

## News from DLN

Hereby you have the newsletter Lumela.dk number 20 in front of you.

The first article is only in Danish. The article is about a fun and fundraising party taking place in Pejrup at Funen 13<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Further down the newsletter has articles written in English. So don't give up here!

## Sommerfest

Der har siden dannelsen af DLN været tradition for at afslutte AGM med en fest. Dette var dog ikke tilfældet sidste år og ved AGM 2009 blev det så besluttet, at festen skulle holdes som en separat sommerfest den 13. juni.

Festudvalget som blev oprettet til lejligheden vedlægger hermed indbydelsen til dig og andre med interesse for DLN og Lesotho.



Klædt på til fest

Vi har valgt at kalde festen for Pitso på Pitsoground og håber, at du vil have mulighed for at deltage. Prisen for deltagelsen er sat så tæt på kostpris som muligt og du betaler ved ankomsten. Samtidig har vi dog valgt at knytte lidt fundraising til festen ved, at du bruger foreningens kontonummer, når du tilmelder dig og giver en symbolsk gave. Alt dette bliver du klogere på, når du læser den vedlagte invitation.

Vi har sikret os en yderst kvalificeret brai-master, med stor erfaring i at grille under sydlige himmelstrøg, til at være ansvarlig for det helstegte lam, som er en del af menuen. Vi regner dog med, at vi skal være fælles om de øvrige forberedelser. Vi regner også med den autentiske stemning skabes af os selv. Både af bo'me,

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som er så gode til at koge papa og moroho og bo'ntate, som bare kan det der med at holde om øldåsen og slynge i sig

Husk tæppe, stok, støvler og hovedbeklædning! Det vil gavne pitso'ens succes en del, hvis deltagerne dropper hæmningerne og tænker på at forberede lege eller anden underholdning. Vi skal være ude i det fri men i tilfælde af regn, torden eller hagl, har vi sikret os, at vi ka' flytte til en nærliggende pitso-hytte!

..og så er der god plads til, at du kan slå dit medbragte telt op i rolige omgivelser og overnatte.

Du er velkommen til at maile til Michael på [haslund@cool.dk](mailto:haslund@cool.dk), hvis du har nogle spørgsmål til arrangementet. Skriv *Pitso* under emne ved din mail, så får den 1. prioritet.

Med festlig hilsen fra festudvalget – endnu en arbejdsgruppe under DLN  
*Preben, Ditlev og Michael*

## Is DLN going to have a youth group?

*By Anna Marie Hashund*

At the latest General Assembly we discussed the possibility of establishing a Youth Group within Denmark Lesotho Network. Members would be children and teenagers who used to live in Lesotho with their parents - as well as other interested youngsters.



*From Loretta's Pre-school in Maseru*

We wish to continue to recruit people with an interest in our tiny African country. A Youth Group could be a good basis for creating new energy and positive inspiration. A lot of young

## Skal DLN have en ungdomsguppe?

*Af Anna Marie Hashund*

På sidste generalforsamling talte vi om muligheden for at etablere en ungdomsafdeling i DLN, bestående af tidligere børn/unge med en fortid i Lesotho, samt andre interesserede unge. Vi vil gerne vedblive med at rekruttere folk med interesse for vores lille afrikanske land og en ungdomsguppe kunne være et positivt indspark med nye kræfter og inspiration. Der er jo da masser af unge, som har tilbragt et par år af deres barndom eller ungdom på basothovis.



*Gæstehus frivillig-børn med M'eer*



people have spent a couple of years of their childhood or teenage years in Lesotho.

Such a Youth Group could - for example - contribute to arranging a trip to Lesotho for young people, inspire with new and exciting ideas for activities, help out with practical work - or just support DLN with a membership. It would be up to each and every youth how to engage him- or herself.

With this initiative we hope to ensure that a unique time of these young people's lives will not be forgotten. And not least that they will contribute to create a continually dynamic DLN with a focus on the development of Lesotho.

## **DLN members meet The honourable ambassador of Lesotho.**

Four DLN members were present at the reception held in Hellerup on 27th of May: Bodil Mathiasen, Claus and Joan Löschenkohl and Anne Andersen.

We were invited by Mrs. Mannete Ramaili who is Lesothos ambassador to Denmark. Her office is in Dublin and she is responsible for Ireland and Scandinavia.



*The honorary consul of Lesotho*

This was her first official visit to Denmark and the purpose of the reception was to introduce Mrs. Ariane Bigler who was appointed honorary consul of Lesotho on 20th April 2009.

En ungdomsgruppe kunne f.eks. være med til at arrangere en rejse til Lesotho for unge, bidrage med nye, spændende ideer til aktiviteter, hjælpe med praktisk arbejde, eller bare være støttemedlem. Det vil være helt op til den enkelte.

