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NEWSLETTER

No: 27, March 2011

News from the DLN

Here in Denmark we are on the edge of spring. A long and dark, cold winter is almost gone, opposite in Lesotho where the summer is coming to an end. During the last couple of months a lot of work has been done in DLN. You can read about that in this number of Lumela.dk. Hope you will enjoy the reading.



At the beginning of February this small flower shows that the spring soon will arrive in Denmark.

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Go with Danish Lesotho Network to Lesotho 7th-23rd October 2011

One of DLN's legislative clauses is to spread awareness of Lesotho and living conditions in the country.

The best way to become aware is to go there yourself!

We will therefore organize a group trip to Lesotho. The trip is planned to last two weeks but it will be possible to extend and continue on your own. There will be room for a maximum of 20 people.

In Lesotho we will meet friends of DLN - who can give us a good introduction to the history, language and culture, the current political situation, challenges and hopes for the future. We fly directly to Lesotho and spend a couple of days in the capital Maseru. Then we're going to see the countryside and experience life in small towns, the stunning scenery and the mountains. October is springtime in Lesotho with flowering trees and green mountains.

The price is 15.000 Danish Kroner, which covers airfare, transportation, accommodations, most meals in Lesotho and cancellation insurance. Detailed itinerary is available from Lisbeth Kristensen at: lisbetstjerneklar@gmail.com or tel 31 58 89 29

Tag med Dansk Lesotho Netværk på rejse til Lesotho 7. – 23. 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. 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.

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.

Prisen er 15.000 kroner, der dækker flybillet, transport, overnatning, de fleste måltider i Lesotho samt afbestillingsforsikring.

Detaljeret rejseplan fås fra Lisbet Kristensen på: lisbetstjerneklar@gmail.com eller tlf. 31 58 89 29





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The preliminary itinerary:

7 / 10 late afternoon:

Departing from Copenhagen

8 / 10:

Maseru with city tour

Round trip in Maseru with a chat about the current political and socio-economic climate in the country.

Traditional dinner at the nearby guesthouse.

Accommodation: Foothills Guest House

9 / 10:

Thaba Bosiu + Kome Caves

Trip to Kome Caves near Sefikeng. Next, Thaba-Bosiu, where you can choose to walk up on top and see the royal tombs or go on a visit to the new Cultural Village.

Option to cycle back to the outskirts of Maseru

Accommodation: Foothills Guest House

10/10:

T.Y. - Leribe - Butha Buthe

We visit the DLN project with water tanks in Berea, and in addition, we pay visits to various weavers and other artisans

Accommodation: Butha Buthe (awaiting clarification)

11-12/10:

Ts'ehlanyane National Park with visits to Bokong and Liphofung Caves

In the National Park there will be opportunity for hiking and horseback riding. Overnight is in huts in the park. There will be opportunity to visit Bokong Nature Reserve and Liphofung Caves

Den foreløbige rejseplan:

7/10 sidst på eftermiddagen:

Afrejse fra København

8 /10:

Maseru med byrundtur

Rundtur i Maseru med en snak om det nuværende politiske og socioøkonomiske klima i landet.

Traditionel middag på nærliggende guesthouse.

Overnatning: Foothills guesthouse

9 /10:

Thaba Bosiu + Kome Caves

Tur til Kome Caves i nærheden af Sefikeng. Dernæst Thaba-Bosiu, hvor man kan vælge at gå en tur op på toppen og se kongegravene eller tage på et besøg i den nye Cultural Village.

Mulighed for at cykle tilbage til udkanten af Maseru

Overnatning: Foothills guesthouse

10/10:

T.Y.- Leribe - Butha Buthe.

Vi besøger et DLN projekt med vandtanke i Berea, Herudover besøg til forskellige væverier og andre kunsthåndværkere.

Overnatning: Butha Buthe (afventer afklaring)

11-12/10:

Ts'ehlanyane National park med besøg i Bokong og Liphofung Caves

I nationalparken vil der være mulighed for vandre- og rideture. Overnatningen sker i hytter i parken. Der vil være mulighed for at besøge



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Accommodation: Maliba Lodge Ts'ehlanyane

13 - 14/10:

Katse Dam and visit to the Botanical Garden

We will get a tour around Katse Dam and hear a lot about the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. Here, we also have some days with the possibility of visits to local schools, a botanical garden with native plants and a sailing cruise on the Katse Dam

Accommodation: Katse Dam Lodge

15/10:

Thaba Tseka and Marakabei

This will be a day of driving with lovely views over the mountains. We drive past St. Agnes Mission in Thaba Tseka and continue to Marakabei Lodge

Accommodation: Ha Marakabei

16 -18/10.

