

News from the DLN



Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Af Anne Andersen

Så er den hjemme. Har allerede fået en tilbagemelding fra Shale, som er meget glad.

Sådan skrev Helga den 25. juni. Måske har du allerede gættet, hvad det er, der er hjemme?

Rigtigt. Det er selvfølgelig, at alt arbejdet med at skrive projektansøgning sammen med Development Peace and Education (DPE) har givet pote. Se brevet fra Projektrådgivningen:

“Hermed følger Bevillingsudvalgets svar på jeres ansøgning: “Capacity Building and Advocacy for community participation in political processes and decision making”. Som det fremgår, er svaret positivt, og en underskrevet aftale følger derfor snarest muligt.”

Projektstart var planlagt til 1. august, men det har ikke været ligetil at få de nødvendige papirer i orden, så starten bliver lidt forsinket.

Lige nu bliver der arbejdet intenst på færdiggørelsen af projektansøgningen til det nye projekt hos Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA). Se omtalen af det forudgående besøg i Lesotho andet sted i nyhedsbrevet.

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Membership of DLN

Ferietiden er slut, og bestyrelsen er klar til at tage fat igen på næste møde, som afholdes den 5. september i Århus.



News from the Board

It's in the box. Have already received a feedback from Shale, he is very happy.

Thus Helga wrote on 25 June. Maybe you've already guessed what it is in the box?

Correct. It is of course that all the work writing the project application, together with Development and Peace Education (DPE), has paid off. See the letter from the Projektrådgivningen:

"Attached the Appropriation Committee's response to your application: "Capacity Building and Advocacy for community participation in political processes and decision making". As shown, the answer is positive, and a signed agreement follows therefore as soon as possible."

Project start-up was scheduled for 1st August, but it has not been without obstacles to get the necessary papers in order, so the start will be slightly delayed.

Intensive work is going on completing the project application for the new project from the Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA). See mention of the previous missions in Lesotho elsewhere in the newsletter.



Vacation time is over, and the Board is ready to begin again at the next meeting to be held on 5 September in Aarhus.

KOM til PITSO !!!

Inspireret af den hyggelige og fine pitso, som DLN holdt sidste år på Fyn, vil vi hermed gerne indkalde til

PITSO og fest for DLN medlemmer og venner

Lørdag den 11. september fra klokken 15.00

STED: Bofællesskabet Vennepunktet, Vennepunktet 3, 8300 ODDER

Der vil være kaffe og kage om eftermiddagen, og om aftenen laver vi en god gang papa, moroho, kød m.m. En meget kær gæst, som mange af os kender, har meddelt sin deltagelse. Næmlig PALESA, der flyver ind fra Oxford for at møde os og være med til festen.



Billeder, underholdning, god musik og dans.

Der er mulighed for at overnatte i eget telt eller fællesrum på eget liggeunderlag.

Det koster 100 kroner pr. voksen at deltage/ børn 50 kroner. Beløbet skal indbetales **senest 3. september** på DLN girokonto: +73< +80173865<, eller til regnr. 8401 kontonr. 1061912, mærket PITSO.

Vi håber at se rigtig mange!

KHOTSO PULA NALA

På udvalgets vegne

Preben Eskerod og Bodil Mathiasen

Send gerne en mail til Preben eller Bodil om deltagelse

mathiasen1@hotmail.com

preben@eskerod.org



Go with DLN to Lesotho in October 2011

One of the objects clauses of DLN is to spread the knowledge about Lesotho and the living conditions in the country.

One way of doing this is by seeing it with your own eyes.

Therefore, we are arranging a group trip to Lesotho. The trip is planned to have duration of 2 weeks with the option of extending the trip by subsequently carrying on on your own. The departure date will be in the beginning of October 2011. There will only be room for 20 people on the trip.

In Lesotho, we will meet friends of DLN who will give us an introduction to the history, language, culture, current political situation, challenges and hopes for the future of the country.

DLN is in contact with many aspects of life in Lesotho making it possible to put together a program to suit the wishes of the participants.