Med tiltaget håber vi på at skabe mulighed for, at en enestående tid ikke går i glemmebogen, og at unge kan være med til at skabe en dynamisk forening med fokus på udviklingen i Lesotho.

## **DLN til reception**

DLN var repræsenteret af fire medlemmer ved en reception i København den 27. maj. Det var Bodil Mathiasen, Anne Andersen, Claus og Joan Löschenkohl.



*Anne Andersen og M'e Mannete Ramaili*

Invitationen kom fra Lesothos ambassadør M'e Mannete Ramaili, som bor i Dublin, og som har ansvaret for Irland og Skandinavien. Hun var på sit første officielle besøg i Danmark.

Anledningen var at præsentere direktør Ariane Bigler, der ved kgl. resolution af 20. april 2009 er blevet udnævnt til honorær konsul for Lesotho i København.

## The Ambassador talks to Denmark Lesotho Network

**‘M’e 'Mannete Ramaili, Ambassador of Lesotho, on Lesotho/Denmark Relationship and status of Development Corporation between the two countries.**

1. *The relations between our two countries, then (2001) and now?*



*M'e Mannete Ramaili ambassador of Lesotho*

Material assistance is not a pre-requisite for international relations, and therefore termination of international development assistance to Lesotho should not and has not been a determining factor for the relations between our two countries. One of the clear signals could have been withdrawal of the then Ambassador to Denmark Dr Thekiso Khati and the Government of Denmark could have not commissioned the former and the current Danish Ambassadors to Lesotho as well as nteate Simon Kuenta Phafane the Honorary Consul to Lesotho, if relations between the two countries were sour. My commissioning is also a clear indication of the warm relations between our countries.

2009 is a difficult year for all countries and Lesotho and Denmark is no exception. As such, I am not expecting a total change of heart of the Government of Denmark regarding development assistance to Lesotho, but the two countries share a common ground on 'climate change', enhanced private sector development, and creation of employment for youth. In a sense there is more scope than ever before for the two countries to pursue this common agenda with the ultimate goal of attaining the Millennium Development Goals. I hope the report of the Africa Commission May 2009, 'Realising the Potential of Africa's Youth' launched by the Prime Minister Mr Lars Løkke Rasmussen on behalf of Africa Commission as well as the SADC –Denmark programme of cooperation will provide an impetus for earnest negotiations between our two countries.

2. *Which, if any, have been the consequences of MS pulling out of Lesotho and which, if any, have been the effects of Denmark Lesotho Network trying to continue Danish involvement in development matters in Lesotho?*

*MS* Lesotho added considerable value to the Lesotho-Danish Programme of Cooperation in terms of deepening relations at community level, strengthening advocacy and promoting good governance through civil society as well as concentrating on cross cutting issues such as environment, gender, youth and children's issues. *MS* had distinct competencies in this field and no other International or national NGO has been able to replace the contribution of *MS* in Lesotho. A major consequence of *MS* withdrawal in Lesotho has been increased vulnerability of the former *MS* civil society partner organisations. This however does not mean *MS* was not able to work itself out, in some respects. Some of the *MS* supported projects have been adopted by the Government of Lesotho as national programmes. A good example is the Early Childhood Development and Preschool project run by LPDCA and supported by *MS*.

DLN's support to projects such as the Rural Self Help Development Association, the Child Counselling Unit and others is very critical if Lesotho is to show demonstrable results on sustainable food security and if she is to face up to the challenges created by the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS on children.

RSDA has for years been promoting sustainable approaches for enhanced food security and it is only in recent years that RSDA has gotten a buy in from significant quarters and stakeholders who matter. This could have not been possible without partners such as DLN, in fact the baby could have been thrown out with the bath water if DNL could have not taken over from *MS*. Secondly, the Child Counselling Unit is the one and only unit that provide professional psycho – social support for children in the whole country. The Unit played a pivotal role in informing the Lesotho child protection and promotion policy. It is regarded as a good practice model for reinstating human dignity in children who would have otherwise been regarded as failures through no fault of their own.

In a country like Lesotho where there is an estimated 180, 000 orphans and multitudes of other vulnerable children, there is a dire need for centres such as the Child Counselling Unit, and creation of a mass movement similar to the Lesotho Pre-school & Day care Centre Association to provide the necessary guidance, counselling and support to all vulnerable children in Lesotho.

In my view, there is lot that can be drawn from Denmark on issues such as this one and I hope DNL will get increased support to strengthen its initiatives in Lesotho.

*Has the current global recession had any effects on development in Lesotho, and if so, what are the effects?*

Definitely!

Lesotho was the largest African exporter of garments and apparels to the United States of America. The industry was also the largest employer in the country, the largest foreign currency earner and one of the main contributors to our national revenue.