Ramabanta with the option of going to Semonkong, pony rides and other stuff

We have good connections and can probably get permission to visit a school and an orphanage. You can also choose to take a trip to Semonkong with Maletsunyane Falls or go on a trek in the mountains. (These activities are not included)

Accommodation: Ramabanta Lodge

19-22/10

Maseru. Leisure + 2 visits.

The tour ends with 3 days in Maseru, where we on the first day will meet Ntate Shale from DPE who will tell us about DLN's democracy development in various villages.

The last 2 days there will be no program, so you

Bokong Nature Reserve og Liphofung Caves

Overnatning: Maliba Lodge, Ts'ehlanyane

13 - 14/10:

Katse Dam med besøg i Botanisk Have

Vi får en rundtur ved Katse Dam, hvor vi skal høre noget om Lesotho Highlands Water Project. Her bliver vi også nogle dage med mulighed for besøg på lokale skoler, en botanisk have med oprindelige planter og sejltur på Katse Dam.

Overnatning: Katse Dam Lodge

15/10:

Thaba Tseka og Marakabei

Dette bliver en køredag med smukke udsigter over bjergene. Vi kører forbi Sct. Agnes mission i Thaba Tseka og fortsætter til Marakabei Lodge

Overnatning: Ha Marakabei

16 - 18/10.

Ramabanta med mulighed for tur til Semonkong, ponyridning eller andre ting

Her har vi gode forbindelser og kan sandsynligvis få lov at besøge en skole og et børnehjem.

Man kan også vælge at tage en tur videre til Semonkong med Maletsunyane Falls eller tage på ridetur i bjergene. (disse aktiviteter er ikke inkluderet i prisen)

Overnatning: Ramabanta Lodge

19-22/10

Maseru. Fritid + 2 besøg.

Turen slutter med 3 dage i Maseru, hvor vi på den første dag møder Ntate Shale fra DPE som vil fortælle os om DLN's



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could explore the city on your own. If the Minister of Environment and Culture has room in her calendar, she has promised to invite us to visit her home

Accommodation: Foothills Guest House

23/10 Arrival Copenhagen

Price: DKK 15,000

Registration: lisbetstjerneklar@gmail.com A deposit of DKK 3,000 payable by 10th May

The group is 10 to 20 persons.

demokratiudviklingsprojekt i forskellige landsbyer.

De sidste 2 dage er der ikke noget program, så her kan man selv gå på opdagelse i byen. Hvis miljø- og kulturministeren har plads i sin kalender har hun lovet at invitere os på besøg i sit hjem.

Overnatning: Foothills guesthouse

23/10 Ankomst København

Pris: 15.000 kr.

Tilmelding: <u>lisbetstjerneklar@gmail.com</u> Depositum på 3.000 kr. betales senest 10.

maj.

Gruppen er på 10 – 20 personer.

News from the Board

By Anne Andersen

There is a lot of news from DLNs Board for now and also from throughout the last three months. It is a time for projects, travel and internal development. A lot of e-mails back and forth between Lesotho and Denmark. Reports are remindered for and then read. Moreover, DLN is planning the general assembly (AGM), which again this year will take place in Odense, and not as previously announced in Aarhus. See the invitation elsewhere in this Lumela.dk.

Change in the Board

Bodil Mathiasen has become ill for a period. Lisbeth Kristensen has entered the Board instead of Bodil.

Development of Peace Education (DPE)

In the fall of 2010 the development project together with DPE was initiated. As could be read in the last Lumela.dk, DLN sent Helga Halck Højsager to Lesotho to help with the commissioning. Her visit occurred mainly on the basis that it was difficult to get information about

Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Af Anne Andersen

Der foregår rigtigt meget i DLNs bestyrelse for tiden, og det har der gjort hele efteråret med. Der er gang i projekter, rejser og internt udviklingsarbejde. Der skrives e-mail frem og tilbage mellem Lesotho og Danmark. Der rykkes for og læses rapporter. Desuden planlægger DLN generalforsamlingen, som igen i år kommer til at foregå i Odense, og ikke som tidligere annonceret i Århus. Se invitationen andetsteds i dette Lumela.dk.

Ændring i bestyrelsen

Bodil Mathiasen er blevet syg og er langtidssygemeldt. Lisbet Kristensen er trådt ind i bestyrelsen i stedet for Bodil.