We will fly directly to Lesotho and stay a couple of days in the capital Maseru. After that, we will travel into the country and experience life in the smaller towns, the amazing nature and the mountains. It is springtime in Lesotho in October with flowering trees and green mountains.



We estimate that the trip will cost around DKK 15,000, which covers flights, transport and accommodation in Lesotho

Tag med DLN på rejse til Lesotho i oktober 2011

En af DLN's formålsparagraffer er at udbrede kendskabet til Lesotho og levevilkårene i landet.



Det kan blandt andet gøres ved selvsyn.

Vi arrangerer derfor en grupperejse til Lesotho. Den planlagte rejse vil være på 2 uger, men der bliver mulighed for at forlænge og rejse videre på egen hånd. Afrejse vil være omkring i starten af oktober 2011. Der vil max. være plads til 20 personer.

I Lesotho vil vi møde venner af DLN – som kan give os en god introduktion til landets historie, sprog og kultur, den aktuelle politiske situation, udfordringer og håb for fremtiden.

DLN har kontakt til mange facetter af samfundet i Lesotho, så der er mange muligheder for at sammensætte et program efter deltagernes ønsker.

Vi flyver direkte til Lesotho og bor et par dage i hovedstaden Maseru. Derefter skal vi ud at se på landet og opleve livet i de mindre byer, den fantastiske natur og bjergene. Oktober måned er forår i Lesotho med blomstrende træer og grønne bjerge.

Vi regner med en pris på omkring 15.000 kroner, der skal dække flybillet, transport og overnatning i Lesotho samt afbestillingsforsikring.



as well as cancellation insurance. Further details to follow. But if you are already interested, you are welcome to contact Lisbet Kristensen on: lisbetstjerneklar@gmail.com or by phoning 31 58 89 29.

Nærmere detaljer følger, men interesserede kan allerede nu henvende sig til Lisbet Kristensen på: lisbetstjerneklar@gmail.com eller tlf. 31 58 89 29.



Application status: Strengthening small scale farmer producer groups in Lesotho.

Project background:

“Strengthening small scale farmer producer groups in Lesotho” is a follow-up on our previous water-tank project with RSDA. After two previous refusals by the The Mini-project Fund it was decided that the project group must be strengthened. The former group which had been reduced to two members, Karen Steffensen and

Status på projektansøgning: Strengthening small scale farmer producer groups in Lesotho.

Baggrund for projektet

”Strengthening small scale farmer producer groups in Lesotho” er et opfølgningsprojekt på vores tidligere afviklede RSDA-vandtankprojekt. Efter to forudgående afslag på fra Bevillingsgruppen på en projektansøgning blev det besluttet, at projektgruppen skulle styrkes. Den hidtidige gruppe, som var reduceret til



Anders Hedegaard, was therefore extended with 4 new members; Line Kaspersen, Maria Clausen, Max Schrøeder and Signe Hedegaard. Another conclusion was that it would make sense to prepare the application together with RSDA in Lesotho – which meant to apply for money from the Mini-project Fund for an appraisal trip. After several meetings over the winter and a thorough planning phase, we were granted such a funding, and in the beginning of May half of the project group, Max, Anders and Signe (the latter at own expenses) went on a 10 days' intensive appraisal trip to Lesotho.



Blanket season in Maseru

Appraisal trip – Friday April 30th to May 12th 2010:

At our arrival in Maseru in the late afternoon on the 30th of April, we were welcomed by a VERY long queue at the Maseru Bridge-border. Dusk, cricket song, people in groups, with luggage, wearing their Sunday dress - and everybody in high spirits in spite of the long waiting time. To spend about an hour queuing is not at all a bad way to “return” to Lesotho. Time to get moved by the return, to recognize and practice simple Sesotho phrases, to listen to the latest radio hits from passing cars, to enjoy the familiar blankets and hats, and to be cheered up by the nice tradition of greeting each other thoroughly and properly – in short simply to drink in the

Karen Steffensen og Anders Hedegaard, blev således i 2009 suppleret med 4 nye medlemmer, Line Kaspersen, Maria Clausen, Max Schrøeder og Signe Hedegaard. En anden konklusion var, at det ville være fornuftigt at forberede ansøgningen sammen med RSDA i Lesotho. Altså at ansøge Projektrådgivningen om bevilling til en færdiggørelsestur. Efter mødeaktivitet hen over vinteren og et grundigt forarbejde, fik vi i april måned sådan en bevilling, og i starten af maj tog halvdelen af projektgruppen, Max, Anders og Signe (sidstnævnte for egen regning) på en 10 dages intensiv færdiggørelsestur til Lesotho.