Orders from the USA have not been forthcoming from the last quarter of 2008 into the first quarter of 2009. This has put the textile workers in a serious predicament. Without the orders, almost



40,000 workers, the majority of whom are women, will be without jobs in a country which has unemployment rates of up to 35%. Anecdotal evidence indicates that income earned from the industry enhanced the livelihoods of the workers in terms of enabling them to secure basic household food, to meet their children's basic education expenses, to access better health care and to improve their living environments. Without wages, gains made over time will be reversed. Indirect benefits of the industry included emergence of micro and small enterprises for fruits, vegetables, food, public transport and housing. Decreased activity in this industry and others will severely hit the majority of the Basotho, especially those who are already at the bottom of the pyramid.

Secondly, Lesotho had just become the third largest exporter of diamonds to Europe. This had in turn increased employment opportunities in the mining sector. With the current decline of diamond prices by 30% to 50%, the mining industry is threatened and some of the mines have already closed resulting in significant job losses. It is noteworthy that Lesotho is largely rural and the extended family system is still highly prevalent. Each income earner has always had to support five or more households. With advent of HIV/AIDS, the number of orphaned and vulnerable children increased considerably resulting in a total of 180,000. All these need support from relatives, neighbours, friends and people of goodwill. This in a sense puts considerable pressure on breadwinners and the loss of jobs mean increased vulnerability for many households. Gains made by Lesotho in reducing the HIV/AIDS infection rates among the adult population from about 30% to an estimated 24%, attaining considerably high primary education enrolment rates, increased clean water, sanitation as well as household electricity coverage will be reversed. Thus Lesotho will not achieve the millennium development goals, as was dreamt of in the past couple of months.

Though the numbers decreased substantially in the past decades, Lesotho still has a good number of its economically active men employed in the South African mines, and as a result of the economic downturn some of the mine workers have been retrenched. This of course has led to a significant decline in remittances not only from this group but also among other migrants employed across the border.

Development assistance to Lesotho has also declined due to the current economic recession. If what we receive in a form of grants is reduced, the remittances are also decreased and our export earnings decline, Lesotho is bound to struggle. We are however, determined to pursue our socio-economic development strategy which we believe has paid some dividends in the past years.

In summary our national income has declined significantly and this translates into severe reduction of incomes and reduced access to basic public services at household level. In monetary terms the amounts may not be as significant as in Europe and other continents, but the magnitude of the impact on human life is more severe than in many parts of the world where resources are in abundance and people have been used to plenty.

4. *What is the current situation regarding HIV/AIDS and how far have plans for building a new hospital being concrete?*

The latest reports indicate HIV/AIDS infection rates of about 24% in Lesotho. There is phenomenal commitment to fight the pandemic from all quarters including the churches the private sector the traditional healers and the rest of the society. Considerable efforts have been put into building the necessary infrastructure and rolling out all programmes. Our major deficit however is skills and general manpower capacity to deliver the planned programmes.

Regarding the new national hospital, plans are finalised, funds have been secured and contractors are ready to roll.

5. *What is the current situation regarding the rights of women? Has there been an improvement?*

Absolutely!

Lesotho boasts of a woman Commissioner of Police, a woman Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, a woman Speaker of the National Assembly, a woman Chairman of the Public Service Commission, a woman deputy governor of the Central Bank of Lesotho, 30% women Cabinet Ministers, 30% women Principal Secretaries, 50% representation in the judiciary, 60% in the local government councils and greater improvements in other sectors at director and middle management levels. It is noteworthy that the women cabinet ministers lead critical ministries such as health; education; law, justice, & human rights; local government; and tourism.

Lesotho has however been slow in the semi state agencies, but a few critical ones like the Water & Sewage Authority and the Millennium Challenge Account, (the largest on-going multi million US Dollar) project are led by women. There are promising developments in the private sector too, for example the Chairman and the Chief Executive of a leading local accounting firm is a woman.

Regarding the rights of women, Lesotho has passed two critical pieces of legislation. One deal with the economic and land rights of women and the other is about sexual offenses including domestic violence. This is a major breakthrough, the greatest challenge and opportunity is educating women about the new legislation as well as setting up systems and structures to access justice and their legal rights. Admittedly the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Sports has done a wonderful job in driving the policy and legislative reform processes as well as creating awareness about the new gender equality frameworks. There is greater need for the civil society to engage more in communicating with, informing and educating the whole nation. Interventions of DLN in strengthening the efforts of civil society are needed more than ever before.

A recent international report indicated that while some African countries relapsed in the past years, Lesotho moved up the charts and is following South Africa closely in terms of creating space for women to lead. There is total commitment by the Government of Lesotho to realise this and women have to gear up for the challenge.