Development of Peace Education (DPE)

I efteråret 2010 blev der sat gang i udviklingsprojektet sammen med DPE. Som det kunne læses i sidste Lumela.dk, sendte DLN Helga Halck Højsager ned for at hjælpe med igangsætningen. Det skete især på baggrund af, at det var svært at få information om, hvordan det gik. Et af de helt centrale punkter i den



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how it went. One of the key points of the lack of communication was that the DPE had moved to new and better facilities and that it took a while to get the Internet connection established. Helga in collaboration with DPE drafted a blueprint for a business plan and a tool for monitoring activities. It was evident that DPE had much use for multiple computers. Fortunately, DLN appropriated nearly 10.000 kroner from Tips & Lotto. It was decided that this money would be used for computers to DPE.

Rural Self-help and Development Association (RSDA)

A new project with RSDA was approved by the Project Council. This was started by January 1st 2011. As of this writing, there is a group from DLN in Lesotho to help start this project.

Berea Agriculture Group (BAG)

BAG sent DLN an application for help in funding to build water tanks at their schools. The Board has decided to donate M15.000 to three water tanks. BAG will receive a visit from DLN this February. The purpose is to agree on the conditions for the cooperation.

Strategic Plan for DLN

DLN has under the guidance of the Project Council developed a strategic plan, which must be addressed at the forthcoming AGM. It is a little paradoxical that we require partners in Lesotho to have a strategic plan, when at the same time DLN does not have one.

Tourist Travel to Lesotho in October 2011.

The plan for a trip for 20 visitors in October can be found elsewhere in this issue. There are still seats available, so hurry to sign up.

"A ship of refugees comes to your city"

Knud Andersen, President of the Association Living Sea, has invited DLN to participate on the good ship "Anton", which vessel Jens manglende kommunikation var, at DPE var flyttet til nye og bedre faciliteter, og at det tog sin tid at få internetforbindelsen oprettet. Helga fik i samarbejde med DPE udarbejdet et oplæg til en aktivitetsplan og et værktøj til monitorering af aktiviteterne. Det var tydeligt, at DPE havde meget brug for flere computere. Heldigvis fik DLN bevilget næsten 10.000 kr. fra Tips & Lotto. Det blev besluttet, at disse penge skulle bruges til computere til DPE.

Rural Self-help and Development Association (RSDA)

Et nyt projekt med RSDA blev godkendt af Projektrådgivningen. Dette blev startet pr. 1. januar 2011. Mens dette skrives, er en gruppe fra DLN i Lesotho for at være med til at starte projektet.

Berea Agriculture Group (BAG)

BAG har sendt DLN en ansøgning om hjælp til midler til at bygge vandtanke ved deres skoler. Bestyrelsen har besluttet at donere M.15.000 (kr. ca. 11.500) til tre vandtanke. BAG får besøg af DLN her i februar. Her aftales betingelserne for samarbejdet.

Strategiplan for DLN

DLN har under vejledning af Projektrådgivningen udviklet en strategiplan, som skal tages op på den kommende generalforsamling. Det er jo lidt paradoksalt, at vi kræver, at partnere i Lesotho skal have en strategiplan, når DLN ikke selv har en.

Turistrejse til Lesotho i oktober 2011

Planen om en rejse for 20 turister i oktober kan ses andetsteds i dette nummer. Der er endnu ledige pladser, så skynd dig at melde dig til.

"En flygtningebåd kommer til din by"

Knud Andersen, formand for foreningen Levende Hav har inviteret DLN til at deltage på det gode skib "Anton", som af Jens Galschiøt bliver omdannet til et flygtningeskib med 70



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Galschiot has converted into a refugee ship carrying 70 refugees. During the summer of 2011 the ship will port in Svendborg, Ringkøbing, Aalborg and Køge, and possibly also Copenhagen and Dragør. Stalls will be set up on the quays, where participating organizations like DLN may exhibit posters or other information. It is a call and a reminder that we must work to eradicate poverty, the UN's 2015 goal. The Board will work to participate in one or more towns and present promotional material.

flygtninge. I løbet af sommeren 2011 kommer skibet til Svendborg, Ringkøbing, Ålborg og Køge, samt muligvis også København og Dragør. På kajen vil der blive opstillet boder, hvor deltagende organisationer, som DLN, kan udstille plancher eller andet informationsmateriale. Det er et opråb og en påmindelse om, at vi skal arbejde for udryddelse af fattigdom, FN's 2015 mål. Bestyrelsen vil arbejde på deltagelse i en eller flere byer og udarbejde pr-materiale.

Remember

If you get a new postal address or new e-mail address, please notice DLN so we can continue to send you the newsletter.

Husk

Hvis du får ny postadresse eller ny emailadresse, vil DLN meget gerne have besked, så vi fortsat kan sende dig nyhedsbrevet.