Færdiggørelsestur - fredag den 30. april – onsdag den 12. maj 2010:

Ved vores ankomst til Maseru sidst på dagen den 30. april blev vi budt velkommen af en MEGET lang kø ved Maseru Bridge-grænsen. Skumring, chikadesang, folk i flokke med bagage og i deres pæne tøj - og humøret var højt, trods den lange ventetid. At tilbringe en times tid i sådan en kø er slet ikke den værste måde at komme ”tilbage” til Lesotho på. Der er tid til at blive bevæget over gensynet, genkende og afprøve enkle Sesotho-fraser, lytte til de seneste radiohits fra passerende biler, nyde de velkendte tæpper og hatte, begejstres over den dejlige skik med at hilse godt og længe på hinanden – kort sagt bare stå og suge til sig. At køen var længere, end vi lige havde forventet, fik vi forklaringen på den følgende dag, som var lørdag den 1. maj. Basothoerne var på vej hjem for at fejre en national festdag – med lønningsposen i lommen. Sjældent har vi set så mange glade mennesker på gaderne i Maseru. Og så megen gadehandel.

Vi indlogerede os på Foothill Guest House i Maseru West, som efterhånden har været base for flere DLN-medlemmer. Og mødtes lørdag formiddag med en RSDA-



atmosphere. That the queue was longer than we had expected was explained to us by the fact that the following day was Saturday the 1st of May. The Basotho people were on their way home to for a national celebration with their paychecks in their pockets. We have rarely seen so many cheerful people in the streets and so many busy street vendors.

We had chosen to stay at the Foothill Guesthouse in Maseru West, which has accommodated several DLN members in the course of time. And met Saturday morning with an RSDA employee who joined us on a trip to Mafeteng to visit the Chair of RSDA, Ntate Thumane, who is a farmer in Mafeteng. Ntate Thumane showed us his crops, his small scale livestock and the water tank he built in connection with our previous project. He told us about the challenges met by farmers in Lesotho and was interviewed about the challenges of RSDA, among these the organizational challenges of making the board work. He also told us about the challenges of running the local councils and making the local government employees work successfully.

Sunday May 2nd we planned interview methods and prepared a two-day trip to the two districts that the project is aimed at, Mafeteng and Phamong districts.



We also got time for a bit of grocery shopping in the impressive newly opened

medarbejder, som tog med os til Mafeteng for at besøge formanden for RSDA, Ntate Thumane, som er landmand i Mafeteng. Ntate Thumane fremviste sine afgrøder, sit beskedne husdyrhold, og den vandtank, han tidligere har bygget i forbindelse med vores første projekt. Han fortalte om de udfordringer, man har som landmand i Lesotho, og blev interviewet om de udfordringer, han ser RSDA har, herunder de organisatoriske med at få bestyrelsen til at fungere.



Anders, ntate Thumane and Max

Han fortalte også om lokalpolitiske problemer med at få den lokale kommunalbestyrelse til at fungere og de kommunalt ansatte til at yde.

Søndag den 2. maj brugte vi på at planlægge interviewmetoder og forberede os på en to-dages tur sydpå til de to distrikter, som projektet er rettet imod, nemlig Mafeteng og Phamong. Vi fik desuden provianteret lidt i det nyligt byggede og imponerende, store



shopping centre in the centre of Maseru (opposite the tennis courts). And to visit the Tourist Office opposite the Basotho Hat, which has expanded within the last couple of years.