6. *How do you consider China's increasing involvement in Africa and especially in Lesotho? And what is your best advice for any foreign country on how to contribute to development in Lesotho?*

Regarding the involvement China in Africa and in Lesotho in particular, I think it is a fad to think of a selective globalisation model whereby China is allowed to trade with the richer nations, while on the other hand it is barred from engaging with Africa. I believe globalisation is about forging partnerships with like-minded stakeholders. It is a model whereby the rules of engagement and the approaches are agreed by involved partners. In a sense the China Africa strategy should be seen within this context.

In my view there are three key things that give China a competitive urge. First, the speed with which it delivers. Second, its ability and willingness to engage in outward investment in developing countries. Last, the ease and flexibility with which China works with its partners.

The biggest national security threat in Africa is unemployment. A critical mass of able bodied men, women and youth is always queuing up for jobs which never come. This creates social instability, irresponsible migration, and fuels most of the infectious diseases. These can be alleviated if Africa and Lesotho in particular can access foreign direct investment to generate economic growth and to create jobs for her people.

China's foreign direct investment gave Lesotho the confidence to engage more meaningfully in international trade and turned Lesotho's private sector into the largest employer, a thing that was never thought of. With introduction of the interim EU Economic Partnership Agreements, we have since experienced an 18% annual increase in the sales of the Lesotho garments and apparels in the EU.

We know that FDI for textiles is not sustainable, but Lesotho needs it while diversifying products and markets as well as gearing up for the next economic wave. Lesotho is set to ride on renewable energy, water, mining, eco tourism and agriculture as a means for attaining sustainable socio-economic growth.

Regarding my best advice to a foreign country on how to contribute to development in Lesotho, I would like a development partner to help us build our human capital and in particular to address our skills and infrastructure deficits. These would enable us to engage effectively in the above listed sectors and in turn create jobs not only in the town centres but in the remote areas of Lesotho. Special consideration should be given to the Lesotho civil society to enhance their advocacy and organisational management skills.

*Interview by Peter Rathmann*



## Annual General Meeting 2009

AGM 2009 was held in Odense, the town of Danish author Hans Christian Andersen and the geographical center of Denmark. 17 members of DLN attended the AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2009.

Chairman Helga Halck informed the assembly about news from the year 2008. The most important point was that DLN has got a negative answer to the application for a new project in Lesotho. The application was sent to PATC (Project Advice and Training Center), working for DANIDA (Danish Department for Developing Countries under the Secretary for Foreign Affairs).

A major target in 2009 will be to obtain a new grant from PATC.



*Michael Hansen and Anders Foghsgaard*

The 2009 budget was discussed. The financial situation in 2009 could be better, and the assembly gave the board some advice of how to save money and get hold of money from various funds.

DLN has 85 members, but we should try to get more members.

In October 2008 20 members and friends of DLN were in Lesotho to visit the country. One of the members gave an inspiring speech about Lesotho and the impression of the changes over 12 years.

## Generalforsamling 2009

DLNs Generalforsamling blev også i år holdt i Odense, hvor 17 medlemmer deltog.

Helga Halck, formand for foreningen sagde i sin beretning for året 2008, at det mest vigtige punkt var, at DLN har fået afslag på sin ansøgning om et nyt projekt i Lesotho. Ansøgningen var sendt til Project Advice and Training Center (PATC), det tidligere Projektrådgivningen under DANIDA.

Den største opgave for DLN i 2009 vil blive at udarbejde en revideret ansøgning.



*Pause til samtale*

Budgettet for 2009 blev diskuteret. Det, at der var afslag på projektansøgningen efterlader DLN med et lille økonomisk råderum.

Generalforsamlingen kom med forskellige råd til bestyrelsen om, hvordan den kan generere nogle penge og råd om at søge forskellige fonde.

En af ideerne til, hvordan foreningen kan få nye medlemmer var, at prøve at lave noget for de børn/unge, der har boet med deres forældre i Lesotho. En gruppe blev nedsat til at arbejde med dette.

I oktober rejste 20 medlemmer og venner ned og besøgte Lesotho. Et af medlemmerne fortalte inspirerende om rejsen og om indtrykket af

The executive committee was re-elected. The members of the board are:

forandringerne i de 12 år, der er gået i mellemtiden.

Bestyrelsen blev genvalgt uden ændringer og er:



From left: Anne Andersen, information, Bodil Mathiasen, secretary, Karen Steffensen, treasurer, Helga Halck, chairman.

## News from the Board

The newly elected Board has held its first meeting after the General Assembly and constitution:

Helga Halck Højsager, Chairperson  
Karen Steffensen, Cashier  
Bodil Mathiasen, Secretary  
Anne Andersen, Information  
Keld S. Nielsen, 1st Alternate  
Signe Hedegaard, 2nd Alternate

The refusal of the application of RSDA and the following consequences were high on the agenda. We discussed the arguments of the PATC-committee and the way forward. On April 14th the Board together with Anders and Signe Hedegaard had a meeting with consultant Nicolai Houe, PR. He has been to Lesotho and visited both RSDA and DPE. Nicolai Houe gave us back some courage and some really good recommendations on how to move forward. These would, however, depend on the board

## Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Den nye bestyrelse har afholdt første møde efter GF og konstituering.

