever.

6. Corruption ex-convicts to undergo rehabilitation before reemployment.

Remorseful ex-convicts can be considered for re-employed in the civil service only after re-training and undergone some observation. And of course, not employed in the same department and position they abused. Discriminating corruption repentant ex-convicts, can be counterproductive and exacerbate the problem in the Lesotho dispensation.

7. Banks must report any suspicious transaction to the police.

Parliament to enact a law that forces the banks to report to the police any deposit, withdrawal or transfer that is suspicious. This law to apply to ALL citizens irrespective of their social/political standing.

8. Contribution by private companies to political parties to be prohibited.

No company should be allowed to fund any political party. Parties to be funded by their own members. In this way, no government administration will be indebted to any company or criminal. Party funding should also be audited.

9. End impunity and disregard of court orders.

The only thing working very well in Lesotho are the courts of law, at least up to now. If we let criminals conquer and manipulate courts of law by violating court orders with impunity, then God help us all! Violation of court orders must be dealt with, ruthlessly and without any mercy, otherwise we run a risk of our judges being infiltrated.

10. Install CCTVs in most government conference halls and offices.

Chicanery and manipulation of senior government officials by criminals is done mostly in the government offices. Abusing offices as day rest will stop.

11. New ministers must be empowered through workshops for their new responsibilities.

Parliamentarians are elected by the people at constituency level, and we all applaud that. But the fact is some of them, especially the academically challenged ones, have no clue how the civil service operates. This is the time when corruption peddlers take the opportunity and pretend to be advisors to the ignorant minister. Thereafter the poor minister becomes an unwilling partner in crime used as a tool of making money from the government coffers through blackmail. Training them in corruption awareness, criminals' *modus operandi* and basic rule of law in the civil service can lead to less PSs committing suicide.

12. His Majesty the King should be protected from criminals and fraudsters.

His Majesty the King is the most valuable and precious asset we have in the country. As such, it is the duty of the government to ensure that his safety and protection from the criminals is maximum all the time. His Majesty has no infrastructure to screen all people approaching him, some of whom masquerading as angels while in fact they are not. That function should squarely be the responsibility of the government. There is one thing that we must accept, an unrepentant criminal has nothing to lose, he is at the bottom of the social hierarchy being a thief; given an opportunity he will sink and embarrass the highest office in Lesotho. The King is our last hope, we can't afford to have criminals fraternizing with him.

13. Let there be a ruthless bi-annual PS peer review conference.

Let there be a PS of the year and mampara of the year, and the mampara to be shown the door. Incompetency and corruption tendencies to be exposed in this forum.

14. Ministers not to choose and appoint their own PSs.

I hear Chief Leabua Jonathan didn't allow his ministers to recruit their own PSs. That was a noble decision by the chief. No minister can be corrupt without corporation of at least one of his subordinates. We have recently seen two PSs shoot themselves to death instead of answering some embarrassing and difficult questions. The question is why did the poor souls kill themselves? Ostensibly, somebody could have pressurized them into a crime. You need to be extra tough, or a Thuli Madonsela to say "no" to your powerful boss. PSs must be professional, and politely tell the minister what he should hear, not what he wants to hear, without antagonizing him. Of course, this can only be done by an empowered and highly professional, ethical and confident PS.

15. Limit contract terms for the parastatals CEOs.

PSs and CEOs of the parastatals to serve two terms of three-year non-renewable contracts. They should quit before they develop a comfort zone and become a less creative deadwood, get bored and become corrupt; let them go out and acquire new skills and fresh ideas elsewhere. They can always come back later with added leadership skills.

16. Limit PM's tenure to two five-year terms.

After two terms, the PM should call it quits. The longer he stays, the more he is exposing himself to manipulation by corruption peddlers. What is it that he has forgotten to implement in the last 10 years that he wants to implement in the 11th year?

17. Impose strict control on the usage of state vehicles.

In Botswana senior government officers, including ministers, use their personal vehicles to and from work. Why can't we do it in Lesotho?

18. Ministers to apply/request for overseas trips to the PM.

Sometimes overseas trips could be abused to dishonestly transfer and hide the looted money. Overseas trips should not be taken unless it is VERY necessary.

- **Mr Putsoane is suspended Lesotho Highlands Water Commission Chief Delegate for Lesotho. He wrote this article in his personal capacity.**

What is Denmark Lesotho Network?

The NGO Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN) was founded in 2002 by former Danish development workers in Lesotho and other good friends of the tiny mountain kingdom in Southern Africa. DLN aims at supporting NGO's in Lesotho in their work to develop civil society. DLN uses its network of people and organisations in Lesotho to pinpoint beneficiaries of DLN's support – and to keep an eye on that funding is used according to agreements made. DLN wishes to enhance knowledge of the living conditions in Lesotho and to seek funding from foundations, business enterprises and organisations for actual projects in Lesotho.

Membership of DLN

Anyone, who can support the aims of DLN, can achieve a membership. Members contribute to support initiatives in Lesotho that develop and better living conditions in the country. Members will receive an electronic newsletter four times a year and be invited to DLN's annual general assembly. The cost of a membership is 100 Danish kroner yearly. For membership contact cashier Karen Steffensen, tel.: +45 98677185, cell: +45 23880099, e-mail: karen.steffensen@mail.dk
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