In Mafeteng we organized a workshop at RSDA's office and demonstration farm together with Me Thulo, the director of RSDA, and two other staff members. The participants were representatives from 4 farmer groups and two dairy farmer groups. The workshop was lead by the RSDA staff members who also translated the interviews we had prepared.

In Phamong we organized a workshop together with one RSDA staff member for representatives from 5 farmer groups. At both workshops members of the groups were interviewed, and SWOT analyses were carried out.



Workshop in Phamong

When back in Maseru RSDA had organized a workshop with participants from RSDA's board and representatives from farmer groups and umbrella organizations. The workshop was lead by Me Thulo. The agenda included information about The Mini-project Fund and the criteria for applying plus an analysis of Low Points and High Points, and in groups SWOT analyses were carried out.

indkøbscenter, som ligger midt i Maseru (over for tennisbanerne). Og besøgt turistkontoret over for Basothohatten, som tydeligvis er blevet udvidet gennem det seneste par år.

I Mafeteng afholdt vi sammen med Me Thulo, RSDAs direktør, og 2 af RSDAs projektmedarbejdere en workshop i RSDAs lokaler på organisationens demonstrationsgård.



Workshop i Mafeteng

Deltagerne var repræsentanter fra 4 landmandsgrupper og 2 mejerilandmandsgrupper. Mødet blev ledet af RSDAs ansatte, der også oversatte de interviews, vi havde udarbejdet.

I Phamong afholdt vi sammen med en projektmedarbejder fra RSDA en workshop for repræsentanter fra 5 landmandsgrupper. På begge møder blev der afholdt interviews med deltagerne fra grupperne, og der blev udarbejdet SWOT -analyser.

Tilbage i Maseru igen havde RSDA onsdag arrangeret en workshop med deltagere fra RSDAs bestyrelse og repræsentanter fra både landmandsgrupper og paraplyorganisationer. Workshoppen blev ledet af Me Thulo. Dagsordenen indeholdt orientering om projektpuljen og kriterierne for en ansøgning samt analyse af organisationens Low Points og High Points,



After that we spent two entire days on meetings in RSDA's office with the project manager and 3 other staff members. We had planned the agenda while the RSDA staff facilitated the different themes. We went through the objectives of the project and furthermore worked on the budget and the planned input. Finally we spent one day on visiting two potential project partners – Transformation Resource Centre (TRC) and Action Aid Lesotho – to cover possibilities for cooperation in connection with the project. While Anders and Signe had to return for Denmark Sunday, Max stayed on a couple of days before he went on a private visit to Zimbabwe. That made it possible for Max to visit 2 farmer groups in the Mafeteng district together with an RSDA staff member and the last couple of days Max and the staff members of RSDA planned project outputs, activities and made a stakeholder analysis.



Cattle farmer in Phamong

In general, our visit to Lesotho felt like a very fruitful process. Fortunately RSDA and the project group seem to have an outspoken mutual understanding of the challenges and needs of the small scale farmer groups involved. And a mutual approach to the focus of our project. There was no lack of enthusiasm. And visiting Lesotho was – as usual – a very positive experience. However the new seemingly

og der blev i grupper udført SWOT-analyser.

Herefter brugte vi to hele dage på møder på RSDA's kontor med deltagelse af projektlederen og 3 projektmedarbejdere. Vi havde som forundersøgelsesteam udarbejdet dagsordenen, mens RSDA-medarbejderne faciliterede de enkelte punkter. Vi gennemarbejdede projektets målsætninger, og der blev desuden udarbejdet budget og plan for input.



RSDAs office in Maseru

Endelig brugte vi en dag på at besøge 2 projektsamarbejds-partnere – Transformation Ressource Centre (TRC) og Action Aid Lesotho for at afdække samarbejds muligheder i forbindelse med projektet.

Mens Anders og Signe måtte returnere mod Danmark søndag, blev Max et par dage ekstra i Maseru, før han fortsatte på et privat besøg i Zimbabwe. Det gav Max mulighed for sammen med en medarbejder fra RSDA at besøge 2 landmandsgrupper i Mafeteng-distriktet, og desuden udarbejdede medarbejdere fra RSDA og Max projektoutputs og aktiviteter samt stakeholder analyse.