Helga Halck Højsager, formand  
Karen Steffensen, Kasserer  
Bodil Mathiasen, sekretær  
Anne Andersen, information  
Keld S. Nielsen, 1. suppleant  
Signe Hedegaard, 2. suppleant

På mødet var det følgerne af afslag på RSDA ansøgning, bevillingudvalgets begrundelse og vejen frem, som fyldte. Den 14. april var bestyrelsen sammen med Anders og Signe Hedegaard til møde med konsulent Nicolai Houe, PR. Han har været i Lesotho og besøgt både RSDA og DPE. Nicolai gav os modet tilbage sammen med nogle rigtig gode anbefalinger til, hvordan vi kunne komme videre. Det indebar dog, at vi i bestyrelsen måtte lægge en plan for hvordan vi kunne imødekomme nogle af kritik punkterne.

decision and plan for how to meet the points of criticism.

One point of criticism was that the PATC-committee is worried as to whether DLN has the capacity to carry out such a big project. That argument made an impression on us!

Today DLN has more than 90 members. So it cannot be true that there is not enough capacity. We in the Board have not been good enough to strengthen capacity nor creative enough to see other options. Therefore, we have been listening very much to Nicolai's recommendations and motivation to fulfill the project.

The proposal from RSDA has now come so far that it has first priority. We will keep within the one million kr. limit. Karen and Anders continue to be the key persons. Some people have offered different kinds of support. We will make use of these offers.

Nicolai has recommended that we make an application of support for a "final project formulation" to be made in Lesotho together with RSDA. We can apply for a maximum of 60.000 kr. That can cover two persons in Lesotho for two weeks. Karen will go on this trip together with a person with profound knowledge of the project.

Alongside we will continue to work with the proposal from DPE, but stay under a limit of 500.000 kr. Also in this case we will count upon support for a "final project formulation". In this process we will try to involve students from SDU, the Africa Studies. Bodil and Helga are responsible for the DPE proposal. We will also directly approach some members and ask to involve themselves in the process or proposal writing.

The deadline for applications is set for mid-November. We count upon travel activities to take place in February 2010, which would mean

Et af kritikpunkterne var, at bevillingsudvalget er bekymret for om DLN har kapacitet til at stå for så stort et projekt, som vi har søgt. Det gjorde noget ved os!

DLN har i dag mere end 90 medlemmer, det kan ikke passe, der ikke er kapacitet. Vi, bestyrelsen har ikke været gode nok til at identificere den, eller været kreative nok til at se andre muligheder. Derfor har vi lyttet meget til Nicolai's anbefalinger og egen motivation til at fuldføre projektet.

Ansøgningen fra RSDA er så langt at den har fået 1. prioritet. Vi holder os indenfor 1 million kroners grænsen. Karen og Anders er fortsat primus motor. Der er personer, som har tilbudt støtte på forskellig vis. Disse tilbud vil vi benytte os af.

Nikolaj har anbefalet, at vi laver en ansøgning om støtte til "afsluttende projektformulering", som vil foregå i Lesotho sammen med RSDA. Vi kan søge max 60.000 kr. Det rækker i princippet til 2 personer i 14 dage. Karen vil tage med på denne tur, sammen med en, som har et grundigt kendskab til projektet. Sideløbende vil vi arbejde videre med ansøgningen fra DPE, men holde os under 500.000,-kr. Her vil vi også satse på en ansøgning om støtte til "afsluttende projektformulering". Med i denne proces, vil vi forsøge at få en studerende med fra SDU, Afrika Studierne. Bodil og Helga er tovholdere på denne ansøgning. Vi vil også, henvende os direkte til nogle medlemmer, om at få støtte og indgå i søgeprocessen.

Tidsfristen for ansøgninger er inden midten af november. Her er ikke nogen deadline for ansøgning til bevillingsudvalget, og der gives svar indenfor 14 dage.

Rejseaktiviteten i forbindelse med den afsluttende projektformulering, satser vi på, bliver i februar 2010, så en færdig ansøgning kan være med ved ansøgningsfristen april 2010.



that a final proposal could be ready by the deadline set for April 2010.

Have a great summer!

On behalf of the Board - Helga.

Skulle du få lyst til at indgå i ansøgningsarbejdet, så ring endelig til Helga Højsager tlf. 25 88 32 01

Rigtig god sommer!

På bestyrelses vegne, Helga

## In Memoriam

*By: Bodil Mathiasen*

In February we received the very sad news that Thabo Makhakhe passed away after a car accident.

Thabo was our tour guide during the DLN trip to Lesotho in

October 2008. He was loved by all participants for his kindness and willingness to help and assist in all matters.