Annual general meeting 2011 will take place in Odense April 9th from 10 am to 4 pm.

The following text in Danish is the invitation to the yearly AGM and the programme for the day. If you are not speaking Danish, want to participate and get the programme in English, please contact Helga Halck Højsager e-mail: helga@halck.dk

Invitation til Generalforsamling 2011



Denmark Lesotho Network

Lørdag den 9. april 2011, Klingenberg 15 Odense fra kl. 10.00 – 16.00.

Kære medlem!

Så er det tid til afholdelse af DLN's årlige generalforsamling hvor foreningens politik drøftes og vedtages.

Din deltagelse, vil være af stor betydning for de projekter DLN har i samarbejde med 2 organisationer i Lesotho, såvel som de aktiviteter DLN har i forhold til foreningens formål.

Dagsorden:

Dagsorden for den ordinære generalforsamling skal indeholde følgende punkter:

- a). Valg af dirigent og referent
- b). Beretning fra bestyrelsen



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- c). Beretning fra arbejdsgrupper
- d). Aflæggelse af regnskab
- e). Indkomne forslag
 - 1. Strategiplan (bestyrelsen)
 - 2. Brug af administrationsmidler (bestyrelsen)
 - 3. Vedtægtsændring § 4, bestyrelsen (bestyrelsen)
- f). Vedtagelse af budget
- g). Valg af bestyrelse og revisorer
- h). Eventuelt

Har du forslag som ønskes behandlet på Generalforsamlingen, skal det være bestyrelsen i hænde senest fredag den 25. marts 2011.

Vi glæder os til at se dig.

Mange hilsener fra bestyrelsen

Program for dagen.

09.00 - 10.00 Bestyrelsesmøde

10.00 - 11.00 Morgenmad og registrering

11.00 - 11.45 Formandsberetning

11.45 - 12.15 Rapport fra arbejdsgrupper

12.15 - 12.45 Aflæggelse af regnskab

12.45 - 13.00 Frokost

13.00 - 14.00 Indkomne forslag

14.00 – 15.00 Vedtagelse af budget

15.00 – 15.30 Valg af bestyrelsesmedlemmer

2 på valg

Valg af 2 suppleanter

Valg af ekstern revisor

Valg af intern revisor og suppleant

15.30 – 16.00 Evt. og evaluering af dagen

Dagen slutter med øl/sodavand/kaffe og en sandwich

Der vil i løbet af dagen være frugt og drikkevarer, såvel som der vil blive indlagt pauser efter behov.

Af hensyn til indkøb, vil vi gerne have en tilkendegivelse om din deltagelse, senest den 5. april.



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Project visit 2011 With Rural Self-help and Development Association (RSDA) 5/2-17/2-2011

By Karen Steffensen

Three members of the RSDA project group, Maria, Line and I visited RSDA in Lesotho as a part of the "Strengthening small scale farmer producer groups in Lesotho" project, which started 1st January 2011 and will run for 2 years.

The purpose of our visit was to sign a contract with RSDA and agree on reporting systems and to introduce Line and Maria to Lesotho, to RSDA and to the farmer groups in Phamong and Mafeteng. **Sunday** evening we arrived at Foothills Guest House in Maseru and the next morning we met at RSDA's new office where we were introduced to the staff. Me Thulo arrived at the office after attending a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture. She welcomed us and we agreed on the plan for our stay.

Tuesday morning, very early, we went to RSDA's Demonstration Centre in Phamong. The road to Phamong is a challenge, but fortunately RSDA had rented a 4x4 for us. A part of the project is to upgrade the centre, to accommodate meetings with the farmer groups. We were introduced to mr Fuma, the animator in Phamong and the farmers groups and representatives for the umbrella organisation.



Work at the demonstration centre in Phamong



Wednesday morning farmer groups came to Phamong centre to make a planting demonstration. The farmers planted cabbage seedlings and mulched the plots after watering the seedlings.

The planting demonstration



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After lunch we drove down to Mohales Hoek, where we stayed overnight and

Thursday we arrived at Tsitas Neck to meet the farmer groups and the two umbrellas: 1. Thaba Tsueu Sepuhla, the farmer groups who participated in the water tank project and 2. The Umbrella of the dairy groups. We introduced ourselves, told them about DLN and I explained about our difficulties to get an approval of this project and that Lines and Marias contributions had helped us to succeed.



Friday was a day in the office in Maseru. We had an efficient meeting with Me Thulo, the director and Me Lelimo, the bookkeeper and we went through the draft agreement and all the annexes and we agreed on alterations. Subsequently Maria and Line modified the document according to that.