Vi kom tilbage til Danmark med en fornemmelse af, at turen var en rigtig frugtbar proces. RSDA og projektgruppen har heldigvis en klar fælles opfattelse af small-scale farmernes behov og udfordringer. Og en fælles tilgang til



busy shopping centre with its food court and cafés in Maseru and the ongoing road-works and expansion of the main road south of Maseru stands in glaring contrast to the conditions of the mountaneous Phamong Road - where we were very close to getting stuck due to rain shower the previous night – and the lifestyle and conditions of the farmers in the rural areas. The latter certainly deserves to be supported in raising their voices!



View from the road to Phamong

Objectives and visions for the project

The target group of the project is small-scale farmers. It is the farmers' common challenge in connection with farming which is the precondition for their gathering in groups. The farmers thus organize themselves due to their core activities in life, namely food production. And that is also the core activity which so far has been the central focus of RSDA when advising the farmers.

The next step for the farmers is to realize and use the possibilities of influencing their own conditions by organizing themselves. When trying to convince your local authorities of your needs, your chances of being listened to are obviously much bigger if you join forces. Danish farmers, farmers' organizations and The Agricultural Council of Denmark are good (and almost scary, som Danes would

projektets fokusområder. Der herskede ikke mangel på entusiasme. Og et besøg i Lesotho var – som sædvanligt – en rigtig positiv oplevelse. Det spritnye og tilsyneladende velbesøgte indkøbscenter i Maseru og det igangværende omfattende vejarbejde på hovedvejen sydpå fra Maseru stod dog i skarp kontrast til tilstanden af bjergvejen til Phamong, hvor vi havde besvær med at komme frem pga. en regnbyge natten forinden, og til livsbetingelserne for landmændene i bjergområderne. De sidstnævnte fortjener virkelig støtte til at tale deres egen sag.

Mål og visioner for projektet :

Den primære målgruppe i projektet er small-scale landmænd/-kvinder. Det er landmændenes fælles udfordring omkring det at drive landbrug, som er den grundlæggende forudsætning for, at de samles i landsbygrupperne (farmer groups). Landmændene organiserer sig således på baggrund af det, der er omdrejningspunktet i deres tilværelse, nemlig produktionen af fødevarer. Det er også denne erfaringsudveksling og rådgivning i produktion af fødevarer, der hidtil har været det centrale fokus for RSDAs aktiviteter i områderne.

Det næste skridt for landmændene er så at se og udnytte den mulighed for indflydelse på egne forhold, som der ligger i at være organiseret. Står man alene som landmand om at skulle overbevise myndighederne om, at veje og vand er nødvendigt for at producere og bringe fødevarer til markedet, er chancen for at blive hørt klart mindre, end hvis man kommer i samlet flok. Det er danske landmænd og deres landboforeninger og landbrugsråd et levende (næsten skræmmende vil nogen sige) eksempel på. Desværre har der det sidste par år ikke været finansiering til at have RSDA- konsulenter placeret fast i lokal- områderne Phamong og

claim) examples of that.

Unfortunately the last couple of years RSDA have not been able to finance animators for the two project districts, Mafeteng and Phamong. Especially the farmer groups in Phamong have been left on their own. Phamong is a remote village and the roads are in bad conditions, especially through the rainy season. RSDA's demonstration farm (gardens) and rondavel/office in Phamong have not been running since 2008, which is clearly reflected by the low level of RSDA activities in the area and by the number of active farmer groups, which has decreased from 50 to 40. And the remaining groups have fewer members and meet less often than they did a couple of years ago.