His warm and joyful personality won him many friends.



Thabo - you will be deeply missed!

## In Memoriam

*Af: Bodil Mathiasen*

Til alle, der deltog i Lesotho - turen i oktober 2008, meddeler jeg med stor sorg, at vores dejlige guide og gode ven THABO MAKHAKHE i februar døde af kvæstelser efter et trafikuheld.



*Thabo sammen med et par af rejsedeltagerne*

Thabo var sammen med os hver dag, han var fantastisk hjælpsom, opmærksom på alle vores ønsker og så var han altid i godt humør. Thabo betyder glæde på Sesotho - og Thabo levede fuldstændig op til sit navn.

Æret være Thabos minde.

**NGO Consultant visits DLN partners in Lesotho.**

**NGO konsulent besøger DLN partnere i Lesotho**



From March 10th to 13th Nicolai Houe, consultant from the Danish Project Advice and Training Center (PATC), visited Lesotho. PATC is a platform for Danish NGOs and it is responsible for the Project Fund for small-scale interventions on behalf of DANIDA (Danish department for Developing Countries under the Secretary for Foreign Affairs).

DLN is the only member of PATC working with partners in Lesotho, and Nicolai had approached us to identify who to visit and talk to in Lesotho.

Just before Nicolai went to Lesotho, DLN had just received a negative answer from the Project Fund to our project proposal with RSDA (Rural Self-Help Development Association), and we had started to work on a proposal with DPE (Development Peace and Education).

Nicolai Houe visited LCN, RSDA and DPE and his report from the visit plays an important role in future DLN work and has resulted in DLN analysing its capacity and way forward.

DLN wants to express gratitude to Nicolai Houe for his kind sharing of information and guiding DLN. It is very encouraging for all of us that he went to Lesotho and met with friends and partners of DLN on a professional note. It is also clear from the report that he enjoyed his short visit to the country and appreciated its beauty and the friendliness of Basothos.

Read the report in full at [www.lumela.dk](http://www.lumela.dk) under Reports

## Highlights from the report:

### Overall conclusions

Lesotho is still in need of external inputs and aid. In parts of the country the main issue for farmers is still food security. That said, the organisations with whom I talked, seem to

Fra den 10. til den 13. marts besøgte konsulent Nicolai Houe fra Project Advice and Training Center (PATC) Lesotho.

PATC er en platform for danske foreninger og har ansvaret for Projekt Fonden til finansiering af små projekter under DANIDA.

DLN er det eneste medlem af PATC, som arbejder med partnere i Lesotho. Nicolai henvendte sig til os for at finde ud af, hvem han skulle besøge og tale med i Lesotho.

Lige før Nicolai rejste til Lesotho, havde DLN modtaget et afslag fra Projekt Fonden på en projektansøgning til RSDA (Rural Self-Help Development Association), og vi havde begyndt på at arbejde med en projektansøgning med DPE (Development Peace and Education).

Nicolai Houe besøgte Lesotho Council of NGO's, RSDA og DPE og hans rapport fra besøget spiller en betydelig rolle i DLNs fremtidige arbejde og har resulteret i, at DLN analyserer foreningens kapacitet og videre arbejde.



Nicolai på besøg hos RSDA

DLN takker Nicolai Houe for hans venlighed, for at dele information og for god rådgivning. Det er meget befordrende for både DLN og de vores to partnerorganisationer, at han rejste til Lesotho for at møde både venner og partnere på et professionelt plan. Det fremgår klart af Nicolais rapport, at han var glad for sit korte besøg i landet og satte pris på dets skønhed og på basothoernes

have ideas to develop strategies for incorporating capacity building and advocacy within programmes that could also include inputs to secure food. Both DPE and RSDA would in my opinion be valuable partners in dealing with long time development in Lesotho, building on their different capabilities and experiences.

## Lesotho Council of NGO's (LCN)

### Finance

The NGO is 100% donor funded. It is difficult for them to find funding, especially core funding as donors do not like to finance such activities. LCN receives no national government funding, but do coordinate sitting funds for example from the national aids fund.

### Context Civil Society and LCN

2008 was the first time that there was a workshop that focused on holding the government accountable. At the moment CS can not influence the national budgets, but work is being done to give CS a stronger position to influence these. It is also a good sign that it is the first time that Civil Society is the major recipient of Global Funds. In general there are some limitations on Civil Society through legislation.



Vegetables grows big from tank-water

### Comments about RSDA and DPE

LCN was positive towards both organisations. RSDA is recognised for their large effort within agriculture and advocacy. DPE is recognised for their large effort to reach into

venlighed.