Monday we had another meeting with RSDA. We discussed the monitoring and the reporting methods. We agreed to send an updated monitoring template and a time schedule as soon as possible.



Tuesday we met Berea Agriculture Group (BAG) in Teyateyaneng, my old partner organisation. The DLN committee has received a proposal from BAG and has decided to help three schools to build their own water tanks. We presented a draft agreement and BAG promised to provide the information required and send the agreement, when they are ready. In the afternoon we went back to Maseru and had a meeting with Action Aid and later DLN (Maria) and RSDA (Me Thulo) signed our agreement.



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Wednesday we had a meeting with DPE. DLN is involved in a project with DPE and it is our expectation, that the two projects (RSDA and DPE) can benefit from each other and DPE is going to facilitate some workshops for RSDA.

Our official program had ended and we spent the rest of the day visiting places of interest in Maseru and **Thursday** we started our long journey back to deep frozen Denmark.

News from Lesotho:

From allAfrica.com 15th February 2011

Floods Take Heavy Toll

Thaba-Tseka — rom a distance, the fields of maize that cover almost every hillside in Lesotho's Thaba-Tseka District look green and lush. On closer inspection, the plants have a sickly yellowish hue and the heads of corn that should be ripening in time for the April harvest are nowhere to be seen.

For most of the farmers in this remote, mountainous district, and in many other parts of Lesotho, there will be no harvest this season. Heavy rains which started in December and are expected to continue through much of February have washed away top soil and nutrients and left fields waterlogged and weed infested.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that in some of the worst hit districts up to 60 percent of crops have been destroyed while nationally at least 4,700 livestock, mainly sheep and goats, have died.

Lesotho's mountainous topography and erratic weather mean it already produces only enough grain to meet about 30 percent of its needs. The country had increased its production of maize - the main cereal crop - and sorghum during 2010, but the heavy rains are likely to reverse those gains.

"It's going to affect food security in the worst way because Lesotho doesn't produce enough food as it is," Matsiliso Mmojaki, head of the national Disaster Management Authority (DMA), told IRIN.

Out of a population of just over two million, Mmojaki estimated 250,000 will need food assistance in the coming months.

Not a disaster?

In the village of Phaila, in Thaba-Tseka District, Tsepo Phaila, 31, watched one afternoon in early January as a river of water swept down a hillside, tearing up the trees he and his family had planted for firewood, and flooding their maize field. By the time the water receded, only a few broken stalks poked up from the mud.

It's going to affect food security in the worst way because Lesotho doesn't produce enough food as it is

"We can't plant there any more because the topsoil has washed away," Phaila said.



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The family has one other smaller field where maize plants are still standing but are too rain-damaged to produce a harvest. "There's nothing we can do right now," said Phaila, explaining that the maize and the firewood provided the only source of income to support himself and nine other family members.

Many other households in the village and across northern Lesotho are facing a similar predicament, but the government has yet to declare the situation a disaster.

"Should we say because the government hasn't declared it a disaster, it's not a disaster?" asked Teboho Chalane, the Ministry of Agriculture's extension officer for Thaba-Tseka District. "A lot of people have been affected; there will be no maize for them, so we need to do something to make sure they get something to eat."

He added that if seeds could be distributed quickly, there was still time for affected households to grow vegetables before the start of winter. In the longer term, said Chalane, communities needed to become less reliant on maize and start keeping livestock such as poultry and pigs that could be bred and sold.

As for the fields of stunted maize plants, his advice to farmers was: "Take a scythe and cut them all down."

Tsepo Phaila is one of many subsistence farmers whose maize crop has been destroyed

Costly response

Like many parts of Southern Africa, Lesotho had been warned to expect a heavier than usual rainy season due to the La Niña phenomenon, but Mmojaki of the DMA said "the intensity [of the rains] was just beyond our imagination; it has never really happened here."

A rapid assessment of the damage conducted in January found that in addition to the extensive crop losses, a number of roads had been washed away making some health facilities unreachable. Stocks of essential medicines, including antiretrovirals (ARVs) and drugs to treat diarrhoea, an outbreak of which had spread across the country, were running low.

The DMA has developed a contingency plan and submitted it to the government for approval. It includes urgent repairs to roads, bridges and water supply systems as well as assistance to farmers in the form of subsidies, seeds and fertilizers.

The plan comes with a price tag of US\$68.5 million, an amount that economic policy head in the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Motena Ts'olo said the government would struggle to raise at a time when the global economic slowdown and reduced revenues from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) were already straining the national budget.

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



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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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Homepage: www.lumela.dk

KHOTSO - PULA - NALA

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