The direction and the board of RSDA are both aware of the possibilities of influence their members can achieve by joining RSDA's farmer groups. On that foundation together with RSDA we concluded that it only makes sense to launch this project, if we can provide funding for at least two locally posted RSDA-animators (one in each district), who can motivate and support the activities of the groups. Among other things the project will encourage the farmer groups to organize into umbrella organizations in order to gain strength through advocacy skills. Another focus of the planned project is thus training in advocacy skills at a central level (RSDA staff) and – not least – at local level (farmer groups and umbrella organisations). Our objective is to strengthen the farmers' influence on their own conditions. An influence which might ensure more support from the decision makers, when it comes to infrastructure, legislation and market conditions.

We furthermore ended up concluding that

Mafeteng. Specielt landmandsgrupperne i Phamong er blevet ladet alene. Der er langt til Phamong, og adgangsvejene er dårlige, specielt i regntiden. RSDAs demonstrationslandbrug (-have) og rondavel/kontor i Phamong har således ikke været i drift siden 2008. Dette kan aflæses direkte på aktivitetsniveauet i RSDAs arbejde lokalt og i antallet af aktive RSDA-grupper, som er faldet fra omkring 50 til under 40. Og de grupper, der er tilbage, har færre medlemmer og mødes sjældnere, end de gjorde for bare et par år siden.



Me Thulo and farmers in Mafeteng

Ledelsen og bestyrelsen i RSDA er bevidste om den mulighed for indflydelse på egne forhold, deres landmænd kan få via RSDAs landmandsgrupper. På den baggrund kunne vi sammen med RSDA konkludere, at det kun giver mening at sætte det kommende projekt i søen, såfremt der kan findes finansiering til at have mindst to RSDA-konsulenter placeret lokalt (en i hvert distrikt), som kan støtte og bakke op om



the planned project should run over a period of 3 years. Partly in order to strengthen the consolidation of the project – centrally as well as locally. However, according to the advice we have received from The Mini-project Fund afterwards, it would still be wise to aim at a project period of a maximum of 2 years. At the moment the Danish project group is busy finalizing the application – and in particular trying to adjust the budget and planned activities to a project period of 2 years. The first coming deadline is September 1st and if we make it by then, and if our application is accepted, the project is planned to be launched by the beginning of 2011.

On behalf of the project group,
Anders and Signe Hedegaard



gruppernes arbejde. Og at der bl.a. bliver lagt vægt på, at landmandsgrupperne får dannet paraplyorganisationer, der vil kunne stå endnu stærkere med hensyn til at søge indflydelse (udføre fortalervirksomhed/advocacy) i forhold til regeringsmyndighederne. Et andet fokus for det kommende projekt er altså uddannelse i fortalervirksomhed/advocacy på centralt plan i RSDA, og – ikke mindst - på lokalt plan, altså i landmandsgrupperne og i paraplyorganisationerne. Målet er at få landmændene til stå stærkere med hensyn til indflydelse på egne forhold. En indflydelse der f.eks. kan sikre landmændene støtte fra myndighederne til forbedret infrastruktur, lovgivning og markedsforhold.

Vi kom desuden frem til, at næste fase af projektet skulle have en løbetid på 3 år – bl.a. for at sikre, at projektet bliver velkonsolideret på det organisatoriske område – både centralt og lokalt. Ifølge den rådgivning, vi efterfølgende har modtaget fra Projektrådgivningen, vil det dog stadig være klogest at sigte mod et 2-årigt projekt. I skrivende stund arbejder vi i projektgruppen på at få selve ansøgningen gjort færdig – og specifikt på at afpasse aktiviteter og budget til en projektperiode på 2 år. Vi tilstræber at få ansøgningen færdig til førstkomne deadline, som er 1. sept. 2010. Lykkes det – og får vi godkendt ansøgningen, er projektstart planlagt til begyndelsen af 2011.

På projektgruppens vegne
Anders og Signe Hedegaard

News from Lesotho:



[BuaNews](#) (Tshwane)

Region Ready to Partner with Lesotho

13 August 2010

Pretoria — South Africa has committed to helping Lesotho graduate from its least developed country status to that of a developing country.

"South Africa is committed to walking side by side with Lesotho in the identification and implementation of various projects, which have the potential to provide Lesotho with a solid foundation for growth and development," said President Jacob Zuma on Thursday.