Læs hele rapporten på [www.lumela.dk](http://www.lumela.dk) under *reports*

## Uddrag fra rapporten:

### Generelle konklusioner

Lesotho har stadig brug for udefrakommende input og hjælp. I nogle dele af landet er det basale behov stadig at sikre mad nok. Når det er sagt, viste de organisationer, jeg talte med, at de havde ideer til at inddrage kapacitetsopbygning til et forsvar af deres rettigheder indenfor programmet. Dette kunne også inkludere sikring af fødevarer. Efter min mening er både DPE og RSDA værdifulde partnere at lave langtidsaftaler med indenfor udvikling i Lesotho, byggende på deres forskellige kapaciteter og erfaringer.

### Lesotho Council of NGO's (LCN)

#### Økonomi

Foreningen er 100 procent donorfinansieret. Det er svært for dem at skaffe kapital, specielt til kernearbejdet, fordi donorerne ikke bryder sig om at finansiere de aktiviteter. LCN får ingen kapital fra den nationale regering, men koordinerer kapital for eksempel fra den nationale aids fund.

### Civilsamfundet og LCN

Første gang der blev holdt en workshop, som fokuserede på at stille regeringen til regnskab, var i 2008. I øjeblikket har civilsamfundet ikke indflydelse på de nationale budgetter, men der arbejdes på, at civilsamfundet skal få en stærkere position til at øve indflydelse. Det er også et godt tegn, at civilsamfundet er den største modtager af global kapital. Generelt er der nogle begrænsninger af civilsamfundet igennem lovgivningen.

### Kommentarer til RSDA og DPE

LCN var positiv overfor begge organisationer. RSDA er anerkendt for deres store indsats indenfor landbrug og kamp for rettigheder. DPE er anerkendt for deres store indsats for at nå ud til



areas where no one else is present, and a steady voluntary involvement.

## **DPE**

The work that DPE makes in the mountain regions of Lesotho is very relevant and builds on existing structures in the villages, which are capacitated and encouraged through new and inspiring methods of working with citizen participation (through animation) such as the "peoples tribunal".

It is my impression that the organisation uses a large level of voluntary engagement within its activities, which is impressive.

The advocacy work that the DPE makes is based upon participatory strategies which ensure that the people voices are heard, and which seem to have a profound and valuable impact.

## **RSDA**

I was glad to hear... that RSDA were very keen to work with capacity building and advocacy. That meant that they fit very good with the Danish strategy, and it would be a valued strengthening of the organisation to include capacity building and advocacy on all levels. I do believe that a future project focusing on capacity building of RSDA as organisation, capacity building of local farmers groups including some aspects of working with food security, where the service delivery is used strategically, and advocacy on local and regional/national levels will have the possibility to strengthen RSDA as organisation and strengthen the local farmers groups. Both aspects will benefit the farmers in a longer perspective.

Integrating these aspects in the present work of RSDA into a project with DLN would in my opinion lift the present and future work of RSDA, and help build long term sustainable solutions for farmers in Lesotho.

områder, hvor ingen andre er til stede og deres vedholdende frivillige involvering.

## **DPE**

Det arbejde DPE gør i Lesothos bjergegne er meget relevant og bygger på eksisterende strukturer i landsbyerne, som bliver dygtiggjort og opmuntret igennem nye og inspirerende metoder så som beboernesdeltagelse i f. eks. "folkets domstol".

Det er mit indtryk, at organisationen bruger en stor del frivilligt engagement i dens aktiviteter. Det er imponerende.

Arbejdet med forsvaret af rettigheder, som DPE udfører, er baseret på levendegørende strategier, som skal sikre, at folkets røst bliver hørt, og som ser ud til at bane vej til kapital og dermed en værdifuld virkning.



*Bo M'e lytter i skyggen*

## **RSDA**

Jeg var glad for at høre, at RSDA meget gerne vil arbejde med kapacitetsopbygning og rettigheder. Det betyder, at de passer meget godt ind i den danske strategi, og det vil blive en værdifuld forstærkning af organisationen at indbygge kapacitetsopbygning og kamp for at opnå rettigheder på alle niveauer. Jeg tror, at et fremtidigt projekt med fokus på opbygning af RSDAs organisationskapacitet, opbygning af lokale landmandsgruppers kapacitet (inklusive sikring af fødevarer, hvor levering af service bliver brugt strategisk) og rettighedskampen på



*Bo M'e happy about the visit*

## **Recommendations for DLN**

Based on the findings in Lesotho I recommended that DLN considers the following:

- DLN evaluates its capacity and priorities regarding development projects in Lesotho with funding through PATC. It is important to notice that it possibly will have to include capacity building of DLN – for example through new human volunteer resources and/or through participation in some of PATCs general courses.
- DLN discusses whether to work with DPE or/and RSDA and do this according to own resources and capacity.
- If DLN decides to work with RSDA: that DLN together with RSDA applies for a final project formulation trip.
- That based on the final project formulation trip a project proposal is finalized.
- I encourage DLN and RSDA to start with a budget of no more than 1 million Danish Kroner.
- If DLN decides to work with DPE: To apply for a final project formulation trip.

lokalt/regionalt/nationalt plan vil styrke RSDA som organisation - og dermed styrke de lokale landmandsgrupper i det lange perspektiv.

At integrere disse aspekter af RSDAs nuværende arbejde i et projekt i samarbejde med DLN vil efter min mening løfte RSDAs nuværende og fremtidigt arbejde og hjælpe til at bygge en langtidsholdbar løsning for landmændene i Lesotho.

## **Rådgivning til DLN**

Baseret på det, jeg så i Lesotho vil jeg foreslå at DLN tager følgende i betragtning:

- DLN evaluerer sin kapacitet og prioriterer sine udviklingsprojekter i Lesotho med funding gennem PATC. Det er vigtigt, at dette sandsynligvis skal inkludere kapacitetsopbygning af DLN – f.eks. gennem nye frivillige folkelige ressourcer og/eller gennem deltagelse i nogle af PATCs generelle kurser.
- DLN diskuterer om de vil arbejde med DPE eller/og RSDA i forhold til egne ressourcer og kapacitet.
- Hvis DLN beslutter at arbejde med RSDA, bør der søges penge til en rejse med henblik på en slutformulering af et projekt.
- Baseret på den færdige projektformulering udformes den endelige projektansøgning.
- Jeg anbefaler DLN og RSDA at starte med et projekt, der ikke overstiger 1 million kroner.
- Hvis DLN beslutter at arbejde med DPE, bør der ligeledes ansøges om midler til en rejse med henblik på en slutformulering af et projekt.

## News from Lesotho:

### Prime Minister's residence attacked

*allAfrica.com April 22<sup>nd</sup>*

Lesotho Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili was the victim of an assassination attempt on Wednesday, according to the chairman of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), South African President Kgalema Motlanthe.

In a statement issued by the South African government, Motlanthe said Mosisili was attacked at his home in Maseru.

The Lesotho News Agency reported that four unidentified men had been killed and two captured following a shootout at State House in Maseru on Wednesday morning.

One of those caught had been admitted to a clinic in Ladybrand, a South African town across the border from Lesotho. Motlanthe's statement said the two attackers had been caught by South African security forces.

The agency also quoted the Lesotho communications minister, Mothetjoa Metsing, as saying that an army barracks had also been attacked. The incidents were politically driven, Metsing said.

*Ha Ntatae 22. April 2009*

Attempted assassination of the Prime Minister and chaotic abduction of military personnel and army vehicles have threatened the country's security.

According to a statement by the Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lesao Lehohla, the unknown attackers who were reported to be speaking in foreign vernacular were denied entry at the State House by army guards on standby, an incident that resulted in opening of fire between the two parties.

A police report indicated that prior to this the attackers had haphazardly stormed into the Makoanyane barracks where they found only a few soldiers, forcibly making one of the army members drive them in one of these vehicles and kidnapping five others.

As if that were not enough, they (the attackers) highjacked a commuter taxi at Ha Thetsane and drove in the Khubetsoana direction, where the Lesotho police and other security forces managed to halt the bizarre behavior at Selakhapane. Three of these men lost the battle that caused them their lives while one of their accomplices was left in the hands of the police.

Communications Minister Mothejoa Metsing viewed this as an attempt to destabilise the country, while South African President Kgalema Motlanthe condemned this act in no uncertain terms.



## Women farmers get mobile phone know-how



JOHANNESBURG, 18 March 2009 (IRIN) - Access to mobiles phones has transformed the lives of rural women farmers boosting income and expanding knowledge, a pilot study in Lesotho has found.

Three years ago, Evodia Matobo, then 62, a small-scale poultry farmer in Lesotho's rural lowlands, was stacking plastic containers to feed her chickens. Now she talks about "feeders, agricultural shows, workshops, experts."

The moment that set her on the road to change for the better was when she clasped a mobile phone for the very first time, and "felt like a teenager; going back to life".

The phone was one of 10 distributed to three cooperative women's farming groups in different agro-ecological zones in Maseru district, western Lesotho, by the Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme (RHVP), which builds evidence to help policy-makers working on food security and social protection.

"The phone has transformed the women farmers' lives completely - they are able to market their produce, access information on prices and it has made them so confident," said Gladys Faku, national chairman of the Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM), a network of NGOs and civil society groups working with small-scale farmers in East, Central and Southern Africa.

## What is DLN

## 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 97578252, e-mail:

[karen.steffensen@mail.dk](mailto:karen.steffensen@mail.dk)

DLN's address is: Denmark Lesotho Network, C/O Helga Højsager, Asylgade 16, DK-5000 Odense C, Denmark

Homepage: [www.lumela.dk](http://www.lumela.dk)

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