The President, who is in the country for a state visit, was speaking during a state banquet.

"Our two countries have over the years signed bilateral agreements in various fields. We have to ensure steady implementation of these agreements for the benefit of our peoples."

He said working together they should be able to achieve this stated objective.

Currently rural Lesotho is dependant mainly on farming or migrant labour and is facing a high unemployment figure as well as HIV and AIDS infections.

The Kingdom is also economically dependant on South Africa, with more than 30 percent of its economically active population working in South Africa. Most of the Basotho population also do their shopping in South Africa.

However, projects to change this situation are underway. These include the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, the Geo-chemical Mapping Project, the Hydrological Project and the Sani Pass Project.

In support of these projects, Zuma revealed that government made R100 million available during the 2009-2010 financial year in support of these projects.

Of this amount, R60 million went to the Metolong Dam project while R40 million was in support of the construction of the Sani Pass to Mokhotlong access road.

"We trust that these projects will bring about economic development, create employment as well as investment opportunities in Lesotho," said Zuma, adding that they were a clear demonstration of deeper bilateral relations.

Zuma's state visit to Lesotho is aimed at consolidating the African Agenda with the aim of further cementing bilateral political, economic and social relations between the two countries.

During the visit bilateral agreements, including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Economic Cooperation, will be signed.

The visit which ends on Friday also saw the opening of the High Commission Diplomatic Chancery. Speaking at the opening of this, Zuma said it symbolises the future of bilateral relations - both at State level, as well as people-to-people relations.

"By this building, we are witnessing a move from the era of horse-riding diplomats of the Difaqane times who were exchanging messages from one leader to the other - to structured, permanent, presence in the service our people and other nationals.

"We are further witnessing the seriousness which both governments are investing in the future of our bilateral relations," said Zuma.

From Ha Ntatae:

WEDGE and Ministry of Gender and Youth organises festival

In an effort to empower Basotho women, Mantsopa Communication and Women's Entrepreneurship Development and Gender Equality in Southern Africa (WEDGE) and the Ministry of Gender and Youth, have organised a festival named Mantsopa Port Phori to be held in Maseru.

According to Mrs. Mahlapane Fane the purpose of this festival will be to Honour women involved in community development in different sectors, addign that during this month, many African countries recognize the importance of women.

An officer of Mantsopa Communications, Mrs. Rethabile Malibo says this festival will involve a prize giving ceremony to women involved in Media, Community Development; Politics and Sports. Mrs. Malibo said this would be the second time they hold this event where last year, they only had four categories but this year, they have increased.

LNCW celebrates 6th anniversary

Lesotho National Council of Women (LNCW) will be celebrating its 6th year of existence today. LNCW was established by the late Queen Mamohato Bereng Seeiso on the 24th August 1964 following her 2nd anniversary in marriage.

Queen 'Mamohato was backed by amongst other women : 'Me Makenalemang Lesenyeho of Boiteko Women's Association, 'Me Mamakhabane Makotoko of Lesotho Homemakers Association, Mofumahali 'Mathesele Makhaola of daughters of Lesotho and 'Me Mathabiso Mosala of Lesotho Women' Institute.

The main objective of Lesotho National Council of Women is to empower Basotho women to be self sufficient by coming together and learn from each other of how to start viable projects which will help them income generating projects for their families and be able to create employment for unskilled Basotho-women with the purpose of transferring skills like sewing, carpentry, typing, cooking, tapestry and chicken and pig rearing and tie and dye production to women.

The Chairperson of LNCW 'Me Mathabiso Mosala highlighted that they are going to mark their 6th anniversary by; planting trees at Nkhono Mamohato Seeiso Training Centre at Morija, Visiting Malibuseng Children's home at Maseru East, Visiting Hlokomela Bana, addressing women about



the important roles they can play as women by sacrificing their time by doing volunteer jobs and to also visit Kholisong ha Mohlaethoa and Makhethisa Vocational Centre at Pitseng.

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 97578252, e-mail:

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KHOTSO – PULA – NALA

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